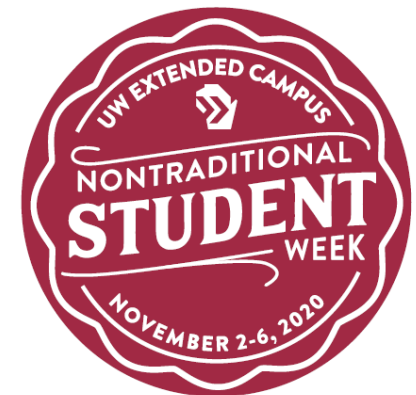


# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

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NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT WEEK 2020



# AMANDA F

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

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What have you enjoyed most about your current program?

**I genuinely enjoy that the FLEX program is asynchronous. I can do my work on my own time, at my own pace.**

What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

**I get to still work full time while completing my degree. I have always wanted to pursue a higher degree, but most cut into working and that was not an option I had available.**

What keeps you going?

**I am so close to finishing. I do not get any pay raises or job perks with obtaining this degree, but I am hoping to switch over into PA school in hopes of eventually opening my own small imaging studio. This degree is necessary for that.**

# TOMMY A

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

**Cost and time. The cost of the UW Flex program is less than half of the cost of the traditional route. After this subscription period, I will have obtained my bachelor's degree, having completed 42 credits in 8 months. This is not possible with the traditional route. Thanks to UW Flex, I will have saved thousands of dollars and several months of time.**

What keeps you going?

**Several years passed between my prior enrollment at UW – Milwaukee and my enrollment in the UW Flex Program. Having that time off to reflect on my career desires has re-energized and re-motivated me to earn my bachelor's degree. The UW Flex option has provided the opportunity to put my best effort into applying myself to my education and has rekindled my joy for learning.**

# AMANDA S

PROGRAM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS MANAGEMENT

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What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

This program is allowing me to learn at a pace that works for my stay at home mom life. I have two small boys, 6 & 8 years old, a household to run and I'm a part time fitness instructor as well so being able to complete the work on my own time is invaluable. In addition, there are not many programs like this one in existence quite yet and living in Los Angeles, I am able to participate without moving to Green Bay or leaving my family. I am also still able to go on family vacations and travel while maintaining my schoolwork

What have you enjoyed most about your current program?

I am currently in my last year of the masters program in Health and Wellness Management. After finding my passion and calling of a career in health and wellness at the ripe age of 36, I find that I am deeply fascinated by the content of the course and am soaking it up like a dry sponge desperate for water. While being a mom is very fulfilling, participating in and completing this program gives me something for me.

# TIA R

## PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

**Without question, that would be my academic advisor, Danielle —I would not still be here, with only five classes left to graduate, without her. Danielle’s support, encouragement, and belief in my ability to complete this program has been invaluable...This degree has been by far the most challenging to complete, but I’ve also never had someone like Danielle in my corner at ANY of them...Had I a Danielle when I first started college 30 years ago, I’d have undoubtedly finished this one way back when.**

**Why did you choose this program? What is your goal in completing this degree?**

**The fact that I could transfer in credits from both my AAS and AA degrees along with the relatively low-cost tuition and the opportunity to take as many courses per term as I could successfully complete absolutely cannot be beat. No other accredited university with the level of recognition attached to the UW system offers anything like the package that UWM Flex makes available to adult learners. I do not know if I will ever use this degree in my career since I’ve been very successfully self-employed for the past year and a half, but my goal is simply to finish what I started basically 30 years ago with my very first college course.**

# BRIANA M

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

**What I have enjoyed the most about my current program is flexibility. Throughout the program, work would sometimes get busy and I was always able to speed up or slow down accordingly.**

**What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?**

**The most valuable aspect of completing my degree online is the fact that I can take school with me anywhere. I travel often and I am always able to get a few assignments completed from anywhere in the world.**

**Why did you choose this program? What is your goal in completing this degree?**

**I chose this program because of its price, flexibility, and the school's reputation aligned perfectly with what I needed. My goal is to use this degree to get my masters.**

# OLIVIA-ROSE A

PROGRAM: ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

**The self paced aspect, I like to work on my own time. I don't feel that I need hard deadlines to motivate me or keep me on track but I also appreciated the suggested timelines provided with the orientation. They give me an idea of where I should be at what time and then I can make adjustments as I need to.**

**What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?**

**The flexibility. I have a very erratic work schedule and travel a lot as well. It would be very difficult for me to be in a classroom at a specific time each week but this online program allows me to fit in work wherever I need to.**

**Why did you choose this program? What is your goal in completing this degree?**

**I chose this program because it can count towards a good practical degree in business, it was one of the most time flexible options and available at a very reasonable price. I would like to get my business degree so that I can set up my own small business someday. I'm a dancer and teacher and I would like to open a ballet school and company someday.**

# BRITTANY S

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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**Why did you choose this program?**

I chose the **Business Administration** program because I want to obtain knowledge in management, marketing, and finance, with hopes to turn my small business into a larger business or help others to do so also.

**What keeps you going?**

My children keep me going. I have two little girls that I want to show that you are never too old to finish your degree, and the traditional way is not the only way.

**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

What I have enjoyed the most about my current program is the flexibility that I have as a wife, mother, worker, and a small business owner. Being able to set the hours that work for me, has allowed me to successfully complete the classes I have taken.



# ERIK J

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

I've really enjoyed being able to learn new skills from classwork that I'm able to put into real world practice at work just a few weeks later. Truthfully, learning SQL for example was a skill I learned and was able to start using at work almost immediately. In addition, the feeling I get after putting a lot of effort into an assignment/course and getting an A is seriously rewarding and impacts other aspects of my life positively.

**What keeps you going?**

This can be tough, especially when you are attending part-time and the completion time stretches out. There are instances where I really don't want to study, or do my best on an assignment but inherent work ethic helps, and the company paying for my degree if I get a B or above helps as well! This is also my 2nd bachelor degree and when I was younger I was not as successful so this is a chance to show my academic abilities.

# MICHELLE A

## PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

The most valuable thing for me, being a working mom of three small children, is that I can dictate my own schedule. There is no way I would be able to get to a campus to attend lectures. I love that I can fit my school work in wherever possible.

Why did you choose this program? What is your goal in completing this degree?

I chose this program for a couple reasons. First, job security. There is so much potential with an HIMT degree. Second, it seemed to be the best of both worlds for me. I deeply love caring for others in a health care setting and working with numbers/data. I felt that this combined my strengths so beautifully.

What keeps you going?

My kids. My husband. My children are small (6, 5, & 3) but I know they will always remember their mom being a lifelong learner. Also, I'm incredibly goal-oriented. So I need to finish this for me.

# JENNA R

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

**The ability to meet the needs of my schedule, access content easily, and revisit content as needed.**

**Why did you choose this program? What is your goal in completing this degree?**

**I chose this program, and this university, in part because it was online. I had no intention to complete my degree in a traditional on-campus format after having completed most of my associate degree in online or hybrid format. My goal in completing this degree is to expand upon my existing knowledge, explore knowledge I was not aware I needed, and investigate new opportunities.**

**What keeps you going?**

**I keep going because graduating with my undergrad, and eventually, graduate degree, will be a first for my family. I believe it will be a key to success in my career due to the advanced concepts I have now been trained in.**

# JAMES M

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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What keeps you going?

What keeps me going is the desire to continue to learn what I started learning since being introduced into Information Science and Technology. My initial career interest was in the medical field when I was younger. First as a field medic in the Army National Guard, an EMT as well and an IV specialist at a hospital during that time. Then I moved and needed to find any job. That's when I started working for a large network provider. I barely knew how to use a smart phone when I started but left knowing as much if not more than my peers and superiors. I knew how it felt to be in the dark about technology, but I loved learning more and figuring out new ways to implement it in everyday life. Then I had my daughter, that changed my life forever. It was best for our family for me to stay home and take care of her. I love it! But I wanted to find a way to continue to fuel the fire that was my desire to learn more about IST. Then I found this program. It has continued my drive to learn more and introduced me to so much more than I even considered doing in the future. I even learned a lot in an elective class about nutrition! With its help and my own personal motivation, I have lost over 85 lbs. in the last year mainly from diet change!

# MARIBEL C

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

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What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

The improved quality of time, a better learning environment, cost, and time-savings are just a few of what I find most valuable about completing my degree online. I went to a traditional school when I completed my first degree in which I attended each class and listened to lectures. It was a great experience. I had a lot of fun, but I was in my teens then, but I am now a different person. I value the peace in my home and learn at my own pace. By studying online, I must say that I have an easier time learning faster because I can focus intently on the subject matter and without any disruptions. I can also re-watch lectures, review study materials as much as I wanted. As a result, I can engage more in the study material and can reinforce in-depth learning. This would not be possible at all in attending traditional classes. When you missed the point a professor discussed, there is no way you can replay it. Cost-savings is also another factor. Studying online saves me the money spent on transportation, parking, meals to name a few. Additionally, I can even study while engaging in other activities. One time I had to drive for hours out of town, I listened to the lecture's audio recording to make use of my travel time. By the time I reached my destination, I was already familiar with the subject matter saving me a tremendous amount of time. It is a cliché to say, but genuinely, time is money.

# JENNIFER B

PROGRAM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA SCIENCE

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

The technical aspect of the classes in this graduate program has been challenging but I am eager to learn more skills and combine them in creative ways. I want to make a positive impact and transform the healthcare system.

**Why did you choose this program?**

As a clinical researcher, I work closely with data managers, scientists, programmers, and statisticians. My personal interest in data analytics drove me to seek graduate programs and I was thrilled to see that the University of Wisconsin offers an online program.

**What is your goal in completing this degree?**

I am committed to translating the latest science and technology into healthcare solutions. I hope to gain a greater functional understanding of data analytical tools within real-world data. We can transform big data into big insights and better decisions. When we bring together diverse perspectives, new ideas can emerge for perhaps the greatest scientific discovery of our time.

# JILL B

PROGRAM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS MANAGEMENT

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“I am thrilled to be a part of the Health and Wellness Management master’s program through UW! The online format works beautifully with my schedule and allows me to run my own business during the day as well as manage other responsibilities all while obtaining my degree. Sharing ideas with fellow students and immersing myself in the course content have been the highlights during my first two months in the program. Making the decision to return to school wasn’t something I entered into lightly, but I was attracted to this program because of the university’s reputation and how it would complement my professional experience. My goals in pursuing this degree are to apply what I learn to further my business’s development and growth and to prepare me for leadership positions within the wellness industry. During the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to temporarily close my sports massage therapy practice which made me re-evaluate my finances and my future. However, it was during this time that I found the HWM program and, after much consideration, realized it was a logical next step for me due to the flexibility of an online education, reasonable tuition rates, value and overall reputation. I look forward to becoming a leader in the wellness industry.”

# JASON V

PROGRAM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA SCIENCE

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**What have you enjoyed most about your current program?**

I've enjoyed the diversity of learning topics. We aren't focused entirely on any one aspect of data science but rather we get a rounded education across many topics, languages, statistical concepts, etc. The benefit to this is that by having in-depth exposure to many methods we gain a really great toolbox that can be applied to a variety of problems. I've really enjoyed that the program is quite rigorous and that although we're spanning many topics the level of learning required in each area remains high.

**What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?**

The ability to work hard in my own environment. I don't have to spend time or energy traveling or packing a bag. Instead, after work, I can just log in to my computer and start learning.

**What keeps you going?**

I suppose it is my intense desire to keep learning. Had I not done a program, I probably would have spent my time continuously learning. It luckily works out that all that learning will also pay off in the form of a degree.



# LINDSAY K

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

**I found the flexibility of an online degree to be the most valuable. I can take as many or as few courses as I would like, and I can go at my own pace to complete the coursework. If I need a break between quarters, there is flexibility to take time off and pick up where I left off very easily. I also like that courses are broken down into bite-size pieces, this has been a game changer for finishing my degree.**

What keeps you going?

**Since each of the courses are broken down into smaller pieces, being able to finish courses quickly and check them off my list gives me an extra boost of energy to move to the next class. Additionally, knowing that I have a plan in place with the APS keeps me focused and moving forward.**