

Ana Santibanez Zamora, a native of Mexico City, stepped out of her comfort zone and came to Holland, Michigan to attend Hope College. She wanted to study International Business.

A 2004 graduate, Zamora majored in Economics and Management. “I fell in love with Economics. Management teaches you how to get things done, but Economics teaches you why you’re doing what you’re doing.” The double major was one way Hope prepared her for her current job. The liberal arts education was another way Hope prepared her. “There were classes that I didn’t *choose* to take, but taking these classes actually helped prepare me for what I’m doing now....**Teaching you how to think, learn, and communicate is getting you ready for business.**” Today Zamora works in Mexico City as a consultant and researcher. “I interview people, evaluate programs that are being developed, meet with boards, and influence the direction they're planning to take.”

Zamora understands that business has a social responsibility. “Hope taught me to always have that in mind. Usually schools just teach the theory of business, and end up neglecting tying it back to society, your personal life, and your belief system.” Hope professors say “You *could* do this, but here are other issues to consider.” The bottom line is that “You're dealing with people, you should *never* forget that. The decisions you make are going to influence the environment that people will be living in.”

At Hope Zamora was involved in the Baker Scholars program as well as various other organizations. She credits the Baker Scholars program for enhancing her ability to network and for giving her confidence to be assertive and ask questions. “The interaction with professionals was very beneficial.”

When she’s back in the States, Zamora sometimes stops at Hope College to “harass” her former professors. “DEMA was one of the coolest departments at Hope,” she says.