



How Mercy Makes It Possible to Obtain an MBA

Quickly and Confidently, through

TURBO Flex

When Stephanie Blum, M.B.A. '23, assistant director of special events for Mercy College, was contemplating how to enhance her career, she ultimately decided that obtaining a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Mercy would provide her with key skills that would benefit her professional future.

Considering Blum's undergraduate degree was not in business, and she wanted to earn her degree in a short period of time to quickly boost her skillsets, she enrolled in Mercy's School of Business TURBO Flex program. The program allowed her to gain essential business knowledge in a condensed timeframe and enter the MBA program with confidence.

"I wouldn't have been able to go into a course like Intro to Financial Accounting or Intro to Corporate Finance without the preparation that TURBO Flex gave me," said Blum, who completed TURBO Flex earlier this year while working full time.

The program's curriculum provides a strong foundation in accounting, business mathematics, economics, finance and marketing — along with training in decision-making, research methods, presenting and Microsoft Excel.

"TURBO Flex was designed by School of Business faculty members to meet the unique needs of students who are interested in pursuing an MBA but have not yet met the admissions criteria," said John Fuller, M.B.A., chair of Mercy College's Graduate Business program. "Our goal is to give students the flexibility and confidence to succeed in our MBA program."

Fuller credited Lloyd G. Gibson, D.Sc., dean of Mercy College's School of Business, for spearheading a redesign of TURBO Flex in 2020 to strengthen the program and its alignment to Mercy's MBA program.

The program is rigorous with 64 total instructional hours — both asynchronous and synchronous instruction — over 24 calendar days. Targeted assessments before, during and after learning enable professors to focus their instruction on the content students need and ensure that students progress.

In addition, students are required to complete a group case study presentation on the last Saturday of class which is structured to help them “think like an MBA,” according to Blum. Besides learning how to conduct a SWOT analysis, a major perk of the group case study exercise is that it allows students to build relationships with one another and plant the seeds of a strong professional network.

As the name suggests, TURBO Flex is flexible to enable working professionals to more easily fit the program into their schedules. Over 30% of the content is presented asynchronously, and synchronous classes are scheduled on nights and weekends. “It’s definitely manageable for people who work full time,” said Blum.

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TURBO Flex takes place four times per year prior to the beginning of each academic quarter, which means that students can begin the MBA program immediately after successful completion of TURBO Flex.

At other colleges and universities, students would be required to complete several prerequisite courses on their own before even applying to their MBA program.

“Completing TURBO Flex in one month was such a big relief as opposed to taking all the prerequisites I would’ve needed at other schools,” said Jared Pollet, M.B.A. ’22, who completed TURBO Flex earlier this year while working full time as a teacher.

“It was definitely a huge reason why I chose Mercy.”

TURBO Flex instructors are all faculty members and adjunct professors in Mercy College’s School of Business, so students receive the same instruction from the same teachers who run the MBA program. “The professors are great,” said Pollet. “They understand that we’re here as beginners. And they know that most of us work, so their expectations were really manageable.”

TURBO Flex is free for admitted MBA students and is only available at Mercy College. It is a required prerequisite to Mercy College’s MBA program for students who do not hold an undergraduate business degree, those who hold an undergraduate business with less than a 3.0 GPA and those who earned an undergraduate business degree more than five years ago. Learn more about the TURBO Flex program by visiting www.mercy.edu/magazine/turbo.

