

The one constant about business is change. Everyday is a new challenge and to thrive requires the right mindset and skill set. This dynamic environment is what most appealed to Christine Diestl.

Christine decided to pursue a Management and Economic double major through the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting (DEMA) at Hope College. She knew the small, personal size of the school would provide the best opportunities to prepare her for the working world. As a recent graduate in 2003, Christine can now look back fondly at her experience at Hope and see how her four years prepared her for current and future challenges.

Christine has observed that the business world is filled with “motivated professionals.” These professionals are motivated to be the best at what they do but much more so “they enjoy reaching a common goal.” In other words, teamwork is an essential part of their enjoyment and success. The DEMA program offered the right combination of teamwork, role-playing, and problem analysis. Her classes not only “taught the basic principles at the root of business practices, but also taught the skills to keep learning and expanding on those principles.” Moreover, Christine saw her liberal arts education as a beneficial addition towards her future career as well as her everyday life. Hope was able to offer Christine strong classes and programs that helped her not only be successful in her job, but also to truly enjoy her work.

She also credits the personal, student-teacher interactions as being a critical factor in developing her interest in the business field. Professors who gave freely of their time—such as collaborating with a professor on a research paper-- motivated Christine to further explore and excel in this field. In addition, Christine was the president of Baker Scholars her senior year at Hope. The Baker Scholars provided an “amazing experience” that helped her see and appreciate the various perspectives within the working world and develop as an independent businesswoman. As president, she gained the experience to lead motivated individuals. These opportunities, as well as her experience on the London May Term, gave Christine a preparatory glimpse of the working world.

Upon graduation Christine came face-to-face with reality. However, she quickly notes that although the business world may seem rigorous and stressful, she felt prepared to handle challenges. “You should always believe in yourself and set your goals high. Although you may fail, you may also surprise yourself.” And as the business world continues to change, having the right preparation and the confidence to try, and try again, are valuable and worthwhile traits.