International Management

Broaden your online Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing degree with a specialization in International Management. You will prepare to exercise leadership in a diverse array of international and multicultural scenarios.

Project Management

Build on your online Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing degree with a specialization in Project Management. You will be well-equipped to seize new opportunities in this fast-growing field.

Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies – special terms and conditions

Successful completion of this degree does not guarantee that any state real estate licensing agency will accept a student’s application to sit for or successfully complete any such exam. In addition, Ashford University does not guarantee that any professional organization will accept a graduate’s application to sit for a certification or as a qualifying academic credential for membership in such professional organization. Most US states require licensing to perform various professional activities associated with real estate business services. Such licensing may require an examination performed by designated controlling state agencies. If students or graduates are interested in pursuing any state licenses, they are strongly encouraged to research their local state real estate agency’s requirements for licensure.

Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies – summary

100 words

Learn the ins and outs of a fascinating industry with your online Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University.

While the housing market has suffered a recession, there will be strong demand for prepared professionals to fill new positions as the cycle rebounds. This degree program provides you with basic skills in mortgage lending, development, equity investment, and brokerage. Your online courses include appraisal, property management, finance, and economics. Examine the markets and financing methods for residential and commercial properties. Discover the trends that influence property valuations, and learn best practices to benefit and safeguard investors.

60 words

Learn the ins and outs of a fascinating industry with your online Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Examine the markets and financing methods for residential and commercial properties. This degree program prepares you to begin a career in the real estate and mortgage industry.

30 words

Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Real Estate Studies degree at Ashford University. This degree program prepares you to begin a potential career in the real estate and mortgage industry.

Bachelor of Arts in Service Management – summary

120 words

Learn how to manage an enterprise focused on service when you earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Prepare for a variety of potential careers as a manager, whether in a non-profit organization or in the hospitality, restaurant, or retail industries.

The service sector is one of the fastest growing areas of the US economy. This growth has fueled demand for skilled and effective managers. You will discover how to deliver services in organizations devoted to customer care. Learn to assess logistics in a variety of environments. Your online courses include accounting, human resources, and marketing. Design service metrics and develop human capital strategies.

60 words

Create exceptional customer experiences with your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. You will discover how to deliver services in organizations devoted to customer care. Learn to assess logistics in a variety of service environments. Your online courses include accounting, human resources, and marketing. Design service metrics and develop human capital strategies.

30 words

Create exceptional customer experiences with your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree from Ashford University. This degree demonstrates your ability to manage and impact the performance of a service organization.
Bachelor of Arts in Service Management – specializations

Hospitality Enterprise
Mass-Market Retail Enterprise Management
Non-Profit Enterprise
Restaurant Enterprise Management

Hospitality Enterprise
Explore different ways in which hotels and resorts attract and retain customers when you choose to add the Hospitality Enterprise specialization to your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree. You will expand your experience with event planning, conferences, and food and beverage control.

Mass-Market Retail Enterprise Management
Take advantage of a wide range of opportunities in one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy. Increase both your business and technical skills with this specialization added to your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree.

Non-Profit Enterprise
Prepare to manage non-profit enterprises. Enhance your organizational skills when you pair this specialization with your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree.

Restaurant Enterprise Management
Discover how to achieve business success in one of the most artistic of enterprises when you add this specialization to your online Bachelor of Arts in Service Management degree. You'll be prepared to succeed in restaurant settings where management skills are essential.

Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice – summary

100 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree from Ashford University to enhance your understanding of the criminal justice system and the impact social issues have on maintaining a just society. Investigate both the social and legal sides of criminal justice, from forensics and psychology to crime prevention and terrorism. Be an instrument for change when you choose this degree program to better understand the legal and social forces that shape American culture.

60 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree from Ashford University to investigate both the social and legal sides of criminal justice. Be an instrument for change when you choose this degree program to better understand the legal and social forces that shape American culture.

30 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree from Ashford University and investigate both the social and legal sides of criminal justice.

Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice – specializations – updated 8/11/15

Corrections Management
Criminal Investigations
Homeland Security

Corrections Management
Expand your online Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree with a specialization in Corrections Management. Analyze the philosophies and laws of punishment and sentencing as well as key Supreme Court case decisions specifically pertaining to the constitutional rights of those incarcerated in an American correctional facility.

Criminal Investigations
Augment your Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree with a specialization in Criminal Investigations. Examine and understand principles of criminal liability and the acts, mental state, and attendant circumstances that are central ingredients in crimes against society, persons, or property.

Homeland Security
Enhance your online Bachelor of Arts in Social and Criminal Justice degree with a specialization in Homeland Security. Learn more about this significant element of the 21st century and how to identify the key challenges facing not only US homeland security strategy, but also those of other major actors that might become "your competitors."
Bachelor of Arts in Social Science – summary

100 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social Science degree from Ashford University, and develop a sound understanding of the society we live in: individuals, families, communities, governments, and cultures— from various perspectives. Take a multidisciplinary approach in social sciences where different outlooks are applied to real-world issues. Specialize your degree when you apply approved transfer credits toward a concentration. Adding a concentration allows you to use credit you’ve already earned and enhances your Bachelor of Arts in Social Science degree.

60 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social Science degree from Ashford University and develop a sound understanding of the society we live in: individuals, families, communities, governments, and cultures— from various perspectives. Apply approved transfer credits toward a concentration such as education studies, psychology, and more.

30 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Social Science degree from Ashford University and understand today’s society from various perspectives.

Bachelor of Arts in Social Science - specializations

History
Political Science & Government

History
Dive in to the past, and prepare for your future. By adding your specialization in History to your social science degree, you will explore multiple regions and cultures and build an intellectual toolkit for addressing complex global issues.

Political Science & Government
Learn about the complex inner workings of the United States government and the global environment. Discover how your elected officials represent your interests with a specialization in Political Science & Government.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology – summary

100 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree from Ashford University, and discover the intricate framework of relationships between individuals and the societies they live in: their composition, organization, culture, and development. Study the social lives of humans, groups and societies from the anonymous contact of individuals to the global social process. Engage in the study of humans in their individual and collective aspects as well as their economic, social, political, and religious activities. Tackle such issues as social issues, cross-cultural perspectives, community, aging and family. Upon graduation, you will possess a practical understanding of these issues and other important sociological concepts.

60 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree from Ashford University and discover the intricate framework of relationships between individuals and the societies they create: their composition, organization, culture, and development. Tackle such issues as social issues, cross-cultural perspectives, community, aging and family.

30 words
Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree from Ashford University and discover the intricate framework of relationships between individuals and the societies they create: their composition, organization, culture, and development.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology – specialization

Political Science & Government
Learn about the complex inner workings of the United States government and the global environment. Discover how your elected officials represent your interests with a specialization in Political Science & Government.

Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management – summary

100 words
Apply your love of sports and fitness to the world of business while expanding your knowledge and experience with your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Build your management and leadership skills while deepening your knowledge of the many business aspects of sports, fitness, and
recreation. Upon graduation, you will be well acquainted with the industry and be highly trained in various theories of management. Additionally, you will be prepared for potential managerial positions in the sports and recreation industry, including: professional sports, fitness clubs, athletic equipment merchandising, recreation programs, and more.

60 words
Apply your love of sports and fitness to the world of business with your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Build your management and leadership skills while deepening your business knowledge of the industry. Upon graduation, you will be well acquainted with the industry and be highly trained in various theories of management.

30 words
Build your management and leadership skills while deepening your business knowledge of the industry with your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree from Ashford University.

Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management – specializations
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Information Systems
Marketing
Project Management

Entrepreneurship
Prepare to launch and manage entrepreneurial enterprises. You will increase your business and your technical skills when you add the Entrepreneurship specialization to your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree.

Finance
Add to your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree with a specialization in Finance. You will bridge the fields of finance and business to gain an understanding of the theoretical and practical approaches of financial management.

Information Systems
Take advantage of a wide range of opportunities in one of the fastest-growing areas in business organizations. You will increase both business and technical skills with an Information Systems specialization added to your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree.

Marketing
Explore different ways in which marketing and advertising shape our modern business world by adding a minor in Marketing to your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree. You will expand your experience with branding, research, and consumer behavior.

Project Management
Build on your online Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Recreation Management degree with a specialization in Project Management. You will be well-equipped to seize new opportunities in this fast-growing field.

Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management – summary

100 words
Provide for your future! With your online Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you demonstrate your competence at managing the supply chain process.

Because of the complexity of managing inventory, supply, and costs, the demand for supply chain and logistics managers is expected to grow faster than for other professionals. In this curriculum, you will discover how to distribute products while preparing to manage procurement, transportation, and warehouses for quality. Learn to assess systems’ performance using logistics decision support. Examine globalization’s effect on organizations’ operations and production. Your online courses include such relevant subjects as accounting, decision modeling, and hazardous materials.  

60 words
Coordinate your own success. Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Discover how to distribute products while preparing to manage transportation, warehouses, and supply chains. Learn to assess systems’ performance using logistics decision support. Examine globalization’s effect on organizations’ operations and production. Your online courses include accounting, decision modeling, and hazardous materials.  

ASH0137
30 words
Coordinate your own success. Earn your online Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management degree from Ashford University. Discover how to distribute products while preparing to manage transportation, warehouse, and supply chains.

Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management

120 words
This Ashford University Health Information Management program prepares graduates to enter the healthcare industry well versed in health information management, health data management, and management of health information services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that health information managers are among the fastest-growing occupations. If you want to work in the health care industry, but don’t want to care for people directly, then this degree might be for you. With a broad healthcare background, graduates will seek employment in all levels of healthcare and interact with a wide spectrum of other healthcare professions. The curriculum blends the disciplines of management, finance, information technology, medicine and law into one program. Earn your BS in Health Information Management.

60 words
The Ashford University Health Information Management program prepares graduates to enter the healthcare industry well versed in health information management, health data management, and management of health information services. With a broad healthcare background, graduates will seek employment in all levels of healthcare and interact with a wide spectrum of other healthcare professions.

30 words
The Health Information Management program prepares graduates to enter the healthcare industry well versed in health information management, health data management, and management of health information services.

Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)—Launch date 3/2/16

RN to BSN—Lifetime
This degree is for individuals who already are Registered Nurses and want to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). This program does not lead to licensure or certification. Certain degree programs may not be available in all states.

104 words
Broaden your professional nursing knowledge and enhance your credentials in the rapidly evolving healthcare industry with your online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Ashford University. You will learn how to be a leader and a caregiver as you explore topics that include medical law, ethical, multicultural care, and health informatics. Your program will include practice experiences in which you will leave the online classroom to learn alongside seasoned nurses and health professionals. Admission into this program requires verification of a current unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in an approved state within the United States.

75 words
Broaden your professional nursing knowledge and prepare yourself to become a leader and caregiver with your online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Ashford University. Through your studies of ethics, medical law, multicultural care, and health informatics, you will be prepared to practice using advocacy, autonomy, accountability, and respect. Admission into this program requires verification of license to practice as a registered nurse in an approved state within the United States.

46 words
Enhance your credentials and broaden your professional nursing knowledge with your online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Ashford University. Admission into this program requires verification of license to practice as a registered nurse in an approved state within the United States.

Minors—summary

120 words
Broaden and enrich your education when you add a minor to your online Bachelor's degree program from Ashford University. Choose from a variety of minors that include Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Human Resources Management, Psychology, Social and Criminal Justice, and more. Your minor will be a program of study worth 18 credits that is distinct from and supplements your major degree program. Similar to your major program, courses in your minor will be taught by advance-degreed instructors with real-world experience. Your minor may be taken as a way to give a coherent pattern to elective hours, to expand potential career options, to prepare for graduate study, or simply to explore in greater depth an area different from your major.

60 words
Add a minor to your online Bachelor's degree program from Ashford University. Choose from a variety of minors from various fields to complete a program of study worth 18 credits that is distinct from and supplements your major degree program. Your minor will
provides a coherent pattern to elective hours, expands potential career options, or allows you to explore an area different from your major.

30 words
Add a minor to your online Bachelor's degree program from Ashford University. Choose from a variety of minors to complete a program of study that is distinct from and supplements your major.

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Business Economics
- Child Development
- Communication Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Studies
- Finance
- Global Studies
- Health and Wellness
- Health Care Administration
- Health Psychology
- Human Resources Management
- Information Systems
- International Management
- International Security and Military Studies
- Journalism and Mass Communication
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Logistics Management
- Long-Term Care Administration
- Marketing
- Operations Management
- Organizational Management
- Political Science & Government
- Project Management
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Social and Criminal Justice
- Sociology
- Social Science
- Speech and Language Disorders
- Sports and Recreation Management
- World History
- Writing
Master's programs

Master of Accountancy – summary (launched 5/15/15)

100 words
Earn your Master of Accountancy degree online from Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. In this program, you will evaluate how to research complex accounting issues using professional resources.

In response to recent financial crises and regulation, demand for knowledgeable accountants is expected to grow. A Bachelor’s degree, as well as additional training, is usually the minimum education needed to work as an accountant. However, most professionals pursue higher levels of education in order to advance in their fields. Designed for professionals, this graduate program develops your analytical and technical skills in accounting.

60 words
Earn your Master of Accountancy degree online from Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. In this program, you will evaluate how to research complex accounting issues using professional resources. Designed for professionals, this graduate program develops your analytical and technical skills in accounting.

30 words
Earn your Master of Accountancy degree online from Ashford University. Designed for professionals, this graduate program develops your analytical and technical skills in accounting.

Master of Accountancy – specializations – updated 8/14/15

Accounting
Audit

Accounting
Shape your degree and focus on your future career with your online Master of Accountancy, Accounting specialization from Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Your studies will involve a deep dive into financial accounting and reporting, an examination of foreign currency transactions and disclosure notes, and you will be asked to construct a complete set of financial statements. Courses in this specialization include: Advanced Tax Research, Advanced Financial Accounting, and the Accounting Capstone, in which you’ll demonstrate how the various components of an accounting system come together.

Audit
Take a deep dive into one of the critical accounting functions with your Master of Accountancy, Audit specialization from Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. This specialization will teach you how to identify, detect, and prevent fraud. Your coursework will include: Forensic Accounting, Current Issues in Advanced Auditing, and the Audit Capstone, in which you will examine complex auditing concepts, as well as accounting concepts, financial statement reporting, taxes, risks, information systems, business law, and ethics.

Master of Arts in Education – special terms and conditions

Successful completion of the Master of Arts in Education program by itself does not lead to certification or licensure in any state. This degree program will not make one eligible for traditional or alternative teacher certification or licensure in the State of Georgia or the State of Hawaii. It is the student’s responsibility to determine individual state requirements for teacher certification or licensure. Please refer to Education Resource Organizations Directory (EROD) for individual state requirements for teacher certification or licensure. Please be advised that states change their policies from time to time and students are advised to check regularly with their state regulatory agencies’ policies and procedures relating to licensure. Further, a criminal record may prevent an applicant from obtaining licensure, certification, or employment in this field of study.

Master of Arts in Education – summary

100 words
Elevate your education. Reach a career milestone by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Study in depth those areas that most influence educational institutions, including curricula, assessment, advanced pedagogical theory, and principles of leadership. Master the skills to be an education leader, while improving instruction and promoting diversity. In addition to core online courses in teaching and learning, you choose a specialization to focus your degree. If you are committed to a future involving education, then the Master of Arts in Education from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

ASH0140
Elevate your education. Reach a milestone with your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Master the skills to be an education leader. In addition to core courses in teaching and learning, you choose a specialization to focus your degree.

Make an impact on schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Reach a career milestone with your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education - Specializations
- Child Development
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Early Childhood Education
- English Language Learner
- Exceptional Systems for Revolutionizing Education
- Family & Community Services
- Higher Education
- Reading Literacy
- School Leadership in the 21st Century
- Special Education

Master of Arts in Education - Child Development specialization summary

Tailor your teaching to children at all levels by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in Child Development from Ashford University. Focus your education degree with the Child Development specialization that will build awareness and understanding of the natural milestones in child development.

This specialization allows you to examine developmentally appropriate methods for teaching young children. You will learn to establish partnerships with families and communities, customize instruction for specific learners, and identify developmental levels in education. If you are committed to a career involving education, this online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in Child Development from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education - Curriculum & Instruction specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

Be an agent for change when you choose Curriculum and Instruction as your specialization for the online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. In this specialization, you will build the skills to develop both an engaging curriculum and a caring and responsive learning environment. The Curriculum and Instruction specialization covers such diverse topics as systems thinking, metacognition, and differentiated instruction. You will learn to introduce change in education by designing instructional models for increased achievement. If you are committed to a career involving education, this program from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

60 words
Be an agent for change when you choose Curriculum and Instruction as your specialization for the online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. This specialization covers such diverse topics as systems thinking, metacognition, and differentiated instruction. You will learn to introduce change in education by designing instructional models for increased achievement.
30 words
Choose the Curriculum and Instruction specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education – Early Childhood Education specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

120 words
Choose the Early Childhood Education specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University to become an expert in child development. In this specialization, you will strengthen your skills as an educator for young people. The Early Childhood Education specialization covers language acquisition, classroom management, and the impact of families and communities on schools. You will learn to design primary-school curricula, deliver differentiated instruction to children, and collaborate with parents and communities. If you are committed to a career involving education, this program from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

60 words
Become an expert in child development by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in Early Childhood Education from Ashford University. The Early Childhood Education specialization covers language acquisition, classroom management, and the impact of families and communities on schools. You will learn to design primary-school curricula, deliver differentiated instruction to children, and collaborate with parents and communities.

30 words
Choose the Early Childhood Education specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education – English Language Learner specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

120 words
Teach the whole world by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in English Language Learner from Ashford University. In this specialization, you will gain an understanding of the implications of diverse languages for student learning and achievement, as well as techniques for teaching English. The English Language Learner specialization focuses on addressing the needs of those for whom English is not the first language. You will study integrative strategies and methods, in addition to English syntax, grammar, and pronunciation. If you are committed to a career involving education, this program from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

60 words
Teach the whole world by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in English Language Learner online from Ashford University. Gain an understanding of the implications of diverse languages for student learning and achievement, as well as techniques for teaching English. You will study integrative strategies and methods, in addition to English syntax, grammar, and pronunciation.

30 words
Choose the English Language Learner specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education – Exceptional Systems for Revolutionizing Education (secondary description for further MAEd detail) – added 7/16/15

100 words
Empower students who seek to establish committed, courageous, collaborative, creative, and character-centered ways to promote college readiness for all learners when you add the Exceptional Systems for Revolutionizing Education specialization to your Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. You will learn specific elements and structures that contribute to successful schools and classrooms and how to replicate these in any educational setting. The specialization is especially appropriate for those who are interested in educational leadership or administrative roles in the field of education.
Empower students who seek to establish committed, courageous, collaborative, creative, and character-centered ways to promote college readiness for all learners when you add the Exceptional Systems for Revolutionizing Education specialization to your Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. The specialization is especially appropriate for those who are interested in educational leadership or administrative roles in the field of education.

Add the Exceptional Systems for Revolutionizing Education specialization to your Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University to learn specific elements and structures that contribute to successful schools and classrooms.

Master of Arts in Education – Family & Community Services specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

Provide for the welfare of all children and their families with a specialization in Family and Community Services added to your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. In this specialization, you will support teachers with practical strategies and tools to support community-wide efforts to strengthen and support youth today. Parent and community involvement is a crucial element to school success. Promoting the social, emotional and academic skills necessary for student success in the 21st century requires a team effort of collaboration with schools, families, and the community. Partner with schools, families, and communities to help schools succeed. You will study community development strategies, family welfare, and diversity.

Take a stand for families. Choose the Family & Community Services specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree to build parent and community involvement. The Family & Community Services specialization trains you to work in community service positions, including: child welfare, social work, mental health, family counseling, and community outreach.

Choose the Family and Community Services specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Partner with schools, families, and communities to help schools succeed.

Master of Arts in Education – Higher Education specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

If you aspire to teach in a college or university, choose the Higher Education specialization as part of your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. In this specialization, you will understand the relationships between planning and adult learning at the course, program, and institutional levels. The Higher Education specialization explores factors that affect adult learning and the organizational cultures that promote or inhibit learning. You will examine curriculum, assessment, and student development in the post-secondary environment. If you are committed to a future involving education, this program from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

If you aspire to teach in a college or university, choose the Higher Education specialization as part of your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. In this specialization, you will understand the relationships between planning and adult learning at the course, program, and institutional levels. Explore factors that affect adult learning, and the organizational cultures that promote or inhibit learning.

Choose the Higher Education specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Education – Instructional Practice specialization summary – launched 2/24/14

Enhance your confidence, intelligence, and skills while preparing yourself for a career in the classroom with the Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Instructional Practice at Ashford University. This online specialization is a unique partnership between Ashford and TeacherFrenzy®, an online certification program associated with the state of Florida. Through the four specialization courses, you will learn the functions of STEM principals, create a balanced, results-oriented...
learning experience for any educational environment, address the needs of diverse learners, and understand the types of assessments and how they appeal to different learners.

This specialization is only available to students who are residents in the following states: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, and Nevada.

60 words
A unique partnership with TeacherReady®, the Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Instructional Practice at Ashford University will provide a foundation of connectedness between theory and practical application in instructional practice in any educational environment.

This specialization is only available to students who are residents in the following states: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, and Nevada.

30 words
Connect theory and practical application in any educational environment with your Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Instructional Practices that brings together Ashford University and TeacherReady®.

Master of Arts in Education – Reading Literacy specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

130 words
Open new worlds when you choose the Reading Literacy specialization in conjunction with your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Gain an understanding of the necessary skills for instruction in reading and writing. The Reading Literacy specialization includes intervention strategies for struggling readers. You will study reading comprehension, young adult literature, and reading skills assessment. Identify academic resources and develop new strategies for instruction. If your future goal is to empower new readers, then this specialization is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

60 words
Open new worlds when you choose the Reading Literacy specialization in conjunction with your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Gain an understanding of the necessary skills for instruction in reading and writing. The Reading Literacy specialization includes intervention strategies for struggling readers. You will study reading comprehension, young adult literature, and reading skills assessment.

30 words
Choose the Reading Literacy specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Study reading comprehension, young adult literature, and reading skills assessment.

Master of Arts in Education – School Leadership in the 21st Century specialization (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

180 words
Set yourself apart as an educational leader prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. With the specialization in the Master of Arts in Education in School Leadership in the 21st Century, you can be an exceptional leader who implements research-based strategies for teaching, learning, and leadership in schools. You will be at the forefront of educational leadership while working with diverse learners and their families, helping others to understand the needs of 21st century learners, and by providing a mission- and learner-centered environment.

60 words
Set yourself apart as an educational leader prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century by earning your online Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in School Leadership in the 21st Century. You will be at the forefront of educational leadership while working with diverse learners and their families and helping others to understand the needs of 21st century learners.

30 words
Set yourself apart as an educational leader by earning your online Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in School Leadership in the 21st Century.
Master of Arts in Education – Special Education (non-licensure) specialization summary (secondary description for further MAEd detail)

120 words
Open up education to all students by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in Special Education (non-licensure) from Ashford University. Focus your education degree with the Special Education specialization that will support the needs of exceptional students in school programs. The Special Education specialization allows you to respond to students’ diverse abilities and styles as you provide equitable learning. You will learn classroom management, as well as how to identify disabilities and special abilities. If you are committed to a career involving education, then the Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Special Education (non-licensure) from Ashford University is for you. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

60 words
Open up education to all students by earning your online Master of Arts in Education degree with a specialization in Special Education (non-licensure) from Ashford University. Focus your education degree with the Special Education specialization that will support the needs of exceptional students in school programs. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

30 words
Choose the Special Education (non-licensure) specialization for your online Master of Arts in Education degree from Ashford University. Make an impact on our nation’s schools with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Health Care Administration – summary

100 words
Foster your health care future goals by earning your online Master of Arts in Health Care Administration degree from Ashford University. Deepen the value of your services with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree. This graduate degree empowers you to assume leadership positions in health care organizations. You will study such areas as finance, bioethics, and strategic planning. The program incorporates applied health care theories across the domains of organized health care. With your Master of Arts in Health Care Administration, you demonstrate your expertise in directing health care organizations, leading health professionals, and delivering invaluable services to people in need.

60 words
Foster your career goals by earning your online Master of Arts in Health Care Administration degree from Ashford University. Deepen the value of your services with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree. With your Master of Arts in Health Care Administration, you demonstrate your expertise in directing health care organizations, leading health professionals, and delivering invaluable services to people in need.

30 words
Foster your career goals when you earn your online Master of Arts in Health Care Administration degree from Ashford University. Deepen the value of your services with the expertise that derives from an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Organizational Management – summary

120 words
Develop professional competence in a world of rapid change with a online Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Study organizational change, marketing, decision-making, strategic thinking, and innovation while learning to build an organizational culture that embraces quality and diversity. Explore your choices when you choose the standard Master of Arts advanced program emphasizing the human side of leadership or add one of several dynamic specializations to enhance your degree. Each specialization focuses on a unique element within the scope of Organizational Management that will further enhance your skills and prepare you for a larger range of responsibility. Your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree is the first step to becoming an effective leader with global vision and awareness.

60 words
Develop professional competence in a world of rapid change with a online Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University. Learn to build an organizational culture that embraces quality and diversity. Explore your choices when you choose the standard Master of Arts in Organizational Management advanced program emphasizing the human side of leadership or add one of several dynamic specializations.
Achieve your online Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from Ashford University. Explore your choices when you choose the standard advanced program or add one of several dynamic specializations.

**Master of Arts in Organizational Management – specializations**

Global Management  
Human Resources Management  
Media Management  
Organizational Leadership  
Project Management  
Public Administration  
Supply Chain Management

**Global Management**
Diversity and global leadership skills. With your Global Management specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop a broad understanding of business and management across national and cultural boundaries. The Global Management Specialization exposes you to leadership strategies from a socio-political context, while providing you with the insight you need to comprehend and compare a variety of management styles from around the world.

**Human Resources Management**
Elevate your administrative skills to new heights. With your Human Resources Management specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop a strategic plan for management of a media department. Through three specific courses in the Human Resources specialization, you will strengthen your qualifications to manage a media team.

**Media Management**
Use the media to grow your business. With the Media Management specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop a strategic plan for management of a media department. Through three specific courses in the Media Management specialization, you will strengthen your qualifications to manage a media team.

**Organizational Leadership**
Take your education to the next level with a specialization in Organizational Leadership. With your Organizational Leadership specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop a strategic plan for management of a media department. Through three specific courses in the Organizational Leadership specialization, you will strengthen your qualifications to manage a media team.

**Project Management**
Create ambitious goals and get results! With your Project Management specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will master the discipline of completing the specific objectives of any large endeavor. The Project Management Specialization builds upon your competency in project planning and risk management while developing a wide range of expertise in procurement, finance, and operations.

**Public Administration**
Explore your passion for public service. With your Public Administration specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop the management skills you need to perform effectively within a public, government, or non-governmental organization. The Public Administration specialization trains you to master the complexities of promoting civil society and social justice while developing a wide range of expertise in budgeting, human resources, quantitative methods, and public policy.

**Supply Chain Management**
Provide all the right goods at just the right time. With your Supply Chain Management specialization added to your Master of Arts in Organizational Management degree from the Forbes School of Business® at Ashford University, you will develop the logistics management skills, including material management, evaluation and measurement, as well as distribution and inventory systems. The Supply Chain Management specialization supplements your competency in business.
administration while providing more specifically focused training in operations, production and delivery methods, quantitative methods, logistics, strategic planning, and project management.

Master of Arts in Psychology - summary (launched 5/15/15)

120 Words
Explore the mind! Complete your Master of Arts in Psychology degree online from Ashford University.

Professionals with a graduate degree in psychology can work in a variety of fields, including mental health, education, business, health care, counseling, and social and human services. Learn how to use psychological theories in any professional endeavor. You will also evaluate the scientific merit of psychological research and literature.

This graduate degree demonstrates your expertise at applying psychology to your work life. Take courses in developmental, social, and counseling psychology. If you are serious about enhancing your knowledge of psychology, then this degree program is perfect for you.

60 Words
Explore the mind! Complete your Master of Arts in Psychology online from Ashford University. This graduate degree demonstrates your expertise at applying psychology to your work life. Take courses in developmental, social, and counseling psychology. If you are serious about enhancing your knowledge of psychology, then this degree program is perfect for you.

30 Words
Explore the mind! Complete your Master of Arts in Psychology online from Ashford University. This graduate degree demonstrates your expertise at applying psychology to your work life.

Master of Arts in Special Education - launched 2/2/16

100 words
Open education to all students with your Master of Arts in Special Education from Ashford University. This online graduate degree is designed for professionals interested in working with children with disabilities.

Increasingly, there is a demand for educators with highly specialized skills. In this program, you will provide meaningful learning experiences based on the ways that exceptional students develop. Learn to design and implement curricula for exceptional students. Collaborate with families, fellow educators, and communities to address the needs of exceptional students. Create an environment that cultivates learning for all. Earn your Master of Arts in Special Education.

An online degree from Ashford University does not lead to immediate teacher licensure in any state.

60 words
Earn your Master of Arts in Special Education online from Ashford University. This graduate degree is designed for professionals interested in working with children with disabilities. In this program, you will provide meaningful learning experiences based on the ways that exceptional students develop. Learn to design and implement curricula for exceptional students. Create an environment that cultivates learning.

An online degree from Ashford University does not lead to immediate teacher licensure in any state.

30 words
Earn your Master of Arts in Special Education online from Ashford University. This graduate degree is designed for professionals interested in working with children with disabilities. An online degree from Ashford University does not lead to immediate teacher licensure in any state.

Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology - summary – updated 7/1/15

100 words
Earn your Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology from Ashford University to focus on developing your expertise in designing, implementing, and facilitating instructional technology in a variety of learning environments. Through your studies, you will connect theory and practice in the design of learning solutions for a digital age. Knowledge of current and emerging instructional technologies will support you in educational and professional settings. Students who successfully complete this degree program often pursue careers as instructional technology leaders, consultants and coaches, online educators, school or college technology experts, and educational entrepreneurs.
FB ADS REAPPLY

Military

Version 1

Headline: Complete Your Mission

Body: Come back to Ashford to finish your degree. Earn your Bachelor’s or Master’s while deployed.

Version 2

Headline: Your Training Has Value

Body: Reapply and put your military experience toward a Bachelor’s degree. Learn your options.

Master’s

Version 1

Headline: Earn Your Master’s Degree

Body: Get back in the game and finish your degree. Study anywhere, anytime. Ask about financing options to return to school.

Version 2

Headline: Finish Graduate School

Body: Your Master’s degree is within reach. Ask about financing options at degrees.ashford.edu.

90+ Credits

Version 1

Headline: Success Is Within Reach

Body: You’ve come so far. Return to school, and earn your degree. Learn how at degrees.ashford.edu.

Version 2
Headline: Return To School

Body: You've come too far to quit. Learn how you can get back in school, and earn your degree.

30-90 Credits Business

Version 1

Headline: Finish Your Degree

Body: Get back into business school courses. Classes start Tuesday. See more at degrees.ashford.edu.

Version 2

Headline: Get Back In School

Body: Your earned credits count. Don't give up on your dream of a business degree.

30-90 Credits Generic

Version 1

Headline: It's Time To Go Back

Body: Your online degree is waiting for you. Learn how you can get back in school.

Version 2

Headline: Your Degree Is Waiting

Body: Take charge of your future. Return to school and earn your Bachelor's online.

Less than 30 Credits Business

Version 1

Headline: Keep Your Dream Alive

Body: Return to school and finish your business degree online. Learn how at degrees.ashford.edu.

Version 2
Headline: Get Back In The Game

Body: You’ve been on the sidelines too long. Finish your business degree online.

**Less than 30 Credits Education**

**Version 1**

Headline: School Is Waiting

Body: Earn the education degree you’ve been working toward. Finish school online.

**Version 2**

Headline: Keep On Learning

Body: Return to school and earn your education degree online.

**Less than 30 Credits Health**

**Version 1**

Headline: Revive Your Education

Body: You’ve come too far to quit on your goal of earning a health degree online.

**Version 2:**

Headline: Your Purpose Is Calling

Body: Finish the online degree you need to pursue a future in health care.

**Less than 30 Credits Criminal Justice**

**Version 1**

Headline: Criminal Justice Degrees

Body: Go back to school online and earn your Bachelor’s at degrees.ashford.edu.

**Version 2**

Headline: Finish Your Degree

Body: Prepare for the future you want with a Bachelor’s in Social and Criminal Justice.
Less than 30 Credits Generic

Version 1

Headline: It's Time To Go Back

Body: Don’t let another year go by without your degree. Return to school at ashford.edu.

Version 2

Headline: The World Is Your Campus

Body: Return to a school that gives you flexibility to learn anywhere. See more at ashford.edu.
FEBRUARY FACEBOOK ADS

Behavioral Science

1 (Applied Behavioral Science)  Working with People

Body
Study methods, techniques, and theories to solve problems in community-based settings.

2 (Cognitive Studies)  Explore Learning

Body
Discover online courses on topics such as perception, reading, and intelligence.

3 (Cultural Anthropology)  The Meaning of Culture

Body
Examine diversity among cultures with online courses from Ashford University.

4 (Psychology)  Study Human Behavior

Body
Complete online coursework in physiology, human development, and group dynamics.

5 (Social Science)  Understanding Society

Body
Acquire a foundation of research skills from the social sciences at Ashford University.

6 (Sociology)  Social Rules

Body
Online courses delve into social relationship patterns, social interaction, and culture.

CR 0123797
Criminal Justice

1 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management)
Headline Emergency Planning

Body
Learn how to plan for natural disasters in online courses from Ashford University.

2 (Law Enforcement Administration)
Headline Build Leadership Skills

Body
Take online courses that focus on leadership, management, and supervision.

3 (Military Studies)
Headline The Role of the Military

Body
Complete online coursework about ethics, international relations, and history.

4 (Social and Criminal Justice)
Headline An Instrument for Change

Body
Examine online topics related to forensics, psychology, and crime prevention.

5 (general criminal justice)
Headline Safety First

Body
Learn how to contribute to people's security.

6 (general criminal justice)
Headline Criminal Justice Degrees

Body
Achieve your undergraduate degree in the field of criminal justice.
Education

1 (Early Childhood Ed)
Headline Childhood Education

Body
Contribute to children’s healthy growth. Specialize in Infant and Toddler Care.

2 (Child Development)
Headline Be an Advocate for Kids

Body
Study the stages of development from infancy through adolescence at Ashford University.

3 (Instructional Design)
Headline Online Learning

Body
Learn to deliver e-learning instruction with online courses from Ashford University.

4 (Library Science & Media)
Headline A World of Information

Body
Study the application of technology to support learning and information access.

5 (Education General)
Headline Your Degree Is Here

Body
Education studies or child development – which subject is right for you? Find out here.

6 (Grad Programs)
Headline Grad Degrees in Education

Body
Pursue your online graduate degree in education from Ashford University.
Forbes School of Business

1 (Sports Rec & Management)
Headline  Sports Rec & Management

Body
Apply your love of sports to the world of business at the Forbes™ School of Business.

2 (Human Resources Management)
Headline  Manage Human Resources

Body
Learn about the business, ethical, legal, and social factors that shape today’s workplace.

3 (Public Relations & Marketing)
Headline  PR and Marketing

Body
Enroll in the Forbes™ School of Business to study how to capture customers’ attention.

4 (International Business)
Headline  Global Knowledge

Body
Take courses in international marketing & business law at the Forbes™ School of Business.

5 (Business Leadership)
Headline  Leadership Skills

Body
Foster your gift for guiding others with online courses at the Forbes™ School of Business.

6 (Service Management)
Headline  Specialize in Service

Body
Add a specialization to the service management degree from the Forbes™ School of Business.

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Health

1 (Psychology)
Headline Study Human Behavior

Body
Understand how human behavior impacts the dynamics of a business or organization.

2 (Gerontology)
Headline Perspectives on Aging

Body
Take courses in mental well-being and diversity in aging at Ashford University.

3 (Health & Wellness)
Headline Healthy Lifestyles

Body
Explore dimensions of health and wellness with online courses from Ashford University.

4 (Health Care Administration)
Headline Integrated Approach

Body
Investigate facets of a rapidly expanding health care industry at Ashford University.

5 (Complementary & Alternative Health)
Headline Diversity in Health Care

Body
Analyze complementary & alternative health in online courses at Ashford University.

6 (Health & Human Services)
Headline Interdisciplinary Degree

Body
Focus on the delivery of health and human services to diverse populations.
Retargeting

1. Headline  Study Something You Love

   Body
   Technology allows you to pursue your passion and to earn your degree.

2. Headline  Achieve a Milestone

   Body
   Earn your degree, and share your achievement with friends and family at commencement.

3. Headline  Things Have Changed

   Body
   Higher education has changed thanks to technology. Earn your degree at Ashford University.

4. Headline  Connect to a Degree

   Body
   Technology allows you to stay connected to your coursework at Ashford University.

5. Headline  Online University

   Body
   You can go back to school online and still maintain your work and family life.

6. Headline  School Comes to You

   Body
   Earn a degree in business, education, health, or liberal arts from Ashford University.

CR 0123797
FB Ads - April Lookalike

Generic

1. Get Started Next Week
   Online courses at Ashford University begin every Tuesday. Get in touch with Ashford today!

2. Pursue Your Passion
   Adult learners have experience on their side. Study what you love at Ashford University.

3. Classes Start Tuesday
   New courses start every week. Take advantage of the flexible schedule & get started today!

4. Become a Student Again
   Or enroll in college for the first time. Achieve your childhood dream of earning a degree.

5. Adult Learners Wanted
   Turn your passion into your purpose. Classes start every week so there's no waiting.

6. Start Earning Your Degree
   Introduce yourself to classmates next Tuesday when courses start. Contact Ashford today!
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Discover a new kind of college experience at Ashford University. Get the support you need as you earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree online. Learn more now.

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Written by nanigans_advertising_app [?] · April 8 · 📧

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Health Care
Version 1
Master the skills you need to take your health care career further. Earn your degree online.

Psychology | Health Care Administration | Gerontology | Behavioral Science | See more at degrees.ashford.edu

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Behavioral Science

Version 1
Prepare for a career solving critical social problems. Earn your Behavioral Science degree online.

Study Social Psychology | Study Research Methods & Statistics | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Version 2
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Take classes online | Classes start this Tuesday | See more at degrees.ashford.edu
Criminal Justice

Version 1
Earn your graduate degree in Criminal Justice online. Choose from four specializations.

Homeland Security | Cybercrime & Technology | Forensic Science | Law Enforcement & Corrections

Version 2
Get an advanced education to take your law enforcement career further. Earn your degree in Social and Criminal Justice online.

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Military
Version 1
Your military training could translate to transferable credits. Explore the possibilities, and earn your degree online.

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Version 2
Take classes from nearly anywhere in the world, even while deployed. Explore the possibilities when you earn your degree online.

Military benefits | Transfer up to 90 approved credits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu
Liberal Arts
Version 1
Enhance your law enforcement credentials. Earn your Bachelor's degree online.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management | Law Enforcement Administration | Social & Criminal Justice

Version 2
Enhance your skills in high demand fields with a liberal arts degree. Explore the possibilities, and take classes online.

Military Studies | Cultural Anthropology | Sociology | Law Enforcement Administration

Bachelor's
Version 1
Bachelor's degrees available in Business; Education; Health, Human Services, & Science; and Liberal Arts. Apply now to take classes online.

Accounting | Child Development | Psychology | Social & Criminal Justice

Version 2
Explore Bachelor's degrees online. Choose the program that fits your goals and learn anytime, anywhere.

Transfer up to 90 approved credits | Scholarships and Military Benefits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu
Tier 4
Degree Programs
Version 1
Earn your Bachelor’s degree online. Enhance your skills in today’s in-demand fields.

Psychology | Law Enforcement | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu

Version 2
Business; Education; Health, Human Services, & Science; and Liberal Arts degrees for the on-the-go student.
Apply now, and earn your Bachelor’s degree online.

Classes start this Tuesday | Military Benefits and Scholarships | See more at degrees.ashford.edu

About
Version 1
Accessible, relevant learning for the on-the-go student. Explore online degrees in the field you want to work.

Business | Education | Health, Human Services & Science | Liberal Arts

Version 2
Your story isn’t finished. Choose a new path when you earn your degree online.

Transfer credits | Military benefits | Learn more at degrees.ashford.edu
NEW FB CREATIVE

Healthcare

Version 1

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Create opportunities for yourself in one of the country's fastest growing industries.

[IMAGE]
Earn Your Health Care Degree Online
Programs include: Health Care Administration, Nursing, and Health Information Management.

Version 2

Ashford University

Make your resume stand out. Learn the skills today's health care employers demand.

[IMAGE]
Earn Your Health Care Degree Online
Programs include: Health Care Administration, Nursing, and Health Information Management.
Education

Version 1

Ashford University

Wanted: Lifelong learners who will inspire future generations.
[IMAGE]
Earn Your Education Degree Online
Programs Include: Child Development, Early Childhood Education, and Instructional Design.

Version 2

Ashford University

Technology is transforming the classroom. Learn the skills and knowledge needed to lead future generations.
[IMAGE]
Earn Your Education Degree Online
Programs include: Instructional Design, Teaching and Learning with Technology, and Early Childhood Education.
Business

Version 1

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Outsmart your competition in person and on paper.

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Earn your degree online. Programs include: Master of Business Administration, Accounting, and Organizational Management.

Version 2

Ashford University

The brightest leaders never stop learning. Meet the challenges of tomorrow with your online business degree.

Forbes School of Business®
Programs include: Master of Business Administration, Accounting, and Organizational Management.
Psychology

Version 1

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Study human behavior and learn the skills to transform lives.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree
Earn your Master's or Bachelor's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.

Version 2

Ashford University

Use your head to get ahead. Courses include Social Psychology, Research Methods, Lifespan Development and Psychology of Learning.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree
Earn your Bachelor's degree from Ashford University's College of Health, Human Services, and Science.

Version 3

Ashford University

Use your head to get ahead. Courses include Developmental Psychology, Personality Theories, Psychopathology, and Research Design & Methods.

[IMAGE]

Online Psychology Degree
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FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2015
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
For students interested in the College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, or if you are undecided on a major.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 2015
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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  - Academic Programs and Support
  - Financial Aid Assistance
  - Athletics, Clubs, and Organizations
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- Attending a Class
- Lunch in our Dining Hall
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SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES

10/ Steve Forbes kicked off the Forbes™ School of Business Speaker Series in March.

ALL THINGS ALUMNI

Several exciting initiatives for alumni are shared, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Reunions, the Alumni Ambassador program, and more.

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEDMAN GRAHAM

Ashford's Fall 2013 commencement speaker shares advice on how to move from being a follower to a leader.

ALUMNI STORIES

Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour leads members of the U.S. men's and women's skeleton teams to medals in Sochi.
CONTENTS / AU Alumni Magazine

SHOW YOUR ASHFORD PRIDE

CONTENTS

3/ WELCOME LETTER
by Dr. Lori Williams, Provost

4/ ASHFORD NEWS
Recent news about all things Ashford.

6/ ALL THINGS ALUMNI
by Laurie Bianchi
Ashford's Alumni Relations Manager shares several exciting news initiatives for Ashford alumni.

7/ Industry Insight: Tours & AU Rewards

8/ My Career

9/ Alumni Ambassador Program & Alumni Tuition Grant

10/ SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHES
by Loraced Plonsey & Erik Sten
The Forbes School of Business Speaker Series is kicked off by Steve Forbes. Plus: An interview with Steve Forbes.

14/ COMMENCEMENT
by Loraced Plonsey
Get all the highlights from the Fall 2013 commencement weekend in Clinton, IA and Moline, IL.

14/ A Tale of 4 MLBs

15/ Photo Gallery

16/ An Interview with Steven Graham

18/ ALUMNI STORIES
by Loraced Plonsey and Jay Conner
Alumni stories are brought to life in words and in videos filmed at the Spring 2013 commencement.

18/ Tuftfield "Tuftly" Labor

19/ Brittany Harris

20/ Michael Leach & Janice Dy

21/ Julie Ann McCoy Percecez & Brian Habel

22/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
by Loraced Plonsey
Meet Dr. Dan Timmons and Dr. Katie Boley-Brown, two College of Liberal Arts professors with interesting backstories in unexpected and diverse fields.

24/ IN YOUR OWN WORDS
by Ellen Calabrese & Kevin Bessey
Two Ashford alumni pen their own stories. Ellen can why our strengths are like pearls, and Kevin on an honor society-sponsored trip to South Africa.

26/ CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT
by Ryan Thomas & Andrea Adams
Learn about the Ashford Men's Soccer Team's run to the NAIA Semifinals and Service Learning trips to help with tornado relief.

28/ CLASS NOTES
Learn about the successes of recent and soon-to-be graduates.

30/ SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER
Find out how to download special Ashford wallpapers for your devices and social media pages.

30/ PROGRAM LIST
With more than 30 years of experience in education, Dr. Lori Williams has served as Ashford University’s Provost since October 2013.

by Dr. Lori Williams

DR. LORI WILLIAMS

University Provost

Dear Ashford Students and Alumni,

On behalf of the staff and faculty at Ashford University, I would like to welcome you to this issue of Ashford Connections. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I had the pleasure of joining Ashford University in October 2013. As the University’s Provost, I am responsible for all aspects of Ashford’s academics, including academic programs, accreditation and assessment, the academic mission, and the academic experience for students.

I bring more than 25 years of experience in education to Ashford. Most recently, I served as the Vice Provost of Curriculum Development and Innovation at Kaplan University. Prior to that, I was Executive Director of the Center for Student Success at Walden University. Previous positions include Vice President of Product Strategy and Development at Laureate Online Education, Executive Director of Laureate’s eLearning Group, and Director of Instructional Technology at Union Institute & University. Through each position, I gained more skills and experience, which led me to the provost role at Ashford.

One of my main motivations for assuming the leadership of Ashford was working with such a talented, energetic, and passionate team. Everyone is so terrific! Clearly all are working hard to advance the mission of the University.

What is most inspiring to me about my position at Ashford is the ability to work with others to improve the quality of the academic experience for our students. As our programs continue to improve, the high quality of learning will allow our students to more easily and effectively become the professionals they know they can be, with the skills, knowledge, and competencies to grow in their careers.

Enjoy the issue!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Williams, Provost
Ashford University

All are working hard to advance the mission of the University.
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY AND FORBES MEDIA INTRODUCE THE FORBES" SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

In a reception held at its headquarters in San Diego on December 12, 2015, representatives from Ashford University, Bridgepoint Education, and Forbes Media unveiled the Forbes School of Business, formerly the College of Business and Professional Studies. Students of the Forbes School of Business will gain online access to Forbes resources dating back almost a century. Forbes contributors may also be available to serve as guest lecturers, sharing their expansive knowledge with Ashford's online students. Other benefits for Forbes School of Business students and, in some cases, alumni, include invitations to unique speaker series (read more on page 10) and webinars featuring business experts from Forbes' roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors.

ASHFORD NAMED A 2014 RECYCLER OF THE YEAR IN SAN DIEGO

Ashford University and its parent company Bridgepoint Education have been selected by the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department as Recyclers of the Year in the 2014 Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards Program due to their "outstanding recycling and waste reduction efforts." The institutions were recognized by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer onboard the USS Makin Island at a special media event on April 29.

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH KYXY 96.5 TO PROMOTE LITERACY

Ashford University, in partnership with radio station KYXY 96.5, is encouraging reading and supporting literacy throughout San Diego with the Ashford University Book Club. Since February 2014 and for the remainder of the school year, KYXY 96.5 and Ashford University have been highlighting a new book each month, as recommended by the San Diego Council on Literacy in partnership with Words Alive, for students in grades K-5. One lucky classroom each month wins a reading party hosted by KYXY on-air personality Little Tommy from the Jef and Jer Showtgram. The winning class will also receive a $100 gift card for their classroom from Ashford University. "I am proud to be a part of the Ashford University Book Club," said Little Tommy. "There isn't anything better than reading to children."

FORBES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OFFERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Forbes School of Business at Ashford University will award ten scholarships valued at $5,000 each to students throughout 2014. As a result of Ashford's partnership with Forbes Media, students will be able to apply for either a Senator Project Competition Scholarship or an Entrepreneurship Scholarship. As Dr. Michael Helley, Executive Dean and professor for the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University, explained, "Funding an education can be challenging, and finding online college scholarships can be time-consuming and difficult." Learn more about the scholarships.

DR. ALBERT KARNIG JOINS ASH福德 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Albert Karnig has accepted a position on the Board of Trustees for Ashford University. His term began March 14, 2014. Dr. Karnig's career includes more than 15 years of experience in higher education. From 1997 to 2012, he served as the president of California State University, San Bernardino. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the California University of Science and Medicine, the California Council on Economic Education, the KIVN Public Radio and Television Educational Foundation, and the San Bernardino County Alliance for Education. Dr. Karnig earned his Bachelor's degree from Augsburg College and his MS and PhD in Political Science from the University of Illinois.

ASHFORD APPOINTS VICE PRESIDENT/CAMPUS DIRECTOR

Dr. Charlie Minnick has been appointed Vice President and Campus Director of Ashford's Clinton, IA campus. He has been in the position on an interim basis since January 1, 2014. "He has been at Ashford for eight years as campus dean for the Forbes School of Business (FSB) and has been an integral part of the campus leadership team," said Dr. Lori Williams, Ashford University provost. During his Ashford tenure, Minnick has been responsible for many initiatives, including launching the Office of New Student Experience and Engagement and the Office of Service Learning and Leadership and developing and launching many new degree programs, concentrations, and specializations. In addition, Minnick has taught undergraduate business and management courses and championed a service learning trip to Toms River, NJ last year. Dr. Williams added, "We are confident that the campus will thrive under his direction."
HOMEFRONT HEROES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO MILITARY SPOUSES

Ashford University, in partnership with Cox Communications, awarded Homefront Heroes Scholarships to five military spouses in San Diego County. Dr. Richard Pattonnade, Ashford University President and CEO, presented the scholarships at the Jacobs Music Center at Copley Symphony Hall during the Home for the Holidays concert on December 19, 2013. The scholarship recognizes the strength and support military spouses provide our nation’s service members and covers tuition and books at Ashford University. The 2013 scholarship recipients are Paige Solis, Erin Beeman, Tracy Bernal, Amber Engle, and Monique Morales.

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY TO HOST FALL 2014 COMMENCEMENT IN SAN DIEGO

In response to requests from students to hold graduation on the West Coast, Ashford University announced that it will host the Fall 2014 commencement ceremony in San Diego, CA at the San Diego Convention Center. By offering a commencement ceremony in San Diego, Ashford is making the trip to graduation more affordable and convenient for online students who live in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Western Canada, and beyond. In California alone, there are more than 2,500 Ashford students slated to graduate in 2014. “Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford Instructors, staff members, and fellow students who supported them throughout their journey to graduation,” said Dr. Richard Pattonnade.

NEAREST ASHFORD UNIVERSITY COMMERCIALS RELEASED IN FEBRUARY

Two new Ashford University commercials were released in February of this year; one for Ashford University and one specifically for the Forbes School of Business. The Ashford commercial, with a theme of “school comes to you,” shows how technology makes it possible for working adults to earn a degree from anywhere. The Forbes School of Business commercial portrays how graduates of the School are empowered to hold their own in the business world. Check out both TV spots below!

Moving commencement to a west coast location will create more opportunities for students to personally meet the Ashford instructors...”
ALL THINGS ALUMNI

by Lucie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager

The staff members behind the Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA) have been hard at work planning exciting new initiatives for Ashford's nationwide community of alumni, including Industry Insight Tours, AU Rewards, My Career, the Alumni Ambassador Program, and the Alumni Tuition Grant. Learn more in this special section, Just For Alumni.
ALUMNI RELATIONS LAUNCHES INDUSTRY INSIGHT TOUR PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to meet decision makers, learn the inside story on a company, and find people to contact for employment or business opportunities? The Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA)'s Industry Insight Tours aim to do just that. Industry Insight Tours are designed for Ashford graduates who seek jobs or want to expand their professional network.

Launched in January 2014 at Manpower of San Diego’s headquarters, the tour featured Philip C. Blair, Chair and Executive Officer of Manpower Staffing of San Diego, Inc., who spoke about the company and the recruitment industry. Not only did attendees gain insight into a company that has placed more than 500,000 job seekers, but they also received a copy of Blair’s new book, Job Want, compliments of Ashford University.

The Industry Insight Tour program will bring similar opportunities to Ashford alumni in markets across the country. The program offers a win-win solution for both potential candidates and the companies who open their doors to Ashford alumni. Hosting a tour is a powerfully personal way for companies to meet qualified potential candidates and potentially do some recruiting.

Future Industry Insight Tours will be announced on the AUAA Events page. If you work for a company that might enjoy hosting a group of Ashford alumni in an Industry Insight Tour, please contact Laurie Bianchi, Alumni Relations Manager, at laurie.bianchi@ashford.edu. If you would like to know more about a leading employer in your area and nominate them for a tour, submit your ideas to alumni@ashford.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Industry Insight Tour in your area!

AU REWARDS OFFER DISCOUNTS TO ASHFORD ALUMNI

BEING AN ASHFORD ALUMNUS HAS MANY ADVANTAGES, BUT DID YOU KNOW IT CAN SAVE YOU MONEY?

Ashford offers benefits to the entire Ashford community through our corporate partners, including discounts on Dell computers, on Ashford's Beneplace webpage. And now, Ashford's Alumni Relations department offers alumni-specific benefits with the introduction of the all-new AU Rewards program. To access AU Rewards, log into your Student Portal and select the Popular Links tab.

AU Rewards offers cost savings that best fit the needs and lifestyles of Ashford alumni. Benefits include savings on insurance, and will expand this year to include discounts on professional clothing, travel, and fitness.

GEICO Leads the Way on AU Rewards

Our first AU Rewards corporate partner is GEICO, who has stepped forward to design a discount program specifically for Ashford alumni, saving you money on your car, motorcycle, boat, and home insurance.

GEICO's partnership with GEICO Auto Insurance gives alumni the benefit of great rates on high-quality car insurance. In addition to your Ashford alumni discount, which could save as much as 8% more off GEICO's already-low prices, you'll also receive 24-hour service online or by phone, efficient and fair claim handling, and the peace of mind that comes from being protected by an auto insurance company rated A+ for financial stability.

Learn more about AU Rewards discounts available on GEICO insurance.
Accessing the Student Portal and "My Career" as an Alum

To access My Career, log in to the Ashford University Student Portal. Under Career and Alumni Services, select the link to "My Career: Career and Professional Development Center." If you don't remember your Student Portal password, use the "Forgot your password?" option on the login screen. If you cannot remember your Student ID, write to student_records@ashford.edu using the email address on file with Ashford University and include your name and date of birth in your request.

Whether you are currently looking for work or are employed and motivated to develop professionally, Ashford University has a new resource available just for you! Free access to "My Career: Career and Professional Development Center," launched in February of this year, is an exclusive benefit of being a member of the Ashford alumni community.

Within My Career, you may access a number of valuable resources, including the following:

- Resume guidance, including a builder if you are just getting started, samples and templates to download, and the ability to submit your resume for professional review by a Career Services Specialist.
- Complimentary access to take personality assessments and follow-up coaching regarding results—find out what your strengths are and how you can apply them for career success.
- An events calendar to register for virtual and in-person career development workshops and hiring events.
- A job search function with opportunities posted by employers seeking to hire Ashford graduates (note: if you or someone you know are interested in posting jobs, check out Ashford's Hire A Champ campaign).
- "The optimal virtual interviewing practice tool, as well as options to schedule live mock interviews.
- Connect, an area where you can meet others and engage in discussion boards and live chat with Ashford students, alumni, potential employers, faculty, and staff.

As an alumni, you have already made a huge accomplishment by achieving your degree. Keep the momentum going in the right direction by continually developing yourself to enhance your professional achievements. Ashford's Career & Alumni Services Department is committed to empowering you to achieve your greatest career potential. Log into My Career to get started today!
ALUMNI TUTION GRANT

Ashford University offers an Alumni Tuition Grant to alumni who graduate from an Ashford University or University of the Rockies (Ashford's sister school) degree program and enroll in another online Ashford University or University of the Rockies degree program. Students interested in furthering their education at either school will find the Alumni Tuition Grant helps eliminate some costs associated with doing so.

Gwendolyn Bates of San Diego, CA is just one of many alumni who have taken advantage of the Alumni Tuition Grant. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from Ashford in 2010, she immediately reenrolled at Ashford and applied the Alumni Tuition Grant toward her Master of Business Administration program, graduating in 2012.

...with the degrees, I am more credible and competent.

"With my degrees, I am able to view my company from a professional business perspective," she says. "I've been able to implement trend forecasts, marketing and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, surveys, population samples, and a financial plan for growth and exit. The degrees have given me greater professionalism and self-confidence in owning and operating a business."

In addition to her many duties as a fledgling business owner, this busy mom is also president of her children's elementary school, a PTA board member, and a military spouse who serves as an Ombudsman encompassing over eight Naval bases in San Diego. "Ashford has given me self-assurance in reorganizing my company to operate it with assertiveness and poise. I also feel that with the degrees, I am more credible and competent. I feel distinguished and accomplished as an Ashford alumnus."

Find out more about the Alumni Tuition Grant. //

ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This summer, the Alumni Relations Department plans to launch the University's first Alumni Ambassador Program. This program will support Ashford students and alumni across the country and around the world. Alumni who apply and are approved for the Ambassador program will be able to share their experience and wisdom with students and peers who wish to connect with someone who has successfully graduated from Ashford. Get more information and updates on alumni programs.

Ashford alumni are able to take advantage of many benefits and programs, including the Alumni Ambassador program.

Ashford University®
Alumni Association

JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION >

ASH0196
Forbes™ School of Business Kicks Off Speaker Series

Nearly 150 Ashford University students, alumni, faculty members, and executives from the San Diego business community gathered on March 4, 2014 for the launch of the Forbes School of Business speaker series. Held at the University Club Atop San Diego’s Symphony Towers, the event was the first in a line of speaking engagements designed to bring prominent business experts to the Ashford University’s Forbes School of Business community. The first speaker invited was Forbes Media’s Chairman and Editor-in-Chief himself, Steve Forbes.
A significant benefit of the partnership between Ashford University and Forbes Media (more on page 4), the speaker series offers the Forbes School of Business community access to events and webinars featuring Forbes' extensive roster of approximately 1,200 international contributors. A diverse mix of high-level business leaders and forward thinkers will engage with the Ashford community throughout the year. These events will be live streamed and/or recorded in order to allow the entire Ashford community to participate. Ashford's leadership will curate the speakers' backgrounds and the topics covered for relevance to the programs offered by the Forbes School of Business.

While the series is hosted by the Forbes School of Business, all Ashford students and alumni are invited, and the live stream will be open to all students and alumni as well. Additionally, adjunct faculty and staff members around the country will be invited to attend so that students and alumni can connect with them.
"Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission."

While introducing Steve Forbes at March’s inaugural event, Ashford University President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Richard Pattonaud referred to the speaker series launch as a symbolic event, part of the University’s journey to becoming one of the nation’s best private online institutions. “When discussions of an alliance between Ashford University and Forbes Media began, one aspect I was most excited about was the chance for Ashford students to hear directly from the knowledgeable experts associated with Forbes Media,” said Dr. Pattonaud. “Our mission is to provide quality education, and we are excited to have Forbes as a strategic partner in that mission. I’m pleased to say that more than 250 Forbes School of Business courses already reflect Forbes’ rich intellectual content in their curriculum.”

In his powerful presentation, Forbes addressed the state of the global economy, from the significance of the current (as of press time) Russia-Ukraine conflict to taxation in the United States, health care, monetary issues, entrepreneurship, and even Bitcoins. Forbes also addressed the future of the US economy, forecasting growth and improvement in 2014.

"With credit markets evening out and bank lending growing again, the US economy should be better this year than it has been in the last four years," Forbes told the students. "Study at Ashford and get ready for another period of global prosperity."

The public can watch a short overview video of the event on Ashford’s YouTube channel. Additionally, students and alumni should keep an eye out for the presentation in its entirety, available exclusively to them, in the Student Portal. Parts of the presentation will also be built into Forbes School of Business curriculum for current students.

The next event in the speaker series will feature Ken Fisher - Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Fisher Investments. Fisher is a top investment analyst on the 2013 Forbes 400 list of richest Americans and Forbes list of world billionaires. He will be speaking and participating in a meet-and-greet at Ashford’s Clinton, IA campus on May 8 during Spring 2014 commencement weekend. Though the deadline to RSVP occurred before press time of this publication, look for exclusive invitations for upcoming Forbes School of Business Speaker Series events in the near future."
Q&A WITH STEVE FORBES

by Lorelei Muscari

We had a chance to speak with Steve Forbes after his presentation on March 4. In addition to the below answers to our questions, he extended a personal congratulations to all this year's graduates of Ashford University.

Ashford Connections (AC): What are your hopes for graduates of the Forbes School of Business?

Steve Forbes (SF): Well, that they get the tools that they need to go out and develop their talents and learn to make mistakes... and be successes. And my grandfather said in the first issue of Forbes, "The purpose of business is to produce happiness, not to pile up money." And so it's about developing -- it's an overused phrase, but absolutely true -- human capital.

AC: Can you speak to the ability of institutions like Ashford to be a disruptive force?

SF: By giving people the knowledge and confidence to go out into the world, by creating and doing new things -- that, by its very definition, is disruptive. So you come up with a new project, a new service, a new process; you are disrupting but serving the needs and wants of others. [Ashford University is] giving people the tools to go out and do it.

AC: What's your biggest advice for fledgling entrepreneurs?

SF: For fledgling entrepreneurs: one, don't be surprised if it doesn't work. It's like baseball; you don't always hit a home run when you go up to the plate. And very importantly: cash flow, cash flow, cash flow. Stay on top of that, because that's killed more new starting businesses than anything else. You think you're moving ahead, and you suddenly find you don't have the juice to do it.

AC: How is an environment for innovation best created today?

SF: An environment for getting ahead is very simple. Sound money, low tax rates, rule of law, and regulations that provide the rules of the road instead of telling people how to do things -- and rules that are understandable and not at the discretion of bureaucrats. Then people will do the rest.
Ashford University celebrated its Fall commencement on Sunday, October 13, 2013. More than 700 graduates and nearly 4,000 guests traveled to the Clinton, IA area to attend the graduation ceremony. Ashford graduated a total of 7,863 students since the University's previous commencement ceremonies in May. The ceremonies in Moline, IL capped off a weekend of celebration that began on October 12 with a variety of events for graduates and their families at Ashford’s Clinton campus. We’ve gathered some highlights from the weekend to share with you here!

A TALE OF 4 MBAS

4 classmates meet in person for the first time – and unexpectedly – at their commencement ceremony.

"It was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!"

Throughout their Master of Business Administration (MBA) Marketing specialization program – and especially in their final course – classmates Richard Bosas, Bobby Amoo, Mike Reedy, and Sara Schneidere-Ashok provided support and encouragement to one another in the form of discussion board posts and group projects.

"Not only did we discuss the topics set forth by the professor," explains Richard, a Senior HR Director Specialist at Novartis, but we would lean on each other and encourage one another.

The coursework wasn't easy, but when all was said and done, all four were officially MBA. And though they continued to stay connected through social media, they hadn't thought to communicate about whether anyone else in the group was attending the Fall 2013 commencement ceremony in Illinois. After all, they were from such far-flung locations as Texas, New York, and California.

So imagine their surprise not only to hear each other's names called out at the ceremony, but to discover they were only stats away from each other!

"Marl, a global marketing communications manager who hopes to work her way up to a director position, describes her delight upon being able to meet her support network in person. "It was really funny to all of a sudden hear someone's name called that you recognize. Then I heard the other two names, and it just fell into place that our whole group was there. We laughed each other as soon as the ceremony was over. We felt connected and like truly belonged at that point with people who knew me and I knew them."

Adds Sara Schneidere-Ashok, a product support manager at Enterprise-IT Company, "I was great to be able to put a face and voice to the names!" And Bobby, a senior consultant and aspiring entrepreneur says, "I was so happy to see them. It was a wonderful feeling!"

Although the tour in this group became particularly close, they also point out the strength of the learning community as a whole. Bobby calls his Ashford classmates "always passionate and willing to help. They push you further than just answering questions," Matt says, "We collaborated and we've built ideas off each other and were able to teach each other from our experiences and interpretations of the material we were learning. We communicated as much as possible to get the most out of the program."

Additionally, all four in the group have seen positive results professionally from having earned their MBAs. "In the past," explains Matt, "I was invited to high level professional meetings in which topics were discussed that I didn't understand, so I wasn't able to contribute. But now I'm degree program, I'm no longer intimidated by the terminology and what it all means, so I am more able to contribute and be a member that people turn to for help on their projects."

Bobby says, "I have used my knowledge with my current position by implementing projects and setting up presentation materials." Sara points out that she is "empowered to better summarize financial results and better communicate my summaries," while Richard says, "My degree has helped me sharpen my skills and apply them to my current position."

Of the ceremony, Richard adds, "Encountering these classmates was one of the biggest surprises at commencement. They, along with my family and close friends, understood the network that was necessary to get to that day. Participating in commencement will be an experience I will always remember." Sara agrees, saying, "I made a point to remind myself to take it all in and store the memories away so I can recall them, since this will most likely be my last commencement ceremony!"

In closing, says Matt, "I dedicated 22 months of my life to this and I am so glad I did, and I can cross it off my bucket list and not have any regrets. Meeting my classmates in person at commencement was the icing on the cake!"
PHOTO GALLERY

A smaller reception was held on the Clubhouse for campus students only in December 2002.

Jude Hymes, University of Victoria
Angela Armstrong, University of Victoria
Linda Iglehart, University of Victoria
Janice Whitaker, University of Victoria
Susan Hickey, University of Victoria
Sherry Marvin, University of Victoria

Michelle Garlock, B.C. Health Care Awards 2003
Michelle Garlock, B.C. Health Care Awards 2004
Michelle Garlock, B.C. Health Care Awards 2005

Campus staff members: Andy Adams, Manager of Service Learning, and Larry Usher, Director of Student Life, are always ready to assist with students.

Wounded veteran Mark Chiplin, BA in Management and Analytics

72-year-old Patricia Donohoe, one of the first cohort of Consilium students, earned her BA in Psychology.

Read more about Mark.
AN INTERVIEW WITH STEMDAN GRAHAM

By Lorrie Howard

The official commencement speaker for the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony was none other than educator, author, and businessman Stedman Graham. He is Chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), an adjunct professor at several universities around the country, and has authored eleven books, including two New York Times bestsellers. His latest release is “Identity: Your Passport to Success.” Graham’s presentations on the topics of identity development, maximizing leadership, achieving success, and personal and professional branding are driven by his Nine-Step Success Process, a life and learning management system designed to organize your life around your identity. We got the chance to sit down and talk with him after he addressed the crowd of about 4,700 people at commencement.

Adsford Connections (AC): As an educator, author, and speaker, how would you describe the work you do to a freshman?

Stedman Graham (SG): I lead identity development.

AC: Tell us a little bit about growing up and your first job, and how you got from there to where you are today.

SG: I grew up in a small town: Whitesboro, NJ. I was a basketball player, I got a scholarship to college, and after I graduated I went into the service and played ball in Taiwan. After the service I worked in the prison system for 5 years. That wasn’t my first job! [laughs] my first job was [as] a short order cook on the beach which I got fired from because I ate too many of the profits. [laughs]. But I worked in the prison system for 5 years, in public relations and marketing for years - I used to own an advertising company - I worked in the sports marketing industry, and now I’ve dedicated my life to education and teaching people about identity development leadership.

AC: Talk about what reconditioning means to you in the 21st century, and how adult learners are to do that.

SG: Reconditioning means that you have to prepare yourself in the 21st century, because the marketplace is really changing a lot through technology, and you have to be a lifelong learner and developer. You have to be more of an owner of your own development, stay on the cutting edge, be motivated, have good leadership skills, be self-starter, and be focused. You have to know where you’re going, how you’re going to get there, and what the process is. And you have to be able to assimilate into a global marketplace and deal with all kinds of people, so you have to have good relationship skills.

AC: How can adult learners or anyone else turn their passion into a profession?

SG: The passion is the core. That’s your authenticity, that’s your foundation for growth and development, that’s being able to organize your life around the different things that you love and care about. So it’s a process of being able to get to that natural ability and figure out what is relevant to you, what makes you happy, what you care about, and use that information and make it relevant to that. So tell is developing a strong works life balance which is long-term. And to figure out how to clarify what’s important to you, and what you should be working on.
AG: Even though we still have the same 24 hours in a day, it seems like today we have fewer hours in a day because we’re surrounded by tech. How can people achieve greatness when they’re working with less time?

SG: Well, that’s probably more of an illusion than anything else. We just do a lot of things we’re not supposed to be doing. We’re not clear on the things that we should be doing and we waste a lot of time. Going after the dream, going after the big things is supposed to take time. How do you get to the top of the mountain? You take one step at a time. So it’s a step-by-step process of organizing your life. I created a 9-step success process which teaches people how to organize their lives around themselves and make it clear what your time should be used for.

AG: You talk about how as children, we get to school, memorize information, repeat it, and then forget it. How would you advise adult learners to avoid that pattern and get more out of their education?

SG: Again, it starts with having an identity and being clear on what you’re going to be working on and what makes you happy and what motivates you. There are three ways to learn. Number one, you need information, you need content. And we have lots of content in the marketplace. The question is, is it relevant? Number two, you need cognitive ability. So you need to be able to think about what’s important to you and you need to be able to understand how to process and take information and make it relevant to your life and make it actionable. And the third way is you need to be motivated.

So you want to do things that you’re passionate about, that you care about, and that you love, because life is about working on yourself every single day to improve - and it’s called practice. So you need to practice, practice, practice all your life working on the right things to make you happy - and then it’s really not work.

“We have to keep reinventing ourselves all the time and again, stay on the cutting edge, and get the best information that will make us relevant - the buzz word of the 21st century is relevance.”

AG: Now that Ashford graduates have reached this milestone, is it enough for them to just show up to work with a degree or are there next steps you advise them to take?

SG: I think that you have to be careful that you don’t move forward and further behind today. Because the global marketplace is expanding and you have to be prepared. There’s a saying that “success is when preparation meets opportunity.” And today will find the technology moving so fast and... having to compete with people all over the world, you have to be prepared and you have to stay prepared. And so the ability to rest and relax is not a part of the program any more. You have to be on it, be conscious of the opportunity to create and develop, have ongoing innovation and creativity, work hard, be passionate about your work, show up, and be self-engaged in the world that you live in. You’ve got family, yourself, your community, work, and all these other things. You have to balance, so it takes a very special person - and that’s called strong leadership. It takes a strong leader, and that’s what you have to become. You have to move from a follower to a leader and stay there.}
ASHFORD ALUM COACHES US SKELETON TEAMS IN SOCHI

by Ward Piotrowski

"Follow your dreams, never give up, and when it gets tough, push through it."

In 1990, Tuftie "Tuffy" Latour answered a solicitation in an Air Force newspaper for active duty airmen to try out for the U.S. Bobsled team. "I started sliding that year driving bobsleds and raced for the next eight years," Tuffy explains. In 1998, he started coaching bobsled and has never looked back.

Now an Air Force Sergeant, Tuffy has coached in the last four games and has led six U.S. and Canadian athletes to medals. In Salt Lake City in 2002, he was the driving coach for the U.S. Women's Bobsled Team; in 2006 in Torino, he was the U.S. Men's Bobsled Team head coach; and in 2010 in Vancouver, he was the head coach for the Canadian men and women's bobsled teams. Later that year, he took the job as the head coach for the U.S. Skeleton Team.

Earlier this year in Sochi on the world stage, he led the U.S. men's and women's skeleton teams to two medals (a silver for Noelle Pikus-Pace in the women's skeleton event and a bronze for Matt Antoine in the men's event). Several of his other athletes placed respectably as well. He found the Sochi sliding facilities to be world-class and the entire experience extremely positive.

Serving our country not only at the world's most prestigious athletic event but also in the military means that Tuffy is involved in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). WCAP provides outstanding soldier-athletes the support and training to compete and succeed in national and international competitions leading to the games, while maintaining a professional military career and promoting the U.S. Army to the world. "I got involved in WCAP in 1995 shortly after I joined the Vermont Army National Guard. As a soldier, it's always an honor to be able to serve and represent your country at the ... games."

Tuffy enrolled at Ashford in 2007 right after taking the Head Coach position with the Canadian bobsled team. "Ashford offered me the ability to take classes while on the road. As a bobsled and skeleton coach, we travel quite a lot in the winter months, which leaves flexibility as a must for any working adult. I really enjoyed my time at Ashford. I feel that I learned a lot, as I was able to relate quite a bit to the Organizational Management degree I was pursuing."

Tuffy has continued to juggle many roles successfully, although he points out, "As a husband, father, soldier, student, and coach, I've always had my hands full. It's amazing how time flies by when you're trying to juggle so many areas of life."

His advice to Ashford students and alumni is as follows: "Follow your dreams, never give up, and when it gets tough, push through it. I always tell my athletes to focus on the process. Part of that belief system is to take it one curve at a time, which in turn allows the athletes to stay process-oriented."

Ashford University / ashford.edu
ASH0205
ALUMNI STORIES 
BROUGHT TO LIFE

by Lorinda Plett and Joy Currier

The following videos were all filmed at the Fall 2013 commencement weekend on the Ashford campus in Clinton, IA as well as at the Wireless Center in nearby Moline, IL, where the ceremony was held. From an international marketing wunderkind to a teacher bringing technology into her classroom, we hope these stories inspire and move you.

COMMUNICATIONS GRAD HELPING KIDS

BRITTANY HARRIS
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, 2013

Having graduated from Ashford University at the age of 25, Brittany Harris is not wasting time getting started with her professional goals.

"I want to reach out in schools and do public speaking and mentoring," she exclaimed on her commencement day, "so this Communication Studies degree encompasses all of it: the material that'll have to come up with, the memos that I'll have to write, the public speaking I'll have to do. I'm already in the works of starting my own business where I'm going into local schools in my area and talking about the next steps, talking about going to college and figuring out what to do."

Upon hearing this, one might assume this resident of Blacklick, OH must have the luxury of time – but nothing could be further from the truth. "Being a single mom," she shared, "I've had a full-time job and a lot of other extracurricular activities. It was nice to be able to answer the discussion posts from pretty much wherever I was, or to download [interactive learning platform] Constellation and be able to read my textbooks while I'm walking on my daughter in dance class, or waiting on her swimming lessons. So I was able to take school with me."

Brittany's road to earning her degree was not a short one. She went to two other universities prior to Ashford, and was able to transfer in 46 of the 48 credits she submitted from those institutions. "And then that way I didn't have to go back and start over; I was able to just keep going."

When she finally pulled up to Ashford's Clinton, IA campus with her daughter and mother Tanya (who is also an Ashford graduate), she explained that her surreal feelings transformed into a more tangible experience. "It's actually tomorrow I'll be crossing the stage! It's been a 7-year journey to get my Bachelor's degree, so now that it's finally at the end, it's just amazing."

Tanya, who graduated in 2009 with her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Education concentration, was equally emotional, especially since she didn't get to attend her own Ashford commencement but was now able to cheer on her daughter. She reflected on her own professional success due in part to earning her Ashford degree, after which she went on to earn a graduate degree and a teaching licensure. "I started as a teacher's aide and was able to get a full-time teaching position, and I love it. It's just my passion. It made a big difference having that degree."

With this family legacy coupled with such enthusiasm and passion, it's likely that there will be no limit to what Brittany can accomplish.

*This program was replaced with the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies.*
ASPIRING JOURNALIST ACING INTERVIEWS

MICHAEL LEACH
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013

"Knowing it's over and yet just beginning is a strange and fantastic feeling."

"One of my biggest concerns coming in was: I had tried college before and wasn't all that good at it," admits 2013 graduate Michael Leach. "Ashford was the only school willing to let me transfer in the credits that worked with me instead of transferring in the ones that held me back."

Transferring in 24 credits toward his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication helped Michael make the most of going back to school. He also found the online set-up much more accessible than learning in a brick and mortar classroom. "Most of my teachers would email me back within three hours of sending an email out. They were very up on keeping in touch with the students," he says. "And learning online was beneficial as far as not having to ever leave the house to go anywhere. It just really worked out quite nicely."

Right before attending his graduation, Michael went on his first interview at a local newspaper in the Winchester, CA area, where he lives. Before even scheduling the second interview, the company told him they'd like to bring him on to do some freelance work. "They were very impressed with what I had written for Ashford," he says. "Having the journalism degree takes a talent I have and allows me to do something with it."

Michael encourages anyone who is thinking about going back to school to look closely at Ashford as a way to make it happen in an affordable and efficient way. "You deserve to feel proud of yourself," he says. "For me, knowing that it's over and yet just beginning, is a strange and fantastic feeling."

Michael is currently working on a memoir detailing his life with a disability.

MARKETING WUNDERKIND GOES INTERNATIONAL

JANICE DY
Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing, International Management specialization, 2013

Ashford University graduate Janice Dy and a friend started a fitness magazine called Asian Bolt to share fitness tips while giving exposure to Asian athletes and bodybuilders. After Asian Bolt caught the attention of one of the world's most popular bodybuilding magazines, Flex, Janice and her friend were invited to help Flex expand their Asian market.

"My final paper at Ashford was about the globalisation of Asian Bolt," Janice explains. "Because of the research I did at school, I was able to give that information to someone else, and they were so impressed about some of my marketing findings, I was given a great career opportunity! I'm really excited."

This Orlando, FL resident, who graduated from Ashford at the age of 36, was recently put in charge of marketing for Flex Southeast Asia. She's also planning on growing her own magazine's market to a dozen more countries. "The biggest challenge she feels she and most other international managers have to deal with is learning how to integrate different kinds of personnel and employee personalities on top of different types of cultural backgrounds. "Through some of the courses I took at Ashford, I feel up to that challenge," she says. "You have to be adventurous; you have to be open to different opportunities and driven to deal with those challenges."

Before coming to Ashford, Janice took classes at Penn State and University of Central Florida. Even though her courses at Penn State were also through an online program, she felt Ashford better accommodated her schedule. "Ashford’s program is more conducive to a full-time working adult," she says, "because you’re able to focus on one course at a time. It also helped me complete my assignments with quality as well."

Janice always had hopes of using her Public Relations and Marketing degree in the fitness industry, specifically on an international scale. She’s enjoying seeing her dreams become reality.

"This is just the beginning," she says. "It’s really great to be able to take my coursework from Ashford University and use it professionally."
TEACHER USING TECHNOLOGY IN HER CLASSROOM

JULIE ANN MCCOY PERCEVECZ
Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology, 2013

With 28 years of teaching experience in an elementary school classroom under her belt, Julie Ann McCoy Percevecz was under zero pressure to add to her professional credentials. A second grade teacher and a gifted and talented program coordinator at her school, she already held a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a Master’s in counseling. Yet, at the age of 50, this Schertz, TX resident has expanded her academic arsenal even further by graduating from Ashford University with a Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology (MATLT) – with a 4.0 GPA!

Along with the eventual goal of transitioning to becoming an online instructor, Julie cites her desire to improve and enhance her teaching ability in the classroom as a major driving force in pursuing this unique degree. “Technology is the future. ‘In education. My classroom kids benefit from this degree every day. The tools and knowledge I have gained from the program are priceless, and I share them with my coworkers on a day-to-day basis as well.”

The degree’s positive impact on her ability to shine professionally is clear. Recently, while developing a program for her gifted students, Julie drew from her Ashford coursework to develop a training presentation that her whole district then used. Additionally, many projects that have to do with technology now often fall to her, a position she relishes being in. “I have led the way with my team several times on developing lessons that have been used throughout the school.”

The impact has been no less profound on her students. “There were several activities I pulled directly from my MATLT course activities, including the ability to convert a typical lecture lesson into an online activity that was 100% completed at home with parents and presented in class. Everyone was excited about the whole process.”

Her advice to others in a similar stage in their career?
“Your education is something that’s never too late to receive and will never be regretted.”

STUDENT EARS 4.0 DESPITE DEPLOYMENT

BRIAN HABEL
Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, 2013

Brian Habel, who is in charge of recruiting and retention for the Illinois Army National Guard, earned a perfect 4.0 GPA at Ashford University despite his military commitment – which included an overseas deployment.

Brian credits the staff and technology behind Ashford’s online platform for making it possible. “While deployed, it was very easy to communicate and attend the classes. Being online, you can feel like you’re a million miles away with a lot of different schools, but the customer service at Ashford has been outstanding.”

This Rock Island, IL resident has been active duty National Guard since 1986 and has five children and stepchildren ranging from elementary school age to adult.
“It keeps you busy!”

How does Brian explain the incredible achievement of having earned a perfect 4.0 GPA despite his professional, family, and travel commitments? “That was kind of a personal goal for my kids; showing them that when you’re going to do something, jump in with both feet rather than halfway. Having a 4.0 meant I was making the most out of that opportunity that Ashford was presenting to me. I wanted to take everything out of the college experience that I could.”

The professional benefits of having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management degree, which he did at the age of 46, have been tangible as well. “My team does a lot of projects within the community, so it gives me new ideas, fresh information, and more knowledge to pass on to them about how to make successful projects happen.”

“While deployed, it was very easy to communicate and attend the classes.”

Ashford Connections / Issue Eight

ASH0208
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

In this issue, we get to know two professors from Ashford’s College of Liberal Arts. True to their College’s namesake, they bring interesting backgrounds in unexpected and diverse fields into their classrooms.

by Lawana Dosey

DR. DAN TINIANOW

Dr. Dan Tinianow, an Assistant Professor in Ashford’s College of Liberal Arts, currently teaches COM 200 Interpersonal Communication. "I like teaching a course that almost everyone takes and that everyone can relate to their everyday life. Ultimately, I want to teach as many of the Communication Studies courses as I can."

This current resident of Denver, CO brings a hands-on background in communications into his virtual classrooms, having worked in the Los Angeles entertainment industry during the 2000s. He pitched television shows to people like Warren Littlefield (who put Seinfeld on the air and had a character on the show based on him) and companies like International Creative Management (ICM). He had a series in development with the Johnson Group, which oversees media aspects of the Democratic and Republican national conventions every four years, and was the senior researcher for a History Channel program called "Secret Passages." He also did script coverage for product placement and celebrity endorsement firm The Reel Rose Group, where he read scripts for movies and looked for product placement opportunities.

And Dr. Tinianow’s Hollywood experience wasn’t only behind the scenes — in 2002, he appeared as a contestant on the show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and won $16,000! "The game show did a special event called ‘radio week,’ and I represented KFI, a major radio station in Los Angeles. I got this honor by being the high scorer on a qualifying quiz, and then had to compete against the other LA finalists in New York for the final spot." He found it interesting to be on the other side of the camera, and his industry experience meant he wasn’t fazed by aspects of production viewers don’t see at home, like having to repeat a part of the show four times due to a cell phone interfering with the lighting system.

So how does working in academia compare to an exciting Hollywood career? "To be honest, work in the entertainment business is a lot of fun, but there is also a lot of pressure and, more significantly, a lot of walking over other people to move your own career forward, which is the part that keeps me in academia. I continue to have ideas for and contacts in the industry, though, so maybe I’ll do some work there again someday. But it’s not a priority — and living in Denver, it’s not that likely right now."

"I like teaching a course that almost everyone...can relate to their everyday life."

In addition to Colorado, teaching jobs have also taken Dr. Tinianow to China and Japan, and he speaks both languages to a degree. Fascinatingly, he is also a certified hypnotist, though currently out of practice. His wife works on the opposite side of the same floor in Ashford’s Denver office as a Student Advisor, and they have lunch together almost every day. They have two young sons and a senior Bichon Frise. 
DR. KATIE BOJAKOWSKI

Dr. Katie Bojakowski is an Assistant Professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Ashford University, where she teaches in the Social Science/Justice Studies department. She holds a doctorate and a Master of Arts in Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M, where she graduated magna cum laude on both occasions. She also graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Washington University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology.

Dr. Bojakowski's graduate degrees focus on the study of ancient and historical shipwrecks. "My scholarly interests range widely from nautical archaeology with an emphasis on 15th-19th century Atlantic seafaring, in English, Bermudian, and American colonial seafaring, to Caribbean seafaring. I am also interested in the study of ships as societal symbols, ship iconography, gender in archaeology, and the anthropology of seafaring."

She's participated on several shipwreck excavations throughout her career and is currently the co-director of The Warwick Project, a collaborative effort between several groups to excavate the racebuilt galleon Warwick, which wrecked while at anchorage in Bermuda during a hurricane in 1619. As director of the Warwick Project, Dr. Bojakowski has funded the excavation of this prime example of a late 16th-century naval warship, and early 17th-century ships that played a fundamental role in supplying the English settlements in North America, through grants from the National Geographic Society, the Ferot Foundation, the Global Exploration and Overlanding Society, and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, among others. The project has generated peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and public interest around the world.

When asked what fascinates her so much about the topic, Dr. Bojakowski says, "Nautical archaeology is more than a study of seafaring technology; it is an examination of the ambitions and motivations of individuals and nations for purposes of trade, exploration, and colonization. It is also a story of symbolism, national pride, and the human drive to look beyond the known world and discover the unknown. It is this aspect of my research that I find fascinating. I was initially drawn to the field of nautical archaeology because it combined my love of the sea with my interest in archaeology. I also have the ability to study shipwrecks from many different time periods and nationalities, which keeps my research exciting and fresh."

In addition to Bermuda, shipwreck excavations have taken Dr. Bojakowski to the Azores Islands, the Dominican Republic, Portugal, and Oklahoma. In the Azores Islands, she was part of an archaeological team that excavated a 16th century Spanish galleon called the Angra D Wreck. She also recorded timbers from a landlocked shipwreck: the Calo de Sobre wreck, in Lisbon. In the Dominican Republic, she was the co-director of an archaeological survey of the southern shore of the island and joined the Moni Cristi Project excavating a 13th century shipwreck off of La Isla Cabra. In addition, she spent two summers working on the Red River Project in Oklahoma excavating and recording the hull of the Herone, which was an early 19th century steamship.

Dr. Bojakowski encourages her students to be curious. She says, "I find teaching at Ashford both extremely rewarding and continually challenging. The college experience is often defined by introducing students to critical thinking and self-reflection. As an instructor I take pleasure in being part of the process of teaching students that the world is a much bigger place than they ever imagined." Dr. Bojakowski lives in Washington State and is most happy on a sailboat or scuba diving underneath it. She spends most of her free time hiking, camping, and going on backpacking expeditions with her family.

For more biographies of Ashford faculty members and to follow their most recent accomplishments, visit ashford.edu/faculty.
IN YOUR WORDS: ARTICLES PENNED BY ALUMNI

Ashford University is proud to feature articles written by our alumni in Ashford Connections. If you have an article to submit or an idea that you would like to write about, please contact Alumni Relations at alumni@ashford.edu.

DEVELOPING THE PEARL WITHIN YOU

BY ELIHU CLAIBORNE
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013

You can say that strengths are like pearls. Each human being possesses a pearl within that is both unique and rare. Because our time on this earth is limited, and we all want to make the most of that time, it is incredibly important that we develop our pearls in every way possible during our lives.

An actual pearl is introduced to the world through a rather strange and intriguing process. Pearls are literally the product of constant irritation. For instance, an oyster feels off the bottom of the ocean and occasionally it will suction a grain of sand that becomes lodged on the inside. That sand causes the oyster to feel discomfort, so it rubs and rubs in an effort to get rid of it. The constant friction caused by the rubbing eventually forms the sand into a beautiful pearl, for which people will pay thousands of dollars. But the fact of the matter is that the beautiful pearl is birthed out of a fairly uncomfortable situation that the oyster would have preferred to not deal with. But that irritation was divinely designed to become something beautiful; to blossom into a valuable treasure. In much the same way, every irritation in our life has the potential to become a pearl.

The Christian scripture talks about how our higher power is the potter and we are the clay. No matter our religious beliefs, one way we are formed and molded is by being in uncomfortable situations. We're not always getting our way or being treated right, or something is not happening as fast as we would like. This pressure brings to light impurities in our character such as pride, selfishness, cynicism, and being easily offended; things we need to get rid of so we can reach a higher place. Each time we are challenged, we need to remind ourselves that this is only a test and an opportunity to rise above. The irritation was never designed to frustrate you, it was designed to help you grow, to help you develop that pearl, and to motivate you.

Many faiths believe that ultimately our faith is tried in the fire of affliction, just as fire tests and purifies gold. Some of you may be in that refiner's fire right now, going through a tough time. You probably don't like it and believe it's not fair. But let me encourage you: if you'll keep the faith and keep pushing forward, you will emerge more refined, purified, stronger, and better off than you were before you faced the fire.

Ashford alumni may submit articles to be considered for "In Your Words" by emailing connections@ashford.edu.
EXPERIENCING AN EVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA

BY KEVIN BESSEY
Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, 2013
Master of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship specialization

Kevin Bessy, a senior estimator at a construction company group in Ontario, Canada who earned his BA in Organizational Management from Ashford in 2013 and is currently back earning his MBA, was selected to receive a $2,000 travel grant to attend the Golden Key International Honour Society 2013 South Africa Summit. The summit, held on September 20 and 21 at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, had a theme of “Lead – Inspire – Grow,” which supported the Golden Key “Stand Out – Stand Up – Stand Together” slogan. It was an opportunity for Kevin to travel across the globe while networking with individuals with similar aspirations and dreams. Below is Kevin’s account of the transformative experience.

My visit to the South African Summit was exhilarating. Not only was it a chance to see and experience the geography of another continent, but also a diverse culture outside what I am accustomed to in North America. It was an opportunity to meet and interact with the emerging face of a country steeped in history, but also a nation and people healing and evolving from within. I saw how young South Africans are gearing up to contribute to society, constructing the roads and vehicles that will allow for the restructuring of the establishments and adding to the potential and value of future generations.

The workshops I attended at the South African Summit were filled with such high and intoxicating aspirations. From them, I was able to experience the energy behind how the next generations will be shaping their country. They are examining the ways in which to engage others in their communities, take action, and become agents of change. They hope to be useful, contribute, and take ownership rather than waiting for someone (or government programs) to intervene. They are taking action and developing their national pride and identity, and they are creating sound means in which to expand upon, develop, and retain the intellectual resources of the country. Expanding on this type of thinking to engage the broader community is also a priority.

The young South Africans I met all exhibited leadership traits of empathy, autonomy, conscientiousness, and problem-solving abilities to set goals with confidence and accomplish action plans. This was truly a spectacular and exhilarating experience to see and be part of. I was completely moved and touched by these people’s dedication to engage the services of the summit participants to take part in a community involvement program. We were all called together to help volunteer by packaging school supplies for a local school and sign a petition pledging to help stop the local violence against women.

“My visit to the South African Summit was exhilarating.”

It was an experience I will never forget, and I was delighted to have had such an opportunity. What I took away was how to engage my coworkers and employees in becoming active in our own communities, igniting drive and passion within them to recognize what is needed and how we could come together to empower and act from within to make a difference.

Thank you to Golden Key for this incredible experience.

Learn about future summits. //
THE ASHFORD MEN’S SOCCER TEAM’S RUN TO THE NAIA SEMIFINALS

Coming off a year in which they made their second appearance at the NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship, the Ashford University men’s soccer team looked to not only match that success in 2013, but take another step toward becoming a national power. Instead, head coach Richard Markham and the Saints grew their success by leaps and bounds, advancing to the semifinals of the 2013 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championships in Montgomery, AL.

The Saints finished the 2013 season with a 16-4-2 record, finished fourth in the final NAIA Top-25 Soccer Coaches’ Poll, and advanced farther than any program in school history.

Those wins helped propel the Saints to the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) regular season championship and the number one seed in the A.I.I. Tournament in Lawrenceville, GA. The Saints would come up short in the A.I.I. title game, but qualified for the NAIA Tournament by earning an at-large bid.

Clinton would play host to the Opening Round of the NAIA Tournament for the second year in a row on November 23, 2013, as Ashford welcomed Cardinal Stritch University (WI) to South Campus. Trailing by a goal late in the game, sophomore Tim Krauthem tied the game at two with 43 seconds to go, sending the Ashford faithful into a frenzy. The comeback was completed in double overtime when junior Javier Ramirez faked out the Stritch goalie and fired the ball into the net, sending Ashford to the Round of 16.

Ashford’s second round opponent, the Wildcats of Baker University (KS), notched a win over the Saints in the season opener and had AU on the ropes after tying the game at two late. The game headed to double-overtime and appeared destined for a shootout when Krauthem found the back of the net with 44 seconds to go, giving AU a berth in the quarterfinals.

After a 5-1 win over Rio Grande (OH) in the quarters, all that stood between the Saints and a spot in the championship game were the Red Hawks of Martin Methodist (TN). Ashford took a 1-0 lead early in the second half, but the Red Hawks tied things up shortly after. Two overtimes solved nothing and the game headed to penalty kicks, where the Red Hawks ended the Saints’ season on route to their first ever national championship.

Following the tournament, the Saints collected a slew of postseason awards. Freshman Daniel Dreier and junior Mark Hiller were named to the NAIA’s All-Tournament Team and the team was awarded with the Nokia Dahlquist Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award. Lucas Almeida (second team), Dreier (third team), and Fernando Machado (honorable mention) all earned All-American nominations.

Sao Paulo, Brazil-native Almeida was named A.I.I. Player of the Year and earned an all-conference nomination along with Dreier, Machado, Cato Rulz, Patrick Kinsella, and Ramirez.

Several Saints were also recognized for their work in the classroom at the end of the year. Ramirez was named First Team Academic All-America, First Team All-District Five Academic All-America and Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete. Simon Brown, Alejandro Erazo, Chris Higgins, Luis Mota and Brock Smutney also earned NAIA Scholar Athlete awards.
CAMPUS VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF

by Andrea Adkins, Manager of Service Learning

In Fall 2013, Ashford Service Learning student volunteers traveled to Moore, OK and Washington, IL to help clean up after tornadoes ripped through each community. Ashford's Manager of Service Learning shares the experience here.

OKLAHOMA TORNADO RELIEF

Moore, OK was selected as the site for our annual fall semester service trip - a very eye-opening experience for our students. On our first day in Moore, we visited elementary school sites that were demolished by the storm. As impactful as it was visually, it was really hard for the students to read about the young children who lost their lives on that fateful day. Branden Lamb, a participating senior Criminal Justice major, said, “During this time I found myself becoming overwhelmingly upset that these students had died, because I associated their stories with my youngest brother and could not imagine losing him in something like this.”

After this emotional experience, the rest of the trip was based on helping the community move forward. The group cleaned debris from ditches, canvassed neighborhoods for residents in need, weeded a community pumpkin patch, cleaned up a resident's yard, and sparked drywall. It was a trip that we will never forget – not just due to the devastation we encountered, but for the bonds that were formed and the relationships that were strengthened through service to strangers. “I wish we could have done even more for the Moore community, but I do understand that the work we did was needed,” said Brian. “I’m glad that I was blessed with the opportunity to experience this trip. Service is a huge passion of mine, and this trip helped solidify that in my heart.”

TORNADO RELIEF CLOSER TO HOME

The second service trip of the semester was completely unexpected, but turned out to be one of the most amazing events the Ashford campus has experienced. On November 17, 2013, an EF-4 tornado once again hit a town in the Midwest, but this time it was much closer to home. Washington, IL is only about two hours south of our Clinton campus and we have numerous students from the area. Fortunately, none of our students were directly impacted, but stories of friends and family members who lost everything came streaming in. Within a few hours of hearing the news, students were already trying to figure out what the Ashford community could do to help. The next morning, we held an impromptu meeting for all students interested in helping. Within two days the students had launched a community-wide donations drive and planned another Service Learning trip to help the people of Washington.

By the end of that week, students had collected two moving trucks full of donations and over $600 to support the Washington community. A group of 12 students (who were at the sign-up starting at 4:30 am) accompanied by six faculty and staff members including Charlie Mimick, Vice President and Campus Director, headed down with the donations to Washington, IL. They dropped off the donations and then spent the rest of the day helping two families clean up what was left of their shattered homes.

This was the first time our students were face-to-face with a disaster that was so fresh. It was an overwhelming experience for the students to see the damage that can take place in merely two minutes. The one-day trip taught the group the value of relationships over material things, and how, if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything to help those in need.

The Ashford University Office of Service and Leadership is planning the next service trip to New Orleans, LA to partner with Youth Schilling New Orleans (YSNO), an organization that refurbishes foreclosed homes and gives them to teachers to improve the educational system in New Orleans, in May 2014.

“I’m glad that I was blessed with the opportunity to experience this trip.”
CLASS NOTES

Ashford Alum Premieres Award-Winning Short Film
Navy Veteran and Ashford graduate Jeff Holzer ’06 hosted a workshop in Idaho to share his award-winning short film "Return but No Escape," about overcoming battles with PTSD, suicide, and substance abuse following his military career. He will also be a guest speaker at the National Conference on Addiction Disorders in St. Louis, MO in August. This writer, blogger, speaker, photographer, and short filmmaker is president and owner of MediFish Productions LLC, a video and photography services company located in Merritt Island, FL. Not only is he a Navy veteran, but his wife and son are as well. Jeff earned a BA in Social Science from Ashford in 2010.

Ashford Alum Appointed Executive Director
Jasmine G. Rogers ’10, who earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Ashford, is the new Executive Director at the Village of Hope in Salisbury, Maryland. Jasmine has been with the Village as both an intern and an employee since 2010. She would like to pursue a doctoral degree in human services or organizational leadership in the future, saying, “Ashford University has given me the confidence to pursue my dreams and to take on challenges.” Learn more about Jasmine.

Ashford Alum Runs for Mayor of Eldridge, IA
Adam Feldman ’13, a 29-year-old with a BA in Business Administration from Ashford, ran for mayor of Eldridge, IA in an election last late year. A full-time welder, Adam was inspired to run for the city’s highest office when he began hearing of opposition to a new city hall and wanted to give residents a choice. Although he didn’t win this time, he looks forward to continuing to apply his Ashford Bachelor’s degree positively to various aspects of his personal and professional life.

Ashford Alum Keynote Speaker at LBGTQ Mentorship Program
Linda Anderson ’11, Operations Manager of a Kellogg Company plant in Battle Creek, MI, was the keynote speaker at Western Michigan University’s LGBTQ Career Mentorship Program, which matches LGBTQ students and professionals in the area to provide support and career-related resources to the students. Linda earned her MBA, Supply Chain Management specialization, from Ashford in 2011 and is now earning her PhD from Ashford’s sister school, University of the Rockies. "My MBA opened the door for new professional opportunities with my employer," she said. Learn more about Linda.

Ashford Alum Keynote Speaker at LGBTQ Mentorship Program
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All Student Hired at CPA Firm

Theresa Willie is the newest associate to join Lynne Bushore & Associates, CPAs in Palm Springs. She is currently enrolled at Ashford University’s Forbes School of Business, where she is working toward her BA in Accounting. Her goal is to become a CPA with a focus in forensic accounting.

Disaster Restoration Company Hires Ashford Graduate

Denise Mooney ’09 was hired as an assistant to the vice president of sales and marketing for Swartz Contracting and Emergency Services in Kitsap County, WA. The company specializes in disaster restoration from damages caused by fire, water, wind or storm. Denise brings more than 15 years of experience in business administration, training, management, and marketing services for both government agencies and private industry. She holds a BA in business administration from Franklin University and an MA in Organizational Management from Ashford.

Ashford Graduate Wins Red Apple Award

Marcus Allen ’12, who earned his BA in Social Science with a concentration in Education, was surprised live on the Houston morning news when he was presented with the Red Apple Award from Capital One Bank. Marcus teaches structured learning for high school students with autism at Spring High School in Spring, TX; his first teaching job. A thankful parent nominated Marcus for the award. View the video. Additionally, Marcus has been awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year for Spring High School. Learn more about Marcus.

Novel Published by Ashford Grad

Donald C. Pitts ’11, who earned his BA in Early Childhood Education from Ashford, has had his first book published. *The Lamb and the Dragon*, available through Tate Publishing, is a novel about good versus evil, injected with religious and supernatural themes. Donald says the book was 16 years in the making due to his struggle with Meier’s disease, an inner ear condition that affects his hearing and balance. Donald credits his Ashford education with helping him to perfect his writing skills, and also his Ashford instructor Bruce Curruthers, who edited the book at no charge.

Gate Herbs Hires Ashford Alum as Director of Sales

Gina Herber welcomed Guinevere C. Lynn ’11 to the company’s newly created position of Director of Sales in January 2014. Guinevere is a 17-year veteran of the natural products industry, having served in key leadership roles in sales, operations, and customer management in top management positions at companies including Sun Chlorella and Vega. This high-energy natural living advocate runs marathons, practices yoga, and eats a vegan diet. She completed her MBA at Ashford in 2011 with a 4.0 GPA.

Jamie Muniz Promoted to Marketing Associate at Pravana

Jamie Muniz ’12 graduated from Paul Mitchell the School in Costa Mesa, CA in 2005, which began her career of assisting and eventually working alongside some of the most well-known talent in the industry. She was very privileged to hone her craft under the tutelage of Paul Mitchell’s finest stylists. She quickly built her own clientele and settled into a small salon in La Jolla, CA where she worked behind the chair for several years. During this time, she decided that she would go back to school to get her BA in Public Relations and Marketing. She worked full-time in the salon and attended school at Ashford University, graduating in 2012. Jamie’s years of experience behind the chair made her an asset to the PRavana team, and this promotion to Marketing Associate has put her in a position to help shape the future of the industry from a stylist’s perspective.

Kenmore High School Names Ashford Alum Football Coach

Kemp Boyd ’10 has been hired by the Akron School District as the Football Coach at Kenmore High School. This Ashford alum, who earned his MA in Organizational Management in 2010, has held previous football coaching positions in the Akron School District and is looking forward to coaching KHS.

Ashford Alum Presented with California Teacher’s Award

Penny Shuey ’10, Director of Tenaya Parent Preschool and a teacher at Dan Pedro High School, was recognized with the high school-level California Teacher’s Award by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization (her husband, father, and uncle were in the service). Penny teaches English, journalism, speech, and culinary classes. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences with Education Concentration from Ashford. Prior to her career in education, Penny was a single mom working as a waitress and bartender when her then-teenage daughter Brandee Prince ’11 convinced her to go back to school. Brandee has since graduated from Ashford as well with a BA in Psychology and is now working as a behavioral therapist while finishing a Master’s degree in speech language pathology.

Ashford Alum Selected for Emerging Leaders Program

Technical Sergeant Timothy J. Tichawa ’12, a BA Homeland Security and Emergency Management graduate, was selected for the Air Force Association’s 2014 Emerging Leaders Program. Timothy is currently a flight chief (space operators) in the 55th Training Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

*This program was replaced with the Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies.

SHARE YOUR MILESTONES!

Email alumni@ashford.edu and let us know how your Ashford degree is helping you reach your personal or professional goals. Plus, leverage your experience as an Ashford alum by visiting ashford.edu/alumni.
JOIN ASHFORD’S ALUMNI COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!

Did you know you can download your very own Ashford University wallpapers for your computer, tablet, or smartphone — or even for use as your Facebook cover photo? Choose from the designs below to get started, and once you’re on the webpage, scroll down to the bottom right of the page to download. And remember: #GoSaints!

CHECK OUT THESE RECENT FAVORITE QUOTES FROM ASHFORD’S SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY!

I was the first person in my immediate family to receive a BA — a very big deal for us. I am now going for my MBA!

-Joseph G.

Through Ashford University, I’ve discovered the strength that I have — and that I can do anything with determination.

-Mayelin Q.

Discover Ashford’s social media communities at ashford.edu/social, and join the conversation.
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- Business Economics
- Business Information Systems®
- Business Leadership®
- Computer Graphic Design®
- Consumer & Family Financial Services
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- International Business
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- Organizational Management
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- English
- English and Communication®
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- History®
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- Journalism & Mass Communication
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Liberal Arts®
- Military Studies
- Political Science & Government
- Social & Criminal Justice®
- Social Science®
- Sociology®
- Visual Art®

*Offered on campus and online.
**Offered on campus only. All other listed programs are offered online.

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan delinquency rates of students who completed each program, and other important information, please visit ashford.edu/pd.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF ASHFORD CONNECTIONS! WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK – PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO: CONNECTIONS@ASHFORD.EDU.
FALL 2014 COMMENCEMENT

12/ For the first time, commencement was hosted in San Diego where alumni speaker, Regina Scott, brought her uplifting message to graduates.

8/ ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Get inspired by Jeff Hobbs, and catch up with Josh Morgan in the Magic Kingdom.

18/ CAMPUS CHANGES
Say hello to new Dean and bid a fond farewell to a longstanding member of the Saints family.

20/ ALUMNI AND CAREER SERVICES
Read about the latest Industry Insight Tours and get tips on preparing for an interview.
As alumni, you are an important part of the heritage of our university.

We invite you to step by and visit us to see the many improvements that were made to campus this summer. Campus graciously will surely marvel at the changes. If you’re an online student and have never been to Clinton, add “a trip to my alma mater” to your bucket list. We’re proud of this place, and we’re always glad to show it off to our alumni.

Always remember: this is your university.

Remember to visit our website:
ashford.edu
go.ashford.edu
ashfordathletics.com

And add your voice to the conversation! Share your stories at facebook.com/ashforduniversity and facebook.com/ashfordcampus.

Go Saints!

Dr. Charlie Minnick
Vice President/Campus Director

As alumni, you are an important part of the heritage of our university. Whether you spent time on the Clinton campus or were an online student, we want our relationship to continue. As we move forward we would like to tap into your experience and your expertise in the “real world.” How could you help our current students: mentoring, providing internships at your places of business, giving a presentation? We’d like to hear your ideas; please email them to us at alumni@ashford.edu.

We recently welcomed two new campus deans - Dr. Mike Burron and Dr. Lee Cartwright; read about them on page 14. And while we welcomed these two campus leaders, we bid farewell to Flora Lowe, who served as Library Director here for 34 years. I’m sure campus alumni from the past three decades will remember her. A story about Flora is on page 16.
JEFF HOBBS LIVES BY A CODE: “NEVER GIVE UP.”

by Tiffan Burmeister

Like many children, Jeff fell in love with sports at a young age. He loved the camaraderie. He loved the competition. He loved the cheers of the crowd. Unlike most children, Jeff was born with spastic cerebral palsy.

Time and again, Jeff would be told sports weren’t for him. Due to his cerebral palsy, Jeff’s muscles involuntarily and continuously contract, impeding but not preventing his movement. In elementary school, Jeff was told he couldn’t play on his little league team. In high school, Jeff was cut from his school’s “no-cut” football team.

It wasn’t until his junior year that Jeff was finally given a chance. He was approached by his high school cross country coach with an offer to join the team. This opportunity was one he always wanted but had never been given. Jeff said yes and never looked back.

Since then, Jeff’s love of running drove him to compete at the collegiate level, where he ran for our very own Saints cross country and track teams. After graduating with a BA in Liberal Arts in 2004, he coached high school boys and girls track and field. Most recently, he toured the country as a motivational speaker, sharing the importance of acceptance and the power of believing in one’s self. Twice in the past year, Jeff has spoken at Ashford’s Clinton campus, including delivering the keynote address for the Ashford University Junior-Senior Honor Society’s annual induction ceremony.

“Having the opportunity to come back to Ashford and speak to the students is special for me,” said Jeff. “Ashford is where I learned a lot of the skills necessary to achieve success. I’m forever grateful to be an Ashford alum and am proud to call myself an Ashford Saint.”

“Ashford is where I learned a lot of the skills necessary to achieve success. I’m forever grateful to be an Ashford alum and am proud to call myself an Ashford Saint.”

Jeff Hobbs, class of 2004

Ashford sophomore Emma Morris was inspired by Jeff’s story. “I just felt this overwhelming feeling to be in the presence of someone who believes in a true fighter. We use the word hero too often these days, but I don’t believe anyone could possibly say that Jeff isn’t one. The amount of suffering and sheer pain he has gone through is really heart-breaking, yet the last thing Jeff wants you to do is feel sorry for him. He wants people to understand that there are different types of success, some come from winning a race, some from beating a certain time, but for Jeff, just crossing the finish line is a huge achievement.”

This year, Jeff trained to become the first person with spastic cerebral palsy to complete the Chicago Marathon. For Jeff, the road to Chicago wasn’t easy. Months into his training, Jeff suffered a collapsed lung. A few days into his recovery at the hospital, it collapsed for a second time. A significant setback for any athlete, this moment was one in which there were only two choices: give up or reaffirm his goals. The day Jeff was given medical clearance he was back to training, easing his body back on the path towards 26.2 miles. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete the 2014 marathon, but his inspiring story and his willingness to never give up will define him for years to come. Watch his marathon experience.

Jeff’s life, the challenges he has overcome, and his quest to complete the Chicago Marathon are the subjects of the Comcast SportsNet documentary series "Guts – The Jeff Hobbs Story." For more information on Jeff Hobbs, please visit www.jefhobbs.org.

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ASH0222
JOSH MORGAN STILL AT THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

by Larry Johnston

When last we chatted with 2006 alumnus Josh Morgan (see page 12 of http://www.ashford.edu/static/media/Fall-2010-AUConnections-online.pdf), he was spreading magic in Walt Disney World and climbing the ladder of success in that enchanted wonderland. That was four years ago. In September he transitioned into a new role at the theme park and still believes he has the best job in the world.

"I believe that I truly have my dream job. I wake up every day and go to work and it doesn't feel like work. I am doing what makes me happy, and I have fun everyday doing it," Josh said. "Yes, there are days that it's stressful work like any other job, and there are the moments that I have to respond to an unhappy guest or a situation, but I wouldn't trade what I do for anything in the world."

In 2010, he was a full-time Leader (manager) in the Magic Kingdom's Adventureland and Liberty Square Operations and was on temporary assignment there. "I have now been a Leader for four years and have had the opportunity to be involved in many projects and build partnerships with many other teams in the Magic Kingdom," he said. "I worked alongside Walt Disney Imagineering to keep the standards of our show quality maintained and managed to keep up with some of our history and heritage of the Walt Disney Company by educating new Cast Members and my peers about why we do certain things the way we do in our company."

He explained: "We have what we call 'Disney's Four Key Basics' which consist of the following quality standards that we encourage our cast to uphold: safety, courtesy, show, and efficiency. As a Leader, it is my role to coach our Cast Members to know and demonstrate all four of those standards to preserve and present the show that is known by the Disney name."

Because the Disney organization wants to continually improve its employee Leaders, about every 3-5 years Leaders are moved to different locations so they can use their skills in new areas and expand their knowledge with new skills. "I am a unique Leader because I started in Adventureland and Liberty Square and worked my way up to be a Leader in that same area," Josh said. "I am surprised that I stayed in that area for the last 11 years (all of my Disney career) and I am excited to start my next adventure on the Main Street, U.S.A Operations Team."

In this new role, he will oversee the operation of the Walt Disney World steam trains, parade, and crowd control during special events and fireworks and the theme park's Main Entrance Operation.

Josh leaves behind working in the Liberty Square area of Disney World, home of The Haunted Mansion, working there has been the highlight of his Disney career so far, he said. "After operating my own haunted house while in college and always having a love for Halloween and haunted houses, I truly enjoyed being a part of my favorite haunted house in the world. But I am really excited to learn how to operate the steam trains."

While an undergraduate on Ashford's Clinton, Iowa campus, Josh participated in the Walt Disney World College program in which college students can experience real world work while earning college credit. After he graduated, he returned to Florida and has been employed by Disney ever since.

"My Ashford education rounded me to be the person that I am today," he said. "I use my background in art every day by preserving the show quality of areas in our parks. My graphic design background allows me to assist with the design of signage and area communication both for the guests and for our Cast Members."

Where does he see himself in 2024? No one who knows Josh would be surprised at his answer: "In 10 years I still see myself working for the Walt Disney Company. My long term goal is to be on our 'Project Team' or to work for Walt Disney Imagineering. The Project Team is a small group that works on refurbishing our parks and works hand in hand with Walt Disney Imagineering. Ideally, I would love to become an Imagineer, and create and maintain the elements of our parks along with the rest of the Walt Disney Imagineering Team."

Finally, we asked Josh if he has any advice for others who would like to get hired by Disney or "general" career advice for recent Ashford graduates. "Have goals of what you want to do within the company and work toward them. But have FUN!" he said. "Network with many people, and the people you connect with will help you get ahead."

"Work hard, and your work will pay off. I think a lot of people go into jobs expecting things to be given to them. You have to work hard to prove yourself."

Ashford University salutes Josh Morgan for his outstanding commitment to fulfilling the Disney experience for the millions of people who visit Disney World each and every year!
SERVICE TRIPS
TEACH LIFE LESSONS

by Andrea Adams

We Serve. We Care. Look anywhere on the Clinton campus and you will see an Ashford student wearing a shirt with this saying printed on it. Service has become a way of life on campus and engrained into many aspects of campus life, from orientations to academics and athletics. This mindset was not always the case. The Office of Service and Leadership (OSL) was created in the fall 2011 and because of our dedicated faculty, students, and staff, it has grown and developed into something very special.

Ashford students volunteer many hours in the community, making a huge impact in the lives of residents in the Clinton area. Since fall 2011, through classroom service learning alone, students have volunteered over 15,000 hours. Combining this figure with all of the volunteer work that the athletic teams and Student Government Organizations volunteer annually and the commitment results become very impressive. But that significant number was still not large enough for our students as they saw a need to provide service on a larger scope, reaching across the country to those in need.

When the OSL was developed, the goal was to bring service trips to Ashford by 2011. However, in 2013 three students were determined to start the initiative much sooner, and it was their passion that drove the first service trip forward on a quicker pace. Within that same year, 19 students and three staff members journeyed to Joplin, MO, to help with tornado disaster relief efforts.

As 2014 Ashford graduate Haley Fischer recalls, “The Joplin service trip really ignited my passion to serve. The most amazing part of the trip was watching a group of students from all backgrounds come together to help the people that had lost everything. It was touching to hear the stories of how people who lost their homes in the Joplin storm helped their neighbors before they even addressed their own needs; I will never forget how selfless they were. I still feel blessed that I was able to be a part of Ashford’s first service trip.”

Since that first trip, the OSL has reached out to a different community at least once every academic semester. Ashford students have traveled to wherever they feel they can make a difference to those in need, including Chicago, IL; Toms River, NJ; Moore, OK; Washington, IL; New Orleans, LA; and Des Moines, IA. Students continue to show their support and enthusiasm for service trips, which can be a very humbling experience. Anywhere from 16 to 22 spots are available for students on the trips and many times more than 50 students apply.

Ashford leadership supports the service in many ways, including attending trips with the students and ensuring that the students can participate at no cost. “The service trip to New Jersey was one of the most impactful experiences of my life,” says Charlie Minnick, Vice President and Campus Director. “It was incredible to see not only how we were impacted those we served but also the profound impact the experience had on our students who gave their time and talents to help others in need. Their passion and commitment to serving others made me incredibly proud to call them Ashford students.”

During Ashford’s service trip to New Jersey, the group had the opportunity to work with the Toms River Fire Department and made connections that will last a lifetime. Andy Goresh, ex-Chief/former President, and current Safety Officer for the East Dover Fire Company No. 4, had this to say about Ashford's
service group, "The impact that this group of young women and men from Ashford University made and what they left us can never be measured or repaid. As we continue to recover from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy we remember them all and want them to know that they all made a difference in our lives." The connection ran deep as Goree made the trip to Iowa for Ashford's Spring 2014 graduation to see these same students graduate and support them in their future endeavors.

Two of our alumni from the New Jersey service trip are now volunteering with the AmeriCorps program to continue their life of service. "There is no doubt in my mind that the service events that I participated in at Ashford have helped prepare me for my new role as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Buena Vista University," states Jessica Hendricks, 2013 Ashford graduate. "I would not have even applied to become a VISTA had it not been for a group of individuals who served with ConservationCorps that I met while on the service trip in New Jersey. They inspired me to look for positions where I could spend a year in service."

If you ever lose faith in the "young people" of today, attend a service trip with a group of Ashford students. During the trips the students get little sleep, usually only on a cot or air mattress, and have to take 5-minute showers, sometimes at the local YWCA...but they never complain. The entire experience can be life changing as the students enjoy pushing themselves out of their comfort zones to help others. The growth of the OSS and Ashford's service trip initiative should definitely make every Ashford alumna proud to be a Saint. //

WHERE ASHFORD HAS SERVED

Spring 2012 - Joplin, MO
Fall 2012 - Chicago, IL
Spring 2013 - Toms River, NJ
Fall 2013 - Moore, OK
Fall 2013 - Washington, IL
Spring 2014 - New Orleans, LA
Fall 2011 - Des Moines, IA

S.T.A.R. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The world is your campus, and it presents your opportunity to impact change. Every alum, student, faculty member, and admin can make a positive difference in the community.

Ashford University's Sharing Time And Resources, or S.T.A.R., Program provides you with the opportunity to give back to your communities through volunteering and service. Through the S.T.A.R. Program platform, you can search for organizations or specific volunteer opportunities. Once projects are completed, you can track your time and even share experiences with the S.T.A.R. volunteer network.

Volunteering helps to improve critical thinking, provide opportunities to learn new skills, allows for connections with individuals you may not otherwise meet, and - just as important - makes you feel great that you are changing the world in a positive way.

Access the S.T.A.R. platform directly from the "Popular Links" section of your Student Portal. If you have questions on how to get started on a volunteer project in your own community, please contact us at volunteer@ashford.edu. //
GOLDEN KEY HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTER RECOGNIZED

Ashford University’s Golden Key (GK) International Honour Society Chapter is making a name for itself in the arena of Golden Key’s North American Chapter Standards Program. The 2013-2014 Ashford University Golden Key Chapter's campus-based students, co-advised by Dr. William Woods, took leadership to new heights by earning a Gold standing and being awarded the Key Chapter Award, Golden Key’s highest accolade.

Of the chapters that receive the Gold chapter standard, only 25% of those achieve the Key Award. The standards are awarded to chapters that exemplify outstanding achievement in the areas of Golden Key’s three pillars: Academics, Leadership, and Service.

This year, Ashford students participated in the following Service projects:

- Good Neighbor Day: Students cleaned the neighborhood around the campus located in Clinton, Iowa. The event was held in conjunction with Golden Key’s Make a Difference Day.
- Literacy Pledge: Students pledged to read with a child.
- Better World Books Drive: Students conducted a book drive to bring literacy to the world.
- Jefferson Elementary After School Education Program: Students volunteered their time to learn and interact with elementary school students.
- Toys for Tots Drive: Students collected toys for children of families in need during the holidays.
- Washington, Illinois Disaster Relief Drive: Students collected clothes and raised money for victims affected by the tornado that impacted the area.
- Global Youth Service Day: Students volunteered at the local Children’s Discovery Center to help children explore the arts. They also pledged to plant flowers with local children.
- The Ashford Leadership Summit hosted by the Golden Key Chapter.

Giving back to the community is only one facet of leadership for Ashford’s Golden Key students. They also invested in their own development by attending Golden Key’s International and Regional Summits. Participants had the opportunity to attend workshops where they learned chapter-specific lessons and personal/professional development techniques.

The chapter also hosted several events on campus as well, including a mock interview session organized through the Student Affairs Department, an honorary and alumni dinner, and a New Member Recognition Event, where new members receive their certificates and are officially inducted into the Honor Society.

Congratulations, Golden Key at Ashford, on your amazing achievements!
ASHFORD ATHLETICS SPRING 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

When it comes to sports at Ashford University, there is no lack of exciting plays or wins in the land of the Saints! Alumni are encouraged to watch games by live stream or live on the road whenever possible. Here's an update on some of the major sports happenings:

- Ashford men's track and field athlete Mike Malone became a three-time NAIA All-American on May 24 when he recorded a top-10 finish in the pole vault at the 2014 NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championship in Gulf Shores, Alabama. After snapping his pole on his first attempt, the Country Club Hills, Illinois native would go on to clear the 5.0 meter mark and record a fourth place finish in the event. It was the first time that Malone has earned All-American status at outdoor nationals in his third career try in the pole vault. He also added the award to his personal trophy case that includes a pair of All-American awards in the pole vault at the indoor national championships.

- 2013-14 was also a banner year in the classroom for all Ashford University student-athletes. A total of 14 Ashford athletic programs earned NAIA Scholar-Team Awards with the Ashford men's golf team being named the NAIA Scholar-Team of the Year after leading all programs in the country with a 3.84 grade point average. Ashford would also collect 28 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete awards for the year, recognizing those juniors and seniors that recorded a minimum 3.5 GPA on the year.

- With the Fall 2014 sports season underway, one Ashford University team has already recorded the biggest upset in program history. On September 18, the Ashford volleyball team recorded a five-set win over #4-ranked Viterbo University, marking the first time head coach Mikah Cewe and the Saints beat a team ranked in the top-five of the NAIA Coaches’ Poll.

- Additionally, Clinton played host to a trio of Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) conference championships in November. On Nov. 8, the A.I.I. Cross Country Championships was held at South Campus while the A.I.I. Men's and Women's Soccer Championships will take place on Nov. 14-15 with a berth in the men's end women's national tournaments up for grabs. Go Saints!

Tune in and follow along with all Ashford games. Check www.ashfordathletics.com for schedules and keep in touch with your amazing Ashford Saints! //
KAREN
BAKUZONIS

Karen Bakuzonis had already been a teacher and moved on to research when she discovered that teaching was in fact her life-long calling. She taught at the college level for several years and then accepted a full-time research associate faculty position as a Co-Director of an external quality review organization. As she recalls, "We prepared a full-time training session for managed care organizations, and I realized my heart was more for teaching than research." As they say, the rest is history...

Karen, now the remote Assistant Professor and Content Chair, Health Information Management, has worked at five higher education institutions and has founded the College of Health, Human Services, and Science at Ashford University to be "creative, forward thinking, and willing to think outside of the box." Teaching remotely is also a unique experience as Karen explains, "The more you teach online, the more you improve in the ways you engage your students." When she taught on campus, she made it her priority to be very hands on, and she is now creating new ways to continue that level of care and interaction remotely.

How Karen came to teaching is part of her wonderful and educational journey. Her roots run deep in health information management, but she expanded her educational experiences and continued to grow her opportunities. Karen worked in numerous education-related capacities to gain breadth of knowledge, including: department head, consultant, researcher, administrator, and educator. As an administrator for a 500+ university based physician practice, one project she recalls was opening a multi-specialty clinical site in an economically challenged area that involved the community, four university colleges, and the hospital. The project took four years to reach consensus and funding, but the clinical site was successfully opened.

Karen's first teaching position was with a program that was threatened with elimination by the college for the third time. The department Dean asked if she would take over as Program Director and she agreed only with the understanding that if she could not turn it around in a year she would recommend deleting the program. By the time she left the college, the program was flourishing with the addition of day, evening, and online sections, an accredited coding program, and a health informatics certificate.

In the end, Karen admits that she "really is a student advocate" and that she "continues to maintain a connection with many of my former graduates." She speaks of them as if they are family, and the passion behind what she does each and every day shines through. "When you teach a course, there is a wide spectrum of students and abilities. It is not uncommon to encounter students with family, health, or financial challenges. When you challenge the students to learn and do their best, most students will rise to the occasion and make themselves and their families proud."

Finishing her PhD Is perhaps her proudest personal success story: "It was something I always wanted to do but when I graduated from college, the advice from everyone was to work awhile. I started my master's when my second son was an infant and, since he was a night owl, he was often up from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. listening to me reading the economics textbook to him. Initially, I was going to complete a certificate in higher education administration, but the first class was on the same night I taught a class. The administrative assistant suggested I apply for the doctoral program. Two weeks later, with a lot of effort, I was accepted. Without realizing it at the time, I was raising a family, working full time, and finishing my PhD in four years."

Resting on her laurels is something Karen simply does not do well. She, of course, complies with all certification requirements, attending professional development courses and seminars to complete CEUs in the subject areas that she teaches. But Karen believes in doing more. "In health care, there is always something changing so I read multiple industry journals, belong to several list services, and love researching topics in the library. I also stay active in professional organizations and volunteer for various committees."

For those who desire to teach online, she warns, "If you teach full-time online, you need to be dedicated to working full-time, learning how to engage other faculty that reside in different states, and - most importantly - you must modify your teaching style to meet the varying needs of the students while you engage them and create a sense of trust and respect."

Karen also has some sage advice for health students and alumni in terms of the challenges of finding jobs in the field upon graduation. "As an undergrad, I volunteered at a local hospital to learn first-hand about the field. When the BS in Health Information Management program at Ashford, the students simulate activities that take place in health care and students will be required to prepare a portfolio to share during interviews. This is all terrific, but dressing and acting professionally - and all of the fundamental details of presenting a professional image - cannot be overlooked. Time spent volunteering or participating in a professional practice experience may lead to a job offer but you still need to look and act like you want that job."

KATHLEEN
KELLEY

Kathleen Kelley currently serves as a faculty member in Ashford's College of Education where she teaches educational theory and helps students prepare for life beyond the classroom.

Although her interests and passions are diverse, Kathleen gets the most joy from mentoring her students and witnessing them pursue their goals of educating others. She recalls education always being an important part of her life and affectionately remembers asking her parents, when she was very young, to buy her seven siblings each a desk so that she could teach them in a classroom setting.

In elementary school, Kathleen was lucky to have a supportive principal who served as a powerful advocate for her and her ambitions. Under his mentorship, Kathleen found herself helping in the classroom and starting a reading program as a fourth grader. She was always acutely aware of the power of education and explains, "Teachers change lives, you never know the impact you will make."

Ashford University / ashford.edu
Kathleen’s rich experience extends beyond her time at Ashford as she has also taught elementary school, middle school, and currently teaches for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Department of Middle and Secondary Education. Her advice for students pursuing a career in teaching is to “seek out diverse perspectives and talk to everyone! If anyone is willing to share what they know, take it!”

She currently resides in North Carolina and, when not grading student work, she enjoys watching her two sons grow up and volunteering at her local elementary and middle schools. Her oldest son currently attends North Carolina State and plays in the University’s marching band. Her younger son enjoys swimming and is currently in eighth grade.

Kathleen says that the University’s mission and its students set Ashford apart from other institutions with which she has worked. She adds, “The difference is our diverse students and the level of dedication and commitment that I witness daily among faculty, employees, and the students.”

The primary purpose of the Ashford University Faculty Senate, which meets once a month with members from Clinton, San Diego, and all over the US via teleconference, is to provide governance to the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are or are not implemented. Faculty governance refers to all faculty activities, formal and informal, related to determining the curriculum, subject matter, methods of instruction, and other academic standards and processes.

In this capacity, faculty bodies which include college specific faculty groups, content areas, faculty foci, and the Ashford Faculty Senate and its Standing Committees, have the responsibility to make collective recommendations to college leadership, Ashford administration and the Ashford board of trustees. Governance is a vital part of academic life at Ashford University and this opportunity allows all Ashford Associate Faculty members to participate in this essential part of academic life.

Each elected senator serves a two-year term with no limit to the number of terms. “I am very quickly becoming aware of truly how hard the Ashford Faculty Senate works for the University,” stated Bambrick. “Dr. Alexander Cohen’s leadership as President is strong, and I am impressed with the senators and with the quality and depth of the issues the senate initiates, discusses, and resolves.”

When reminded that he is the first alum to hold a seat on the Ashford Faculty Senate, Bambrick emphatically responds. “It is hard to believe I am the first Ashford alum to serve, and for me that is the ultimate honor.”
MOMENTS THAT CHANGE AND CONNECT US

For the first time, San Diego, California hosted the Ashford University fall commencement activities. Graduates from near and far came with family and friends to celebrate this momentous achievement. Plus, they got to experience the same life-changing moment with their fellow classmates, many of whom met in person for the first time.

These photos represent miraculous moments shared by graduates and their families, faculty, Ashford employees, and the countless people who help to make commencement happen. Each person present was changed in different ways, but all now share this life-changing moment. Congratulations, Ashford University graduates!"
SUCCESSFUL ASHFORD ALUMNI DARES TO DREAM

by Tiffen Firosa

Regina Scott is a dreamer. She always dreamt of being a police officer. Little did she know that her degree in organizational management, earned in 2009, from Ashford University would help her achieve that dream.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Regina went into the military directly after completing high school. In the late 70s being a female in the Army was not easy. There weren't many female role models nor was the Army integrated at that time for male and female roles. Regina persevered and became part of that change as more opportunities became available for women. She reflects on that time by simply stating, "When there is no role model, you can become the role model!"

Regina continued to be a role model when she ventured west to Los Angeles as a single mom with two kids to pursue that dream of becoming a police officer. She often told her kids, "Do as I say and NOT as I do," regarding earning her college education. Regina first tried attending a traditional college but could not maintain the schedule while working and raising two children. She became disheartened but continued to hold hope that she would be able to achieve her dream.

Suddenly her outlook began to change when her daughter, while in the Air Force, told Regina about a non-traditional solution - Ashford University. Regina credits finding Ashford University as the reason she is able to discuss her academic success today. The flexibility of online courses allowed her to have it all - a family, profession, and academic dreams! Without her degree, she knew it would be difficult to advance beyond lieutenant. With her degree, Regina has achieved heights well beyond that.

As the first African-American female to achieve the rank of commander in the LAPD, Regina is a role model and champion for women throughout the law enforcement community. She is President of the Los Angeles Women's Police Officers Association where her goal is to lead and leave a legacy for the next generation of women who strive to achieve new heights in law enforcement.

Regina's Ashford University degree helped her to expand her vision and recognize that every act she performs has an impact - and how important it is to consider the long-term impacts to everyone involved before acting. She lives her philosophy of "dare to dream big" each and every day, in everything she does. Regina was able to share that philosophy at the fall 2014 Ashford University commencement ceremony where she was featured as the alumni speaker.

With the help of Ashford University, Commander Regina Scott has achieved well beyond her dreams: first dreamt all those years ago. She now has new dreams and goals to strive for - and those will lead her and the women who follow in her footsteps to places she has yet to imagine. //
TWO ASHFORD PROFESSORS PROMOTED TO IOWA CAMPUS DEANS

by Larry Libbrecht

DR. AUBREY (LEE) CARTWRIGHT

Dr. Aubrey (Lee) Cartwright, who joined Ashford University in 2009, was appointed as the Clinton Campus Dean of the College of Health, Human Services, and Science. Prior to his tenure at Ashford, he served for 18 years as an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Before that he was a Research Leader and Laboratory Director for the USDA, Agricultural Research Service in Georgetown, Del., and a Research Physiologist with the ARS in Athens, Georgia.

"The students, faculty, and staff of Ashford University have enriched my life," Dr. Cartwright said. "The Dean’s office now allows me to work with the University community at a different level. My objective and my promise to this community is that I consistently will work for their benefit so that everyone recognizes Ashford University for the quality institution we all know it to be."

Dr. Cartwright has numerous research publications and has received national and regional recognition for his work. He earned an Associate of Science degree from College of the Albemarle at Elizabeth City, North Carolina and a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and PhD from North Carolina State University at Raleigh. He also earned an MBA from the University of Maryland at Salisbury.

The Dean’s office now allows me to work with the University community at a different level.

DR. MIKE BURTON

The Forbes School of Business also welcomed a new Clinton Campus Dean - Dr. Mike Burton. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Valparaiso University. Prior to his promotion to Dean, Dr. Burton taught campus courses in Business Law, Marketing, and Sport Management for over nine years. He also has instructed Ashford online classes since 2006.

Before his tenure at Ashford, Dr. Burton worked in the field of sales and marketing. Part of this experience includes representing companies that were based in Japan and Germany. He also has a background in law serving as a trial lawyer and deputy prosecutor in the State of Indiana.

"I am honored to be in a leadership position that will influence not only the Forbes School of Business, but the entire University," Dr. Burton said. "I believe that Ashford has only just begun to tap into the possibilities that exist for shared learning opportunities between a traditional campus and online education. The ability to be a part of this process that benefits our students is very exciting."

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Ashford University renames campus library in her honor

Ashford University's campus library was renamed The Flora S. Lowe Library to honor the person who spent the past 34 years in that facility helping students, faculty, and staff as Library Director.

Flora and her husband Dr. William "Curt" Lowe both began working at Mount St. Clare College (Ashford's predecessor) in 1980. Curt is currently Campus Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

During a retirement reception in her honor in September, Dr. Charlie Minnick, Ashford University Vice President and Campus Director, announced the library name change. "I'm utterly astounded," Lowe said afterwards. "I really can't remember any other time that I've been so surprised and humbled." A formal renaming ceremony is being planned for the spring of 2015. During the summer of 2014 the library underwent a complete renovation with new lighting, carpeting, furniture, and reception/circulation desk and paint.

"When I was hired to work in the library, my 'title' was Library Director. The Sisters of St. Francis (then owners of the college) never seemed to insist that we use traditional library titles," Lowe remembered. "Prior to my arrival, I was told that there were at that time at least five Sisters of St. Francis working in the campus library, one of which was a librarian, and I became the first non-Sister of St. Francis to manage the library."

After Lowe was hired, one of the Sisters developed some medical problems and resigned her library position while another Sister who had some library credentials settled in as the assistant librarian.

Another part time staff member was added to manage the 8-10 student workers. "To my knowledge, I'm not aware of any Sisters of St. Francis who were salaried workers," Lowe said.

"The campus has always been a friendly, welcoming, and helpful place to be for students, staff, faculty, and others," Lowe said. "Sr. Therese Rygle was always quite willing to show me the ropes when I had a question, and Sr. Coralita (Schwindeski) was always happy to 'mind the store,' as she described it. Sr. Coralita had a quite encyclopedic knowledge of the Sisters and how things worked on campus and was very willing to share information."

During her early days as Library Director, Lowe was asked about her foreign language knowledge. "Quite soon after that discussion occurred, I was advised that I would be not only the Library Director but also the faculty member who taught our English as a Second Language courses. That situation continued for several years, and indeed, I still hear from those students now."

The Lowes have always been very visible on the Clinton campus, regularly seen at student events - athletic matches, concerts, plays, and other activities.

"Curt and I have enjoyed knowing and working with faculty, staff, students, parents of students, and many other special groups of people," she said. "We have always enjoyed encouraging our students, whether they are campus students or online students."

When asked what she has planned for her retirement after working in the campus library for more than three decades, Lowe's response was: "It will certainly take me quite a while to become accustomed to that word."

"I really can't remember any other time that I've been so surprised and humbled."
KEEP PURSUING YOUR GOALS

by Paul J. Schmick, Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security & Emergency Management - Spring 2012

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nearly all who have pursued an education can reflect on moments of challenge when the doubt of success crept into their psyche. And while I am an absolute advocate of advancing career ambitions through higher education, pursuing my associate's degree was a challenging journey that began in 1993 and lasted some 14 years. There were many false starts, mainly due to balancing personal relationships, family obligations, career ambitions and responsibilities – a good reason always seemed to derail my goal of completing my education, as if I had conveniently labeled my education an "inconvenience" and "last priority."

Experiences and exposure to unexpected events create new paths in life. Living in a suburb of New York City, the events on September 11, 2001, created a new path for me. Serving as a District Manager for a telecommunications equipment installation firm, the organization I served was contracted to restore Manhattan telecommunication services for Verizon Communication's West Street Central Office located next to Tower Seven of the World Trade Center complex. Deployed to the site only days after the attacks, I can tell you firsthand the magnitude of destruction in lower Manhattan and loss of life was mentally scaring from the moment I entered the World Trade Center complex. And while my deployment to the complex was brief in tenure, the smells and sights of carnage and mental pictures of mass destruction will remain with me until my last breath.

Having the effects of 9/11 hit so close to home, I decided to pursue a career where I could contribute to the front-line efforts to preserve freedom and defend democracy, and decided to commit my energies to a role in public service. On March 17, 2008, I was sworn in as a part-time Transportation Security Officer (TSO) for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Transportation Security Administration at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. While having respectable success in private industry for nearly a decade, I knew nothing of aviation security or the disciplines it would demand but I was committed to public service.

Serving as a front-line officer for the TSA, I quickly learned there is an unexplainable gratification when you serve a purpose greater than one's self. And while I relished my time serving as a front-line counterterrorism professional, my ambition was cut short by the diagnosis of stage IV colorectal cancer shortly after my completion of TSA basic training. While the diagnosis of any cancer is incredibly dark and at times physically and mentally overwhelming, for me, it was also a time to seriously consider what I wanted to accomplish when I got well, and get well I did.
Upon returning to my role in public service after a clean bill of health, life had new meaning on many fronts. Realizing a renewed vigilance alone would not serve as the only component to achieving higher career objectives, I began to survey educational opportunities that would help me advance my professional pursuits. And while working two jobs and attempting to complete a Bachelor’s education as a cancer survivor was not recommended, I felt the wind against my back and decided to spread my wings. I began the journey by attending my first class at Ashford University as a remote student in the New Romeland Security & Emergency Management BA program. With accelerated classes and a 100 percent online option, Ashford’s flexibility was a perfect fit for my busy lifestyle.

I would not be truthful if I did not acknowledge the challenges and struggles of balancing two careers, my marriage, health, family, and my education. Constantly reflecting on my failures to finish my associate’s degree in a timely manner always seemed to give me the motivation to stay-the-course. And while I stumbled during my second journey like my first, on April 30, 2012, I successfully completed my BA program two years and five months after my journey began at Ashford University.

In respect to Ashford’s program and its influence on my success, the curriculum relevance and academic rigor instilled during the program absolutely enhanced my capabilities. In fact, the program was both current and forward-looking, and in contrast to my career, provided me the tools to craft and execute practices and initiatives programs that have had real-world relevance. As my credibility and education advanced, so has my career. In July 2010, after only seven months into the Ashford program, I was selected for an Assistant Training Instructor (ATI) position to support TSA training programs at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Continuing to employ many of the skills I learned at Ashford in my new role, I developed respectable consideration with the agency and in September 2013, I was promoted to a Lead Transportation Security Officer (TSO) where I supervised checkpoint security screening operations and personnel. After I was presented with several local awards as well as a national award positioning me as the highest decorated officer in a single calendar year since the inception of the TSA at John F. Kennedy International Airport, in August 2012 I was again promoted to the position of Transportation Security Training Specialist with the responsibilities of supervising training personnel, programs, and security equipment and technology deployments.

While promotions and compensation are personally and professionally satisfying and solidify a great return-on-investment from completing an education, perhaps even more rewarding is when we are making a difference in whatever role we serve and such efforts are acknowledged by an employer and our peers. Receiving awards for my service with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – TSA has by far exceeded anything I thought I was capable of professionally and only cements my feelings of gratitude for being able to overcome tough challenges to achieve my academic dreams.

As I survey the landscape of my past endeavors and future possibilities, I directly relate the educational disciplines I learned from Ashford University as “the foundation of my current success and future potential.” Perhaps Connections Magazine is the best forum to communicate to those individuals at Ashford who served as architects of the Homeland Security & Emergency Management program. If so, I say to them, “Well done, and thank you!” Because of the discipline and confidence I acquired at Ashford University, I decided to pursue even higher educational goals as I began my master’s degree program from one of the leading institutions in the homeland security field of study and, in May 2014, I graduated with my Master of Science in Homeland Security Management.

With degrees in hand, I now believe it is my responsibility to share my education, professional experiences, and exposure to events of significance to educate the next generation of leaders in the homeland security and emergency management fields of study. So in August of 2014, as I continued to serve and dedicate myself to the homeland security mission, yet another milestone and career ambition was achieved when I was contracted as an Adjunct Professor to instruct homeland security and emergency management coursework at a reputable higher learning institution in New York. I teach with vigilance and passion as the field is thirsty for educated, dedicated, and steadfast professionals with a need that is both urgent and absolute to protect human life, national treasures, and infrastructure.

While my words paint a picture of the many challenges and struggles I encountered during the pursuit of my education and professional advancement, I prefer the takeaway of my story to be about goals, dreams, and aspirations. We each have the ability to overcome considerable challenges and achieve all that we pursue. I choose to often share with those who are at the beginning of their pursuit, or struggling midstream, wanting to serve as a beacon of hope that possibilities are endless through the innate and universally human gifts of determination and purpose. While all struggles are unique, we should expect false starts and realize that a stumble and fall are inevitable. Each challenge will test your determination, focus, and purpose through your journey to achieve all you pursue.

Ashford University is proud to feature articles written by our alumni in Ashford Connections, the Ashford Alumni Magazine. If you have an article to submit or an idea that you would like to write about, please contact Annette Pullen at alumni@ashford.edu.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Ashford University.
If you have attended an Ashford University event or followed Ashford University online to some degree, you may have witnessed the University mascot Champ, the Saint Bernard, making appearances among attendees. He is hard to miss since crowds typically form around him for photo opportunities, hugs, and the chance to brush-up against his luxurious coat and his formidable history.

Champ is the mascot of Ashford University’s diverse athletic teams, the Saints, and a live version can be spotted in group photos as far back as the days of Mount Saint Clare Academy with the Sisters of St. Francis. It was not until 2006 that the Saint Bernard was designed into a character costume (by an Ashford alum) that would make appearances at Ashford University events throughout the country.

The lovable Saint Bernard would be named "Champster," and soon after nick-named and referred to daily as "Champ."

The name 'Champster' was selected in a naming contest and submitted by faculty member Sister Teresa Judge who heard about the contest when attending the Ashford athletics orientation program to speak regarding the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character program. "I thought 'Champster' would be a great name for the mascot," she said. "It's both feminine and masculine; it can be shortened to 'Champ;' it's positive, not negative and we have our own song. Plus, I love Queen (referring to the rock music group's song 'We are the Champions.')"

The Ashford University Saints, the teams for which 'Champ' is the mascot, compete as an NAIA school in the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) conference which includes about 34 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada.

Champ's roots in the Saint Bernard breed are significant in that the breed represents Ashford University’s robust international student and alumni community and the spirit of guardianship... whether of self or others, family, community or the world. Saint Bernards share a history with the Swiss Mountain Dogs or Swiss Cattle Dogs, all breeds that were known and used for hunting, herding, search and rescue, and watchdogs. The earliest documented records of the breed are from monks at the traveler's hospice at the Great St. Bernard Pass in 1707. The pass, the traveler's hospice, and the dogs were all named for Bernard of Menthon, the 11th century monk who established the hospice.

Although Champ is fairly famous among the Ashford community, he's not the first Saint Bernard to enjoy widespread notoriety. The most famous Saint Bernard who reportedly saved between 40 and 100 people at the treacherous Great St. Bernard Pass was Barry (sometimes spelled Berry). Today there still remains a monument to Barry at the pass and his body is preserved in the Natural History Museum in Berne, Switzerland.

Champ's grandparents may have looked a bit different than him, primarily due to cross-breeding that occurred to preserve the breed after severe winters led to increased numbers of avalanches that killed many of the dogs used for breeding while they were performing rescues. In an attempt to save the breed, the remaining Saint Bernards were crossed with Newfoundlands in the 1850s, and the breed was changed forever.

True to this day, Saint Bernards are intelligent and adaptive dogs. Just as Champ excels and flourishes in higher education environments, Saint Bernards have an amazing ability to learn intuitively from their elders. It is commonly known that the dogs do not require special training, and younger dogs, in fact, learn how to perform search and rescue operations from older dogs.

Champ has great reason to celebrate...besides being the beloved mascot of winning sports teams at Ashford University and adored by tens of thousands of alumni and students around the globe, he proudly represents a long history of bravery, guardianship, and service to mankind.
Mount St. Clare College alumni and past students gathered at Ashford University's Clinton, IA, campus in July to spend a day reconnecting and reflecting on their time at the school. Although the reunion took place on a Saturday, numerous staff and faculty members were on hand to meet and tour the group, including those who worked on campus during the Mount St. Clare era as well as currently in the Ashford University era.

The reunion began with a tour of Ashford's campus which recently underwent numerous renovations, an afternoon watching the Clinton LumberKings' baseball game, and time spent together at local establishments. Also attending the reunion were: Kellie Forkenbrock - Iowa City, IA; Rebecca Roling - Maquoketa, IA; Laura Groetschel - Clinton, IA; Kenneth Roy Young - Clinton, IA; Tiffany Lange - Clinton, IA; Tara Schuster Fleisch - Larchwood, IA; Andrew Luett - Clinton, IA; and Ryan Stone - Clinton, IA.

The rich history of Mount St. Clare lives on through its alumni, faculty, and legacy on campus at Ashford University. The Ashford University Alumni Association (AUAA) was founded to bring each unique generation of the university's alumni together as one alumni community. For more information, visit the website or email alumni@ashford.edu.

A group of Mount St. Clare College, students and graduates took a tour of the campus in July during an alumni reunion event. Pictured above (left to right): Laurie Nowicki (staff), Emily Manrow (staff), Carli Lowe (faculty), Warren Sullivan (staff), M. Glazebrook (staff), Trevor Blonski (student), Kelly Molloy (staff and alumni), Pammane Connolly (student), Christina Motzney (staff), Brian Rice (staff), Tara Lowe (staff), Every Moore (staff), Richard Creme (MC3-content) and John Zimmerman (faculty).
Industry Insight Tours were created to open doors and connections for Ashford alumni as they learn about companies and career opportunities in their regional market areas. Please share your ideas for future Industry Insight Tours by emailing Alumni Relations at alumni@ashford.edu.

AMAZON

by Mary Knowles

On September 10 a group of Ashford University students, alumni, and faculty had an opportunity to tour Amazon’s state-of-the-art distribution center in West Columbia, SC. Ashford was given the opportunity to walk the 1.5 million square feet facility and see the systems and technology that Amazon utilizes to bring products in, fulfill the countless orders, and ship the products to the doors of millions of customers annually.

After the tour, Ashford Industry Insight Tour guests were able to meet several of the facility managers and learn about employment opportunities.

TAYLOR GUITARS

by Richard Rathbourn

As you walk into Taylor Guitars’ display room, you walk past walls lined with beautiful wooden masterpieces, perfectly lit, each with a unique aesthetic quality. Some are adorned with abalone inlays shaped like extended pieces of a fleur-de-lis and others with swirled ebony fret boards. Most of the tour group did not play guitar, but every person in the room appreciated the beauty of each piece of art hanging delicately from the felt hooks. And almost everyone enjoys music from many artists who play Taylors including Jason Mraz, Taylor Swift, Lindsey Buckingham, Rascal Flatts, and the Rolling Stones.

Charlie Redden, Supply Chain Manager, led the tour and set the tone with his passion for doing business ethically and responsibly in regards to both the environment and the rural communities his industry directly impacts. During each phase of the tour, he discussed different components to Taylor’s overall sustainability strategy and how they are changing the deeply rooted ideological landscape within their industry.

Taylor Guitars is an industry innovator that focuses each team member’s deep commitment to continual improvement and growth on every possible level. Taylor broke the mold when it came to making a guitar neck with two pieces of wood instead of a single piece. Historically, guitar necks were made with one block of wood, shaving away the excess until they had a single guitar neck while leaving the shavings behind. By investing in research and development, they created a process by which a single block of wood now produces three guitar necks instead of one, increasing the yield and significantly reducing the waste product while not sacrificing quality – the Taylor Guitars way of doing business!

Taylor Guitars also traditionally employed a single craftsman to spray coat a finished guitar with varnish which resulted in wasted varnish ending up on the floor and potential “build” spots on the guitars. For answers to this challenge, Taylor looked to innovators in the automotive industry: they invested in a robotic arm system confined to a sealed room where little to no paint is wasted because they now use positively charged paint particles that are attracted in a magnetic fashion to negatively charged guitar surface areas to literally attract the majority of the varnish to the guitar.

The innovations are endless but how is Taylor Guitars changing the landscape of an industry? In late 2011, Taylor Guitars made a huge investment in an ebony mill in Cameroon, the last place to legally source this rare black wood. When Bob Taylor visited Cameroon he realized that only one cut of every ten ebony trees cut down had the flawless solid black wood - the other nine trees featured black and vanilla colored swirls that did not meet the standards for the wood and certainly would not be desirable to the extent of the pure black ebony wood.

With the purchase of this mill, Taylor guitar now owns 75% of the legally sourced ebony in the world. This asset means that Taylor can dictate the industry standard for sourcing and using ebony. All ebony is paid for equally to those men and women who harvest it in Cameroon. No ebony is being wasted because the trees with the swirled coloring are now worth just as much as the pure black tree. Further,
LAY THE GROUNDWORK AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK

"It's never too late to start practicing and preparing for your next interview."

It may go against what you have been taught or your deep beliefs about the job search process, but your resume alone generally will not get you a job. This assumption in no way means that a resume is not an essential tool in finding a job, but it's only one of many tools that you can effectively use to succeed in the process.

Hundreds of students and alumni contact Ashford University's Career Services department weekly to have their resume critiqued or to ask questions about where they can find a job.

However, it is not as common to have someone ask Career Services to help them prepare for an interview. The interview is one of the most important steps in the job search process. You can be 100% qualified for a job and have an amazing resume, but if you bomb your interview, it is likely you will not be offered the job.

After spending several years of your life completing your degree and developing a career goal and plan, why skip or take so little time to prepare for an interview? There are many reasons why people spend little to no time preparing. They don't know how important the interview is, don't know how to prepare, or don't like to practice interviewing with others.

There is good news for you! It's never too late to start practicing and preparing for your next interview. Career Services offers a number of interview preparation resources that are available at your fingertips.

Career Services offers a center of robust self-directed resources and tools called My Career: Career and Professional Development Center which is available 24/7. For instance, My Career offers a few different resources to help you develop or improve your interview skills. Optimal Interview is a virtual interview software program you can use to conduct a mock interview from the comfort of your home. Prior to your mock interview, check out the Resources page in My Career for tips on how to prepare for your interview. Want to practice your interview skills even more? Career Services hosts a Mock Interview Blitz each quarter which allows you to schedule a one-on-one mock interview with a Career Services Specialist. During your scheduled mock interview, you will have the opportunity to practice commonly asked interview questions and receive immediate feedback on your interview skills. Please don't solely rely on your degree or resume to get you that job; practice your interview skills so you can tell employers why they should hire you!

To explore these tools and more, visit your Ashford Student Portal, and click the My Career: Career and Professional Development Center link under Career and Alumni Services.
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

by Carissa Morris

STEVE FORBES

The Forbes School of Business at Ashford University is committed to preparing students for success in business while promoting an entrepreneurial spirit leading to business innovation and growth. The Forbes alliance with Ashford’s business students brings benefits to them, as well as alumni, businesses, and the community.

What do you think about when you hear the name Forbes? Top leadership approaches to business? Global perspectives on business and entrepreneurship? Or perhaps innovation and intrapreneurship?

In 2015, the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University Distinguished Speaker Series will continue to offer cutting edge information and critical thought around timely business topics that characterize the Forbes spirit. By using real world examples from Forbes, the Forbes School of Business successfully creates a direct link between authentic business practices and the student environment. Students benefit from investigating, analyzing, and implementing concepts and viable solutions in the classroom.

Join Ashford University in experiencing the ideas behind globalization, leadership, entrepreneurship, intrapreneurism, and innovation through the Forbes School of Business Distinguished Speaker Series. To share your ideas on future speakers and topics, email alumni@ashford.edu.

JOHN TAMNY

One way in which the alliance provides a unique opportunity to personally interact with top thought leaders is through the FSB Distinguished Speaker Series. Embarking on its second year of speaking events in 2015, audiences in San Diego, California; Clinton, Iowa; and Los Angeles, California have heard thought provoking topics discussed by industry leaders and visionaries such as Steve Forbes, Ken Fisher, Rich Karlgaard, and John Tamny.

At the most recent presentation on October 23 in San Diego, John Tamny, editor of Forbes Opinion, joined a standing room only audience of Ashford University alumni, students, faculty, and San Diego business leaders to talk about “Perspectives on the Current Economy.”

These events foster critical thinking about today’s business climate, global economic trends that deeply impact regional and local industries, and the future. Presentations are live streamed and elements and thoughts are utilized in curriculum for relevant business courses so that all students benefit from the shared knowledge. An archive of previous live presentations can be accessed online in the Student Portal.

KEN FISHER

RICH KARLGAARD

Forbes School of Business

Ashford University / ashford.edu

ASH0240
FIRST SENIOR PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Kyle Baucum had planned to make the long journey from Scottsbluff, NE, to San Diego, CA, to attend his Ashford University Commencement on October 5. What he had not planned on was that he would receive the first Forbes School of Business Senior Project Scholarship while visiting America’s Finest City.

The 2014 Senior Project Scholarship opportunity was open to Forbes School of Business students who completed their Bachelor’s degree capstone course or senior project and alumni who graduated within one year of the July 7, 2014 entry date. The scholarship award winner receives $5,000 applied to future tuition in the Forbes School of Business Master’s degree program of his choosing.

Judged by a committee of Forbes School of Business faculty members and Forbes Media leadership, finalists were selected based on their applications and letters of intent to pursue a Master’s degree.

Dr. Jorge Cardenas, Associate Dean of the Forbes School of Business, oversees the scholarship program and takes great pride in the opportunity it offers motivated individuals who understand that learning continues long after commencement. Cardenas stated, “The purpose of the Forbes School of Business scholarship program is to elevate the academic experience for the individuals who desire that challenge and continuing commitment.” He adds, “The relationship between Ashford University and Forbes enhances the reputation of the school and the faculty, and ultimately benefits our students as they take the knowledge and skills learned at Ashford into the working world.”

There are two types of scholarship paths within the program, one for entrepreneurs and the other for senior projects. Up to five scholarships may be awarded in each path annually, depending upon how many applicants meet the stringent standards and requirements of the scholarships. “We want our graduates to fulfill as many of their professional and life aspirations as humanly possible,” remarked Cardenas.

“My goals in completing my MBA are to expand my horizons in the business world, to gain the necessary working knowledge to be successful in business, and to provide myself with the opportunity to change my career path and enjoy a greater quality of life for my family,” Baucum said.

Baucum graduated summa cum laude in 2013 and received an offer to join the management team at his local rail terminal. Baucum’s Leadership Priorities & Practice Capstone course, led by Dr. Ashish Godbole, challenged him to apply insights from his education into his work environment. In his presentation, “The Great Recession at NSR,” Baucum explored economic influences on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad from 2007-2009. He analyzed the current situation and offered management and leadership ideas to meet future demands of the business.

Learn more about the Forbes School of Business Senior Project Scholarship.
Get Information about the Forbes School of Business Entrepreneurship Scholarship. //
DISCOVER ASHFORD'S SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY!

Join the conversation with your fellow Ashford alum. Use the links on the left to get started.

We have a brand new social media page for you to visit! You'll find a lot of inspiration, plus alumni stories and our latest videos and blog posts. Be sure to check it out!

CHECK OUT A COUPLE OF OUR FAVORITE STUDENT COMMENTS.

My education is my future. I am ready to keep pushing through - to keep learning.

- Tina M.

Work hard, and look toward the prize.

-Jana L.

Discover Ashford's social media communities at ashford.edu/social, and join the conversation.
Forbes' School of Business

Bachelor of Arts
- Accounting*
- Business Administration*
- Business Economics
- Business Information Systems
- Business Leadership
- Computer Graphic Design**
- Consumer & Family Financial Services
- eMarketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Human Resources Management
- International Business
- Operations Management & Analysis
- Organizational Management
- Project Management
- Public Administration
- Public Relations & Marketing*
- Real Estate Studies
- Service Management
- Sports & Recreation Management*
- Supply Chain Management
- Sustainable Enterprise Management

Graduate Degrees
- Master of Arts in Organizational Management
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration

College of Education

Associate of Arts
- Early Childhood Education

Bachelor of Arts
- Child Development
- Cognitive Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Education Administration
- Education & Public Policy
- Education Studies
- Elementary Education (grades K-8)**
- English Language Learner Studies
- Instructional Design
- Library Science & Media
- Physical Education**

Graduate Degrees
- Master of Arts in Education
- Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology

College of Liberal Arts

Associate of Arts
- Military Studies

Bachelor of Arts
- Applied Linguistics
- Communication Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- English
- English and Communication**
- Environmental Studies
- History
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- Journalism & Mass Communication
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Liberal Arts*
- Military Studies
- Political Science & Government
- Social & Criminal Justice*
- Social Science*
- Sociology

College of Health, Human Services, and Science

Bachelor of Arts
- Applied Behavioral Science
- Complementary & Alternative Health
- Gerontology
- Health & Human Services
- Health & Wellness
- Health Care Administration*
- Health Education
- Psychology*

Bachelor of Science
- Biology**
- Computer Science and Mathematics**
- Health Information Management
- Health Sciences Administration**
- Natural Science**

Graduate Degrees
- Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

*Offered on campus and online.
**Offered on campus only. All other listed programs are offered online.

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan debt of students who completed each program, and other important information, please visit ashford.edu/pd.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF ASHFORD CONNECTIONS! WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK — PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO: CONNECTIONS@ASHFORD.EDU.
CONNECTING THROUGH CULTURE

20/ Alum Erin Montgomery is the 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail. Read about her adventure!

6/ CONNECTING THROUGH SERVICE
Ashford students volunteer to help their communities.

16/ SPRING 2015 COMMENCEMENT
Look back on the festivities in Moline, Illinois.

24/ FORBES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Get caught up on all the events available to alumni and students.
CONTENTS

3/ PROVOST MESSAGE by Dr. Lori Williams, Ashford University Provost
4/ ALUMNI RELATIONS Ashford invitation to all alumni clubs and events
5/ CONNECTING ONLINE CHAMPS Peer Mentoring program connects online students.
6/ CONNECTING THROUGH SERVICE Dr. Williams shares stories of service and student involvement
7/ FALCON SPOTLIGHT Proud Falcons share their favorite campus memories
8/ FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Dr. Williams highlights the contributions of our teaching faculty
9/ CONNECTING PEOPLE Ashford's diverse student body celebrates the connection of students
10/ CONNECTING THROUGH CAMPUS Programs and events highlight the campus experience
11/ CONNECTING THROUGH CAREERS Opportunities for students to achieve their goals
12/ PROGRAM LIST A list of programs and courses available at Ashford University

Dr. Lori Williams
University Provost

The recent special visit by our accrediting agency (WASC Senior College and University Commission, WASCSCUC) reaffirm our commitment to the importance of our faculty in supporting student success. Ashford's faculty members, who are dedicated and caring, deeply understand our student body. They know their students' goals, dreams, and aspirations. They also understand who their students are and the pressures that sometimes impact their lives—financial, family, work, and personal life issues. Providing care, compassion, and motivation to our students are hallmarks of what make Ashford's faculty distinct from those at other universities.

"Working to ensure student persistence and success, in spite of the obstacles that life brings, is what our faculty members do every day."

Ashford University / ashford.edu

Ashford Connections / Issue Ten
THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION

Catherine McKeown, Ashford University Blog

In the 2012 hit movie The Guilt Trip, Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, a terrific team, learn two human beings must be in space with limited oxygen, ideas, and interactions. There were numerous critical priorities to worry about, but truly what the lead character espoused about and enacted sincerely was the idea of being alone in space, not that she would escape from lack of oxygen or possibly turn up a vehicle like Airplane's airplane. She had lost her daughter as she knew the pain of disconnecting from ones of the world's greatest human connections. She did not want to be alone again.

Ashford University's alumni and students... are connected deeply to their families, communities, and cultures.

Connection is what makes us human, and our humanity is what drives our ability to connect with people, places, cultures, religions, and other things. We define ourselves by the people we are connected to – we are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, and sons. We are proud parents when we are lucky and even poorer grandparents when we are really, really lucky. Love is deep when we lose these connections, and grief is a force and constant reminder of how deep connections run in our human fabric.

Ashford University's alumni and students understand connections. They are connected deeply to their families, communities, and cultures. They celebrate their achievements, challenges, awards, and disappointments with the same zeal that they attack their academic paradigms. The degree is the lid, but the core is who they are, what they know and stood for, and where they come from.

Our Ashford family comes together when asked to help others, even if we are not sure if we will ever get the praise we can to others, and never back down when defining our country and our purpose. We are not. We are black, we are white, red and blue, and every shade and shape in between, but we share so many common bonds that we are collectively and simply human.

The staff, faculty, and leadership of Ashford University are much the same and together we attack each day with an unwillingness to accept the possibility of mediocrity. We fight for what we believe in because we know who we are and what we can do, and we are reminded of those guiding principles every day by our alumni and students. If we waver, all we need to do is read an email, make a call, or walk down the hall to talk to our own co-workers, managers, and directors who also are, ethnocentrically, Ashford alumni and students.

Our connection with one another is something that is covered, and no matter how busy the lead because we continue finding ways to connect. Our connection drives us to succeed. Engagement with our alma mater and students fuels our journey and our success between our seasons. This issue focuses on the importance of connection, whether connection to people, communities, or cultures. Ashford alumni and students can make the world through their actions, and their actions deeply impact their connections. At the same time, our connections make them who they are – amazing, resourceful, and committed – the type of individuals who we know to change the world and who can change the world.

From now on, as you see the world, you see just one connection away from the answer. Connection means so, in which we are, what’s important to us, and absolutely what matters most.

Thank you for connecting with us and through us.

CHAMPS PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

By Dick Gray

One concern thread, that all new students in the online learning community, is that they have to start somewhere – stepping into the online world of developing college degree online can be a scary, unusual, and challenging time for all students.

Ashford University's Student Engagement and Development Team understands how being part of a community can help new students adjust to the online learning environment and quickly feel a sense of belonging. The CHAMPS (Collaborative, Holistic, Analytical, Mentoring for Peer Success) Program matches new students with experienced, successful students for the very purpose - to establish connection.

Each mentor and mentee communicates for seven weeks using the communication methods that they choose and follow a program designed to help new students adjust to life as an online student. The peer mentor engages the new students in conversations about learning and academic challenges, as well as helping to identify critical skills and steps centered to completing their academic journey and graduating. As part of the program, CHAMPS mentors gain valuable, transferable skills that can help them in their professional development while giving back to the University through mentoring new students.

Meet one of the CHAMPS mentors:

Stuart Mathe

College of Education

"I think CHAMPS is such a wonderful program for new Ashford students, it allows them to feel a little more comfortable in the online university world. The connection between the mentors and the mentees is just as good at any other mentoring program, despite being online-based. I'm very excited to be involved in the CHAMPS program, it really is a unique online experience."
STUDENTS CONNECT TO PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Tornado Relief Effort in Fairdale, IL.

On Wednesday, April 16, Ashford University’s Office of Service and Leadership organized a trip to Fairdale, IL, to help with tornado recovery efforts. The Ashford service team, which was initiated by concerned students, was one of the first relief groups allowed into Fairdale following the tornado that struck the area on April 8.

"Once I saw the destruction online on TV, I knew I had to do something," said Elizabeth Yentsch, an Ashford junior who was one of the concerned students who helped coordinate the trip.

Ashford Adams, manager of service learning at Ashford, knew right away that students would want to help in any way possible. "After all the stories of destruction and loss of community were starting to come up on the news, I knew right away I would want students to do something about how Ashford could get involved. We did a sign-up and the first 10 students were allowed out of class to attend this meaningful and needed trip." Several Ashford staff members accompanied the student volunteers and those Ashford alumni from the area met the group in Fairdale to assist.

"The Ashford service team, which was initiated by concerned students, was one of the first relief groups allowed into Fairdale..."

The group cleared out the basement of a house that was destroyed, searched for valuable items, raked yards, carried away debris, and were there to just listen to those who were impacted by the tornado less than a week earlier.

"Seeing an entire neighborhood, literally, in pieces with memories scattered in between rubble was some of the hardest work we would do that day," Yentsch said. "Here, our group did plenty of heavy lifting — from removing toppled buildings, breaking debris, and chunks of trees — but it was the process that was damaged and the people that was left that made every step of ours a little slower just to make sure we didn't leave a memory behind in the dirt."

"S.T.A.R. was created as a conduit for Ashford to host volunteer events throughout the United States and alumni have the opportunity to give back and connect in their communities while working with their fellow peers and Ashford staff."

In La Puente, more than 30 students and alumni and their faculty members joined Boys and Girls Club staff on a Saturday morning to clean and inventory the storage sheds that house the sporting and recreational equipment used day in and day out by children in the region. Once the work was completed, the group enjoyed lunch at a locally owned restaurant and spent some time together.

The Department of Student Development and Engagement at Ashford is always looking for creative ways to benefit non-profits and charities in areas where alumni and students live and work. If you happen to know a local charity in your area that has a need for a volunteer project, perhaps in repair or cleaning situations, please let the Student Development and Engagement team know by contacting them at volunteer@ashford.edu."

Ashford University's Department of Student Development and Engagement

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"Find your passion...whether it is in special education or administration, as long as you're passionate about what you do, everything will fall into place."
ALUM AND VISIONARY MARINE VET LAUNCHES STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Being the brains behind an executive management startup might be enough to keep an average person occupied during the day, but "average" does not apply when it comes to Ashford alum Olamide Onanuga.

Not only has Olamide returned to Ashford University to earn his Master of Public Administration degree while managing a blog (check out his "OY Oladip" on LinkedIn), but he is also a decorated veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a successful professional who has worked in multi-family real estate as well as other industries. He is not a person to be trifled with, and his intention and commitment are woven into the stories with purpose and pride. His secrets and lessons are many, including:

- Recognition of service in Davis County - Certificates of Achievement (Marine Corps Graduate - June 2007)
- Humanitarian Service Award (United States Marine Corps - Aug 2008)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (United States Marine Corps - Oct 2010)
- LSSD Letter of Appreciation (Lakeview Independent School District - May 2012)

The military community is a vibrant pool of communication and action. In today's world, we have a multitude of resources to announce our presence and provide the necessary support that new men and women in uniform need to preserve their personal accomplishments.

What are the greatest needs of military personnel entering into higher education programs for the first time? What are some of the most significant support programs that can be offered to this population to ensure academic success?

- Assistance with their educational objectives, a college degree.
- Mentoring and tutoring where needed while providing them with same opportunities.
- Identifying and connecting with Ashford University scholars and students who are veterans.
- Advocating the interest of service of the Student Veterans Organization.
- Codrafting and building coalitions with Ashford University sister groups in support education and network of services.

Glumside recently answered some questions for Ashford Connections:

Where did the idea of the Student Veterans Organization originate?

It was a conversation with my wife about the excellent opportunities to connect with educational universities and online universities. I wanted to see something more, so I took the time to make a plan to create the change I would like to see with some alumni support.

What are the differentiating characteristics shared by veterans that will ensure success for the SVMO?

Our overall focus is focused toward mentoring, relationship building, active networking, and coalition building. Understanding the front and involvement of veteran students with Ashford University is important. Some may already have jobs in a field, perhaps looking to transition or receive a promotion, some may be just beginning to understand the military-to-civilian transition. It is imperative to identify and deliver the opportunities that are needed for each unique person.

Some 30 percent of those enrolled at Ashford University are currently military in some capacity. How do you think this population influences the culture of the University as a whole?

The military community is a vibrant pool of communication and action. In today's world, we have a multitude of resources to announce our presence and provide the necessary support that new men and women in uniform need to preserve their personal accomplishments.

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There's been much discussion surrounding the positive impact that mentorship programs have on students. Would the experience be the same had you not been a member of the SVMO?

Most definitely! Mentorship is a natural support system from generation to generation for military communities as well as civilian populations. It is my hope that we develop a viable, long-range mentorship program that will serve long after I am Ashford University.

Where do you see the Student Veteran Organization in the future?

We would love to see a world-wide effort on military students and their families. Ashford University is an accessible resource that can be obtained from the hands of your local town to diverse areas. Bringing the power of connection with the global community of veterans to benefit families and the military generation of believers - is paramount. Having the knowledge, skills, and ability of those in this group will also pay forward for the development of future members.

Where do you see yourself after earning your degree at Ashford University?

I earned my undergraduate degree with Ashford in Psychology. I was studying this degree while in active service and found this subject to be a great degree to enhance leadership and communication. Now I am pursuing my Master of Public Administration while I work with the Department of the Treasury in Washington D.C. towards my long-term goal of participating in legislative affairs. 
WHAT HIRE A CHAMP AND EMPLOYER OUTREACH MEAN FOR YOU!

HIRE A CHAMP

Hire A Champ is the cooperative partnership between Ashford University Employer Outreach Specialists and recruiters or hiring managers from partnering companies. When an employer forms an Ashford student or alumni, they are hiring a "Champ" in more ways than one.

If you’re a job-seeker, there’s a potential job, career Fair, informational webinar, or event invitation that you may be missing if you are not opening their emails. You can also access different jobs and events by visiting the "Careers" tab in your Student Portal and clicking the "Jobs" tab. As an Ashford alum, you retain access to the Student Portal by simply using your Student ID.

EMPLOYER OUTREACH

Within Ashford’s Career and Alumni Services department, the mission of the Employer Outreach Specialist is to create and build relationships with recruiters and hiring managers within companies nationwide and across many industries. In fact, our goal is to develop strong ties with companies that potentially our job and hire Ashford alumni and students in every field related to the diverse curricula programs offered through the University.

What if you are already employed at a great organization and would like to see more Ashford alumni and students employed there?

Ashford’s Employer Outreach team can help spread the word about your company, vacant positions, or hiring and informational events through career programs that support new talent acquisition efforts.

Contact the Employer Outreach team at hireachamp@ashford.edu today and ask for more details on how you and your company can take advantage of these services to hire Ashford talent.

—Angie Lopez, Hiring Director, Human Resources

THE VALUE OF ASH福德’S EMPLOYER OUTREACH PROGRAM

For Alumni & Students

•当作一个实习就业机会与自己的专业领域是相关的
•寻找你所考虑的并与你职业生涯路径和专业
•通过在Ashford的雇主关系获取信息和机会

For Employers

•为 Ashford’s Employer Outstanding Program 开设的 20 家企业
•直接向气员工发送信息
•LinkedIn 和 Facebook”建立联系

WHAT'S NEW IN CAREER SERVICES

LIVECHAT!

LiveChat offers direct one-on-one communication through an instant message feature connecting Ashford alumni and students directly with a Career Services Specialist in addition to addressing concerns and questions related to any part of the career development process. The chat sessions are offered Monday through Thursday and are open for one hour. LiveChat is a valuable resource for students and alumni who require a personal touch or if they need assistance with any aspect of the career development process.

The goals of the Resume Power Hour include:

• Discussing common resume issues
• Sharing resumes and providing personalized feedback
• Collaborating and networking with peers
• Providing your insights and expertise

To reserve an appointment with a Career Services Specialist, please visit the Ashford University website and select the "Careers" tab. Then select the "Resume Power Hour" link and complete the reservation form. Please note that appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, please contact the Career Services Department at 1-844-ASHFord / 1-844-274-3676.

Ashford University / ashford.edu

Ashford Connections / Issue Ten
DELTA ALPHA PI HONORS NEWEST CHAPTER

Ashford University is proud to announce its newest Honor Society chapter, Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society. The project was the brainchild of office administrators in the Office of Student Access and Wellness. Members of the team attended a regional conference and participated in a seminar presented by the president of the Delta Alpha Pi Society. The Society’s main purpose is to change the negative stereotypes associated with disability by recognizing students with disabilities for their academic accomplishments and developing their skills in leadership, advocacy, and education.

THE THREE GREEK LETTERS IN DELTA ALPHA PI HAVE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL MEANING TO THE SOCIETY:

Δ—DELTA stands for Disability, but also the triangle, symbol of strength. Members of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society demonstrate strength as leaders on the Ashford campus to help break down the barriers of perception. Also, they serve as mentors and role models for other students with disabilities.

Α—ALPHA stands for Achievement. Alpha is the beginning, and academic achievement must come first. But A also stands for advocacy: business students must advocate for themselves before they can advocate for others. Members of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society exhibit advocacy skills for themselves and for the rights of all individuals with disabilities to be included fully in society.

Π—ΠI represents Pride, pride in academic achievement and in all accomplishments, not just students with disabilities, but as members of the university community. Π is a mathematical symbol that students learn in elementary arithmetic classes as Π is an appropriate symbol for achievement. Members of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society participate in activities designed to educate the community and society regarding disability issues and the need to apply the principles of universal design in learning.

Congratulations, and welcome to the members and leaders of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society for Illinois, the home of all members of the Ashford University family!

10 WAYS THAT SOCIAL MEDIA CAN CONNECT YOU TO PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND COMMUNITIES

By Smaranda Motres

1. Open Communication Channel
There is no better way to reach out and connect with others through social media.

2. Overcoming Cultural Boundaries
People feel less convinced by cultural and linguistic barriers when they interact through social media.

3. Celebrating Diversity
Social media channels provide a formal platform for people to come together for a cause or a purpose to connect and secure every aspect of diversity.

4. Giving Remote Access
The need to care of someone almost anywhere by utilizing social media. Google Hangouts has become a popular platform for people to virtually meet.

5. Reinventing People
Long lost human connections find their way back through social media.

6. Virtual World Access
People can virtually visit just about any place in the world through videos and images on social media.

7. Urgent Communication
From natural disasters to current global events, social media has been one of the most reliable sources of communication in times of crisis. Twitter hashtags are great examples.

8. Highlighting Positivity
While negative news seems to take over the traditional media channels, positivity is often easier to spread through social media.

9. Access to Information
Social media is one of the first places where people look for answers from simple daily subjects to niche groups striving to learn new skills and connect with others in the community on Facebook and LinkedIn.

10. Crowdsourcing
Asking for ideas and resources has never been so easy. Social media is a great connector of people, ideas, and even money to light some of the most exciting projects and worthy causes.

Discover Ashford's social media communities at ashford.edu/social, and join the conversation.
MORE THAN 1,000 ACHIEVE THEIR ACADEMIC DREAM AT SPRING 2015 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Students came from far and wide to participate in Walsh University's commencement weekend May 2 and 3. The graduating class of 2015 numbered 1,089 students, according to the College's website, which states that the university offers more than 200 academic programs. The class of 2015 includes students from 38 states and three countries.

During Sunday's commencement address, Bob Hobbs, a 2001 graduate and Walsh's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, spoke about the importance of education and the value of a Walsh education. Hobbs, who is the executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Genex Corporation, shared his experiences as a Walsh University student and emphasized the importance of lifelong learning.

The ceremony was held in the University's beautiful on-campus venue, the Walsh Auditorium. The event included speeches by university officials and the presentation of awards to the outstanding graduates. The ceremony concluded with the conferring of degrees and the presentation of diplomas to the graduates.
ASHFORD ALUM SUCCEEDS IN LAUNCHING BUSINESS WHILE HELPING OTHERS DO THE SAME

I created my company to help individuals and businesses make their dreams come true by bringing out the very best in them.

When Quadeesah Campbell graduated from Ashford University in 2013 with her Master's degree in Organizational Management with a specialization in Organizational Leadership, she did not know that she would be changing people’s lives through the career path she chose. She did know she had a passion for grant writing that developed when she was an undergraduate student at Euro University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

In April 2015, Quadeesah launched her own company, Quadeesah Campbell Grant Writing Consulting, a nonprofit organization established to provide professional grant writing services, nonprofit write-up services, consulting support, fundraising services, and workshop presentations to individuals and businesses.

As she proudly states, “I created my company to help individuals and businesses make their dreams come true by bringing out the very best in them. My philosophy is ‘let’s get excited to succeed’ and I really say it’s because I want everyone to excel and try their best to do what they’re doing well.”

Not one to rest on her laurels, Quadeesah wanted to make sure her entrepreneurial venture benefitted others with entrepreneurial passions. Her organization provides grant writing expertise to indigent nonprofits but also donates a portion of its proceeds to a scholarship foundation for high school graduates attending college and interested in pursuing their entrepreneurial ambitions. The only requirement is that the scholarship recipient live within the Davis or Gilroy Counties in New Jersey.

In addition, the organization donates a portion of its proceeds to purchasing drinking fountains for individuals and families living in historically underserved communities around the world that are unattainable due to a lack of clean drinking water.

ASHFORD ALUMNS LAUNCH ONLINE RESOURCEFUL DESIGN BUSINESS

We believe there is a variety of disciplines throughout our time at Ashford – including the importance of integrity, the rewards of hard work and discipline, the thrill of a spirit of entrepreneurship, and the value of community,” Makenna said. “Our creative mindset has given us the shared passion for design and the interest in working in a creative environment that allows us to serve other small businesses with their brand development needs. Rachel and I have been present of an untraditional lifestyle for quite some time and embraced the opportunity to create our own workplace culture.”

Both Makenna and Rachel completed some franchise work in the design industry prior to the launch of their business, but according to Rachel, “The entrepreneurial lifestyle had been defined for us through personal experiences. We were exposed to the insatiable growth and adventure of working freelance, but also experienced the qualities of risk and uncertainty that often accompany the formers.”

The creation of Lens & Louise “felt natural,” Makenna explained. “It allowed us to enjoy design and work with like-minded creatives, all while creating a lifestyle business to support ourselves. Immediately we pursued the opportunity by researching, then planning our business structure and strategic growth. We continuously review the demands and look for new opportunities.”

What is Lens & Louise all about? The company serves small businesses and individuals. Together, we guide clients through the design process to achieve beautifully designed spaces, product and editorial shoots, and brand development such as print and digital brand materials and web designs,” Makenna noted. The company’s services include branding, styling and design of logos, blogs and websites, lettering, and stationery.

The two Ashford alums learned that relationships are crucially important when starting and continuing any business. Makenna continued, “We make positive relationships with our clients and believe their experience should be nothing less than satisfactory. This business is truly about them and the work they will receive. Rachel and I work with a limited number of clients each year in order to more than the most personalized, quality design that honestly communicates the purpose of their brand in their audience and clientele.”

What advice would the pair give to college students who want to be entrepreneurs? “If you don’t know what you want to do professionally with your life, don’t worry,” Makenna said. “Try something new until you find something you fall in love with. Ask yourself what you can do for other. Learn by doing and don’t be afraid to take calculated risks. Ask yourself if you are willing to be remembered for.”
I went on an exhilarating ride through slush, mud, and puddle-filled trails with Wade Marrs who eventually finished in 8th place.

The Iditarod Trail

My journey as a 4th grader began March 2, 2010, in Anchorage, the first Saturday in March. On the ceremonial start of the Iditarod with 61-mile people through the trees and snow, I remember seeing my favorite mushers and dogs. I was very excited to watch the Iditarod.

I went on a 4th-grade field trip to Fairbanks to watch the Iditarod. We watched the race and enjoyed the winter activities. We also had the opportunity to watch the mushers and dogs cross the finish line. It was an unforgettable experience.
Checkpoints

Numerous checkpoints were set up along the trail to ensure that only those with permission were allowed to pass. The checkpoints were manned by locals, who checked our outfits for safety and health.

Gas Station: The gas station was a crucial point along the trail, where we could fill up our water bottles and have a quick snack.

Many mushers were sleeping on the floor, trying to catch a few hours of sleep before heading back out on the trail. I started with some mushers, volunteers, and spectators, and posted a blog. The next morning, the ice was empty. The first checkpoint was the finish. We were greeted by many volunteers and locals, who were happy to see us.

Checkpoints continued, each one providing water, food, and rest. I was happy to arrive with plenty of time to prepare for the wintry conditions ahead. I got ready, wrote a few posts, and asked with some great new friends before checking out Nome.

Kilauea: On the beautiful flight above an isolated, yet remarkable land, I found out we were heading to Kilauea. As we arrived at the airstrip, we had to walk to the checkpoint on a path covered by snow.

After dropping my mail at the checkpoint and picking up a quick snack, I checked out the village. Another village on a river, I walked down to the river for a short walk. The river was beautiful, and I found a small checkpoint on a small stream. A small stream provided water for the mushers.

Many mushers stopped to rest and enjoy the scenery. Some set up tents, while others gathered around fires.

A couple of us decided to visit the famous house on Earth Pizza for lunch. A small pizza cost us close to $10, but it was delicious. Many people responded to our pizza place for the wonderful food and the fun.

Another call for us to head to the airport. Next stop: the finish line in Nome.

Nome: I was happy to arrive with plenty of time to prepare for the wintry conditions ahead. I got ready, wrote a few posts, and asked with some great new friends before checking out Nome.

Many of the mushers entered the village during the night under a beautiful sky of northern lights and sixty degrees below zero temperatures.
POWERFUL CONTENT BEING DELIVERED IN 2015

The Forbes School of Business views 2015 as a busy and exciting content and curriculum year for students, alumni, and faculty alike. From the Distinguished Speaker Series, to having a strong presence at Forbes summits and conferences, to hosting TEDx in Chicago, Miami, and New York, the Forbes School of Business expands Ashford's ability to define what the university stands for, and the potential impact Ashford graduates and students can have on the business world.

The Forbes School of Business Distinguished Speaker Series kicked off the year on January 13 with special guest speaker Steve Forbes, who spoke to the group at AMBI Healthcare's facility in San Diego. These enlightened the audience with his views on monetary policy and world politics. Starting with a breakfast networking session, Ashford faculty, students, and alumni mixed and mingled with the San Diego business and military communities to form and solidify new relationships.

The Distinguished Speaker Series will begin bringing presenters to different U.S. markets this year. Look for announcements for exciting speakers and venues, and view previous speakers' video clips at Ashford's YouTube channel.

FORBES MEDIA SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES DELIVER REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

Learning takes many forms, and becoming a lifelong learner can mean success and a healthy passion for new experiences and knowledge. Forbes Media Summits and Conferences provide opportunities that expand minds to many Ashford students, alumni, and faculty. Forbes opened their 2015 launch America Summits in Chicago and Detroit at no cost to Ashford students and alumni in these regions. Students, alumni, and faculty attended the Chicago event, learning from such notable industry leaders as Steve Case, founder of AOL, and companies like Airbnb, Gilt, Divvy, and more.

These Forbes Summits and Conferences spark opportunity and creativity that continues to evolve long after the events. From the Women's Summit, Dr. Patricia Ryan, interim Dean of the Forbes School of Business, took her enthusiasm back to the University and - in collaboration with Dr. Shawn Miller - created the Forbes School of Business Women Leaders Network group. The group's mission and vision embody the spirit of the Forbes Women's Summit as "an online network community of business leaders and aspiring leaders who connect with each other to share ideas, knowledge, experiences, and resources."

The group is designed to inspire professional development and life skills for women around the world through empowerment, support, leadership, and ethical values.

It's not just for women, but for all aspiring leaders.

"Forbes opened their Reinventing America Summits in Chicago and Detroit at no cost to Ashford students and alumni in these regions."
UPCOMING EVENTS

During the year, there will be diverse opportunities for the Forbes School of Business alumni, students, and faculty to network, enhance learning and development, and practice skills that will benefit them over their lifetimes. Please join any of these Forbes School of Business opportunities throughout the year:

- San Diego Startup Week: June 14 – 20
- San Diego Startup Week and San Diego Downtown Partnership Breakfast: June 15
- Techweek Chicago: June 22 – 20
- Denver Startup Week: September 28 – October 5
- Techweek New York: October 12 – 18
- Techweek Miami: December 7 – 11

For additional information, please email alumni@ashford.edu. Don’t forget to apply for the Forbes School of Business Entrepreneurship and Senior Project Scholarships available at:

www.ashford.edu/admissions/scholarships.htm.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Inside the Student Government Association (SGA) on the campus in Clinton, IA, it is easy to be an active student, but not to continue accomplishing a great deal of work. A few of the SGA’s recent accomplishments include:

- Establishing regular open forums with Dr. Charlie Milam, Vice President/Campus Director, where students have the opportunity to ask their own questions about university affairs and are provided with up-to-date, reliable information.
- Establishing regular office hours for SGA representatives to increase accessibility and engagement with the student body.
- Establishing a new role for SGA security officers to improve campus security.

Small, but no less important, changes include the addition of weekly seminars at Cleary Hall, access to community events, and accessibility to the back parking lot of Cleary Hall, which provides a beautiful view of Clinton.

Leadership and involvement are important parts of each student’s academic experience on campus and the hard work and effort of members of campus clubs and organizations and their advisors are celebrated at the annual Spring Organization Recognition Banquet.

Through many SGA members recently graduated, there is every reason to believe that the organization will continue to accomplish great things on campus in the 2015-16 school year.
ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE TO CAMPUS STUDENTS

For the first time, campus students can combine their campus courses with the thousands of complementary courses offered through Ashford's online programs. This will offer greater opportunity and flexibility for our students.

In order to register for an online course, campus students are subject to certain requirements:

- Be 16 years or older;
- Meet minimum academic requirements;
- Have completed at least 30 credits toward a campus degree program;
- Be scheduled for a minimum of 12 credits on the Clinton campus during the spring or fall semester;
- Be registered for the upcoming fall semester in the same calendar year; in order to register for blended coursework during the summer and
- Have the approval of their Faculty Academic Advisor prior to registering for an online course.

Only one online course can be taken at a time and only two online courses can be taken during a semester. Online courses must start after the first day of the semester and end prior to the last day of the semester.

Beginning with the Fall 2015 semester, students at Ashford University's Clinton campus will enjoy increased academic options by being able to blend their regular classes with Ashford's online undergraduate courses.

Ashford University Night with the Clinton LumberKings

Baseball fans gathered for the annual "Ashford University Night with the Clinton LumberKings" on April 20 as the home team took on the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. As part of the action, 2014-2015 Student Government Association President Tyler Mirkovich threw out the first pitch and Ashford students Ellen Vandenbush and Catherine Modern sang the National Anthem.

SAINTS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION

The spring season got off to a great start for the Ashford Athletic department with a pair of teams making history on the national stage. The Ashford women's basketball team earned the program's first national tournament win with a 67-50 victory over Indiana Wesleyan in the 2015 NAIA D-II Women's Basketball Championship, the highest ranking team the Saints have ever defeated.

The Ashford women's basketball team also earned their first win at nationals with an 83-71 win over Bethel College (IN) in the second round of the NAIA D-II Men's Basketball Championship.

As the season concluded, players Diamond McKee and Sarah West were recognized as Honorable Mention NAIA (Women's) All-Americans, joining some of the top players in the nation.

With baseball season over, the Ashford baseball and softball teams took center stage. The Ashford baseball team picked up the program's first win over a team ranked or receiving votes in the national poll when they defeated (19) hometown, 3-0, in March in Tempe, AZ. As of mid-April, baseball is currently 11-17 on the year while softball sits at 10-10. Both teams will have a chance to earn their first national championship berth, qualifying for the 2015 A.I.I. Championships in Lawrenceville, GA.
STAFF CHANGES

Great philosopher Heraclitus said, "The only thing that is constant is change," and don't we certainly live that truth at Ashford University's Campus where several employees have taken on new responsibilities.

Seven-year veteran Meg Scheller transitioned to a new role - Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management - in August 2014. "I see my new role as an opportunity for me to stretch myself a little," said Scheller who had served as Associate Director of Athletics and was head Women's Basketball Coach (2009-2014) and Head Softball Coach (2005).

"Doing something different after 17 years is challenging, but as rewarding, and working with our team in enrollment is inspiring to me. I'm so grateful that I am surrounded by outstanding individuals who make it fun to come to work every day. It's so exciting to work with a team that is student-centered; being able to foster our students' ability to accomplish their goals, and hopefully making an impact on their lives so they can impact the future."  

Working alongside Scheller in a new capacity as Associate Director of Student Affairs is Wessell Solomon, a hall fixture on campus for the past 30 years. During these three decades he has served in a number of roles, including Assistant Director of Housing and Student Services, and Associate Director of Student Affairs.

"I have often been asked: "Why have you stayed at this place all these years?" Solomon said. "I respond: "It's about simplicity: I can go to work with colleagues, hear about students' individual success and development. This mindset has been continuously supported by the mission of the President. The strength of this mission is the satisfaction of witnessing others graduate and find meaningful careers.

As Associate Director of Student Affairs, Scheller plans to assist the campus administration team with inserting new student enrollment goals, developing a campus student retention committee, working with University goals of enhancing student satisfaction and success, and creating a new course catalog that better communicates outreach with high school and community colleges and high schools, and assisting with easier access to enrollment.

Scott A. Mitchell, Ashford's new Director of Student Affairs, shares Scheller's excitement about working at the Clinton campus. "I have found Ashford University to be providing an environment that can support individual student learning and development, while allowing my staff to implement new initiatives to meet our campus needs," said Mitchell.

Mitchell began his Ashford career in 2015 as a Resident Director and was promoted to Assistant Director of Student Affairs in 2012. He led the vision of his department to "provide a comprehensive experience that complements the academic programs at Ashford while educating the whole student to achieve personal transformation.

To help with campus alumni initiatives, Kelly Franklin, who has worked at Ashford for seven years, became the Campus Alumni Specialist in January. Her new position will work with alumni of Mount St. Clare College, The Pennsylvania University, and Ashford University in the campus.

"My goal is to build a strong and robust campus alumni association by representing our graduates back to the campus, and advancing our current students about how important it is to stay connected," Franklin said.

Prior to her current assignment, Franklin served as Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Academic Operations Specialist for the Forbes School of Business, and Project Specialist for the Vice President/Campus Director.

I'm excited to begin my role in the Student Affairs department," she said. "My vision starts with first year students and continues throughout their experiences at Ashford. Career development is a journey. Our students are actively planning their career or further education. Our team will offer on-site assistance to help our students plan and achieve potential goals for success. We will help create positive student experiences and foster effective partnerships with the campus and local community by providing various service initiatives for career counseling, internships, and alumni services."

Forbes School of Business*

Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration
Business Economics
Business Information Systems
Business Leadership
Computing/Computer Graphics
Customer Service/Financial Services/Marketing
Entrepreneurship/Small Business
Finance
Human Resources
International Business
Management/Operations Management/Supply Chain Management
Organizational Management
Project Management
Public Administration
Public Relations/Marketing
Real Estate/Finance
Service Management
Sports/Event/Recreation Management
Supply Chain Management
Sustainable Business Management
Graduate Degrees
Master of Arts in Business Administration
Master of Business Administration
Master of Public Administration

College of Education

Bachelor of Arts
Child Development
Cognitive Studies
Early Childhood Education
Early Elementary Education
Education and Public Policy
Education: Elementary Education
English Language Learning Studies
Environmental Design
Library Science/Media
Physical Education

Graduate Degrees
Master of Education

College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Arts
Military Studies

Graduate Degrees
Master of Science in Criminal Justice

College of Health, Human Services, and Science

Bachelor of Arts
Applied Behavioral Science
Complementary & Alternative Health
Dental Hygiene
Health & Human Services
Health & Wellness Services
Health Care Administration

Graduate Degrees
Master of Arts in Health Care Administration
Master of Arts in Psychology

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF ASHFORD CONNECTIONS! WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK - PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO: CONNECTIONS@ASHFORD.EDU
HOW TO CHOOSE
The Right College For You.
THERE ARE NEARLY 7,000 ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHICH ONE WILL BE THE BEST FIT FOR YOU?

WHERE SHOULD YOU BEGIN?

When you were a child, someone else decided where you would go to school. But when it comes to higher education as an adult learner, the choice is entirely up to you. Fortunately, you don’t have to figure it out all on your own.

This guide will empower you to find a college that matches what you need for you and your life.

The following pages give you several pointed questions. Use these to specify your goals and refine your search. Then it’s time to do some research and to contact schools that might work for you. By the time you reach the last page, you should have a better idea of what your goals are and where you might fulfill them.
ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS
(and fill in your answers!)

What are your goals?

Imagine your life, four to five years from now. What do you see yourself doing?

Maybe you’d like to live in another part of the country or another part of the world. Enrolling in a faraway university could be one step in a much larger transition.

What do you want for your family? What kinds of relationships will you have? Being a full-time college student will certainly influence your family life. But you could also find yourself inspiring your children.

What particular skills have you always wanted to learn? Is there a cause that you feel very strongly about? If you keep yourself organized, then your extracurricular activities shouldn’t have to interfere with your studies. In fact, some universities might award you credit for a hobby or volunteer work.

Are you eager to buy a house or a new car? Such big purchases might impede your ability to pay tuition.

Think long-term. Think big. Come up with two or three ambitious goals you could set for yourself.

GOAL #1

GOAL #2

GOAL #3
What is your schedule?

Do you work full time? What do you usually do after work? How much time do you devote to your family and household chores? Do you get a full eight hours of sleep every night - or do you take catch-up naps throughout the week?

Your coursework will have a big impact on your daily routine. And different schools require different hours. In order to know whether a particular school will fit your lifestyle, you need to see if your schedule can align with the school's requirements.

If you're not in the habit of keeping a written schedule, you'll want to start keeping one right away. There are several calendar apps for smartphones that are inexpensive or free. Google Calendar is free online, and it's an excellent tool for keeping track of your life. Or start with a good old-fashioned paper schedule. You can use this example as a model.

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Where will you do your studying?

Whether you choose to attend classes on a campus or through an online format, you need your own space to study. Coffee shops are great if you can handle the background noise, but the cost of frequent lattes will add up. A library can provide an ideal environment, but some libraries have odd hours, so be sure to check the schedule.

Does your home have a reliable internet connection? Do you have your own computer, or will you need to share?

Of course, unless you live alone, you'll have to take your family or roommates into consideration. What are their schedules like? How loud does it get at home? Do you have small children who will vie for your attention?

Ultimately, you'll need your own space, even if it's only one small room. Suggestion: get together with everyone who lives under your roof, and agree on one room that you designate your study area. Make sure everyone understands when you'll be working there, what you're doing, and why this distinction is so important.
How will you stay motivated?

Sure, you're excited now. But what about when times get tough? Up to four years can feel like a long time. You'll have to keep re-kindling that excitement.

You can start by keeping a clear picture of your goals close at hand. That way, whenever you get tired or frustrated, you can remind yourself why you wanted higher education in the first place. Many students make vision boards and put up photos on Facebook or Pinterest and around their workspace to keep them focused on their destination.

It's best to have a personal support system - a network of family, friends, and fellow students to back you up when you get stuck. Of course, you have to communicate with them. Make sure they understand you're going to school and what that means for your time. Share with them why this goal is so important to you. And ask them to keep you encouraged along the way.
What's the one subject you most want to study?

Finally, let's circle back to the very first question about your goals. You may want to do some deep soul-searching. Put aside what you think you "should" do or where the jobs are.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? What do you really want to do with your life?

Not everyone needs to go to business school. And you may not need a degree to do what you love.

However, if a college degree would empower you to pursue your passion, then keep in mind that not all schools offer the same programs. For example, if your dream is to perform on stage, then you should know which schools offer courses in the performing arts.

Write down the names of some people who are already successful and well known in the field you want to enter. Where did they go to school? Are any of them teaching now? Consider following in their footsteps. You could even enroll at the school where your hero teaches, or ask that person to be your mentor.

How will you stay organized?

Enrolling in a university will bring a stream of documents, paperwork, notes, brochures, and books into your home. In other words, if you want to go to college, start by cleaning off your desk.

You will need a system for removing clutter and filing things away. But you'll also want to keep some important items close at hand, in case you need them later.

And as mentioned before, you will need to keep track of your schedule, including due dates. That means you'll want to have easy access to a calendar that you can rely on.
WHERE TO START YOUR SEARCH

Now that you've clarified your goals, you can begin searching for colleges that match your interests.

Keep in mind that you're not searching for the biggest and best college in the world. You're searching for the best college for you. Focus on finding a college that best fits your goals and lifestyle.

College Board

A good place to begin your search may be BigFuture by the College Board. Though this site is mainly geared toward students coming out of high school, as opposed to adult learners, there may be some information you can gather. You can filter your search by up to 10 different criteria. You can even assign your filters different weights to privilege those criteria that are most important to you.

Depending on how many filters you choose, you could come up with hundreds of results. So you should keep adding filters and narrowing down your results. The website allows you to create your own list to review later. Once you've narrowed down your list to fewer than a dozen options, then you can start to look up more specific information on each school.

This site only gives a superficial overview of each school. In order to make an informed choice, you'll need to drill down for more details.

Use Your Favorite Search Engine

In looking at the answers you gave to the questions of the first section of this ebook, is there a common theme or subject? For example, if one of your answers is 'write a novel,' you might be interested in pursuing a degree in English or writing. Maybe one of your goals is to start a business, you should consider a business degree or perhaps one in entrepreneurship.

You can search specifically for a degree program, such as a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship, and make a list of colleges offering that degree. You can also do advanced searches to include other facets of the degree program that you require, such as online, flexible, and military benefits.

You can also search to attend a school in a particular region of the country. Or if you’re thinking about an online university, where location is not an issue, search the phrase online education. You can then filter the results to have you should be able to call on these facts from the school’s website such as the degree they offer and the cost of tuition.
CONTACT SCHOOLS DIRECTLY

You have a few possibilities and some useful information on each one. Now it’s time to call the college or university directly, and speak to an admissions counselor. Give yourself some time to have a full conversation. Here are some good questions to ask:

Am I eligible for any benefits?
If you have any connection to the US military, you’ll want to make sure you get the benefits you deserve. Many schools also offer certain grants and scholarships to students depending on their work or employer. So don’t be afraid to ask up front!

What if I change my mind after I enroll? Will I be charged tuition if I leave the university during my first few courses?
Some colleges will allow you a trial period for your first few courses. Make sure you won’t be responsible for tuition if you change your mind before a certain date.

How many credits can I transfer toward my degree?
If you’ve been to any college before, make sure you get credit for the work you’ve already done. Even if you’ve never attended a college before, you should still ask this question. Many colleges give you a pathway to earn credit for work training and life experience.

“Even if you’re planning on taking courses online, make sure you can preview the online classroom.”

How will I pay for it?
Many schools will have finance advisors to help you sort out the money side of things as well as various options for you to fund your education. From tuition reimbursement from your current employer to federal financial aid, there are several ways to afford to go back to school. Be sure to ask what your options are for paying for school.

How do I schedule a tour?
If you’re planning on attending classes at a physical campus, you’ll probably want to see the facilities before you sign up. Request a guide to show you around.

Even if you’re planning on taking courses online, make sure you can preview the online classroom. Is it user-friendly? Or does it look like a video game from 1984? You’re going to be spending a lot of time in this environment, so make sure you’re comfortable using it to study and complete your coursework.
Is this school accredited?
When a college or university is accredited, it means that school has been found to meet certain basic requirements for academic quality. Before enrolling, you should always check the school’s accreditation.

“Find out if the school offers any courses that let you study from ebooks or if you will need to pay for expensive textbooks.”

What other student services does the school offer?
Again, this question is important if you plan to attend school online. Ask if there are additional student services, such as career services, a library, or a writing center. Is there an active alumni community? When former students are still connected with their school, it’s a good sign that the school created a welcome atmosphere.

How do I apply? Is the application on paper or online?
College applications tend to be long and complicated. So make sure you know what’s involved, how much time it will take, and what you’ll need to complete the application. Some schools may offer an admissions counselor to walk you through each step.

“When a college or university is accredited, it means that school has been found to meet certain basic requirements for academic quality.”

How will I connect with my fellow students?
This question is especially important for online students. Can you join student organizations or honor societies? Are there group projects, or will you do all your assignments by yourself? How the school representative answers these questions should give you a feel for the culture of that college. You don’t want to go it alone, so make sure you’ll have support and a strong sense of community.

What technology does this college provide?
Find out if the school offers any courses that let you study from ebooks or if you will need to pay for expensive textbooks. Many colleges now offer a free smartphone app for their students to download. Ask if this school does. Find out how your professors will provide feedback - digitally or on paper? You may prefer a cleaner, high-tech solution.
SO NOW WHAT?

What you do next will depend on the answers you receive to the questions above. If you’ve asked the questions but the college representative doesn’t give you clear answers, then you may need to keep looking.

But if you like what you hear, then you’ve found a school that fits your lifestyle and goals.

Of course, you have to ask!

Once you’ve found a college or university that’s a match for you, go ahead and apply. Procrastination can stifle your dreams. So don’t wait - take action.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Planning your education can be exciting. As long as you prepare and take the time to find the right school for you, then you’ll be in good shape to reap the rewards of a college degree.

Thanks for trusting Ashford University to provide some guidance through such a big decision. No matter where you go, stay inspired and never lose sight of your goal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GETTING STARTED IN A DEGREE PROGRAM, OR TO CREATE AN ACTION PLAN, PLEASE CONTACT AN ADVISOR AT ASHFORD UNIVERSITY: 866.711.1700.
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GO TO COLLEGE?

Trying to figure out the price of higher education is like pricing a new automobile. There's the sticker price, and then there's the actual amount you pay. The two can be very different.

Every college and university publishes a "sticker price," which is their basic tuition. And while the tuition rate is usually reliable, there are additional costs that will affect the total amount you pay to earn your education.

It's better to think in terms of a college's net price. Net price is what you'll pay as an undergraduate, after grants and scholarships (which don't have to be repaid) are subtracted from the institution's cost of attendance. Learn more about net price and what it means.

The US government requires all schools that participate in federal financial aid programs (Title IV) to publish accurate information about their net price including a standard net price calculation. Many schools offer their own Net Price Calculators with additional details to help you determine your actual costs for attending that institution. You can also look up a school's net price on College Scorecard, a free online search tool provided by the US Department of Education (DOE).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Scorecard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Rates</td>
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<td>Loan Default Rate</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
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According to College Reality Check, the national average net price for a four-year Bachelor's degree program is $18,158 per year. Of course, that's just an average, taken from thousands of schools, so each school's individual net price may vary dramatically.

But even knowing the net price may not give you the full picture. The cost of attendance includes a variety of different factors. In thinking about how much you can afford to pay to attend college, you may also need to consider the price of:

- Textbooks and Electronic Books
- Housing
- Technology requirements
- School equipment and supplies
- Travel
- Administrative fees

At this point, you may be wondering, "If college includes so many costs, then how am I supposed to afford an education?" The answer may be simpler than you think.

There are a variety of ways to get the financial help you need to afford college, including financial aid, scholarships, and more. This booklet will explain your options and provide tips on securing the help you need so that you can afford your education.
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAFSA

One option you have is applying for financial aid. Students seeking federal financial aid must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can go to www.fafsa.gov to complete your application online.

The FAFSA is your way of communicating to the Department of Education (DOE) where you plan to go to school and how much money you have to spend on your education. The DOE will then calculate how much money you are eligible for in federal student grants and loans. This information will also be shared with the schools you list on your FAFSA, so that they can see if you qualify for institutional scholarships and grants.

Here is what you’ll need before you begin a FAFSA:

1. **Clock**
   - Block out at least one (1) hour in your schedule.

2. **W-2**
   - Locate a copy of your most recent tax return.

3. **W-2**
   - If you are 24 or younger, get a copy of your parents’ tax return.

4. **2 3 7**
   - Look up the school codes for all schools where you plan to apply (you should be able to find these code numbers on the schools’ websites, or you can look them up on the FAFSA website itself). Ashford’s Title IV School Code: 001881

You can complete your FAFSA at any point in the year, but your aid may be assigned for the next academic year, so you may need to wait to register for your first course.

If you need to apply for financial aid, everything begins with this application. This point cannot be emphasized enough; there is simply no way to get federal financial aid until you’ve completed and submitted your FAFSA.
HOW DO I OBTAIN A SCHOLARSHIP?

Some people daydream about a free ride all the way through college. Such all-encompassing scholarships are few and far between. A more realistic option for most people is to apply for a variety of small grants and scholarships. This option will mean more work, but like everything in life, your efforts may pay off in the end. A thousand dollars here, a few hundred there – the cumulative effect can make a big impact on your school expenses.

If you complete the FAFSA, what happens next? The process may take a few weeks before you receive a response. Don’t waste time! While you wait, you can be proactive and seek out scholarships and grants on your own. Scholarships.com and Fastweb.com are just two websites that offer tools for researching available scholarships.

These two websites function as search engines for grants and scholarships. You enter some of your basic information, like your birthday and current education level. You will also need to provide your email address and set up a password.

Then you can enter your search criteria. It’s important to provide as much information as possible, because that’s what the website will use to find scholarships for you. The search tool will use your interests, your intended career, and your desired degree program to compile a list. You may qualify for a scholarship if you’re the first in your family to attend college, or based on your ethnicity, or your religion.

And then there are some scholarships you could call “unique.” Are you exceptionally tall? Or do you have a gift for calling ducks? If so, then you could obtain a grant designed just for your special gift. But until you look, you never know what’s out there. That’s why it’s so important to enter lots of information and do your research.

Both websites are completely free for you to use. But in order to stay free to users, the sites include advertising. So you will need to click through the ad pages to get to your search results. Be patient!
You may see several different grants worth more than $1,000 each, so you
definitely don’t want to skip those opportunities. If you put in the time, try
your hand at several scholarships, you may be able to earn money to go
toward your college education.

### Student Loans

Many students use loans to finance their education. Financing your
education may be necessary and can enable you to access a higher
education.

Borrow only what you need! Keep your student loan debt to a minimum to
lower your payments after you graduate. Many students don’t consider the
consequences or develop a plan for paying back the money.

### BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THE RIGHT AMOUNT TO BORROW?

The key is to look at your career aspirations and future earning potential.
Investigate the normal pay range for people in your chosen career. Visit
ONET Online to look up your intended career and see how much
professionals generally earn in that field. Then you can calculate how much
of your potential future income you will be able to spend each month
toward repaying your loan.

Sign up for an online tool like LoanLook.com to keep track of all your
loans and get updates. There’s even a free app you can download to your
smartphone for push notifications. These tools are a convenient way to stay
on top of your loans.

If possible, look into the Federal Direct Loan Program. These loans offer
some of the best deals because they come with low interest rates and
flexible options for repayment. For independent undergraduates, the
federal program allows students to borrow a maximum of $9,500 in their
first year, $10,500 in their second year, and $12,500 in their third and fourth
years. Make sure you understand the difference between subsidized and
unsubsidized loans, and which one you qualify for. For more information
please visit the Federal Student Aid site.

Students in some fields can pursue career opportunities that offer loan
forgiveness programs. For example, some graduates who go to work in
public service may have their federal loans partially forgiven.
Tax Credits and Deductions

Beyond grants and loans, full-time students can often take a deduction or earn a credit on their annual taxes. For example, you might look into the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which can save you $2,500 each year. You must be working on your first undergraduate degree and earning less than $80,000 if you're single or $160,000 if you are married.

In addition, the Lifetime Learning Credit gives you up to $2,000 for qualified education expenses. A number of restrictions do apply, so be sure to consult with a tax professional to make sure you're eligible.

Read this helpful article on Forbes.com to learn more about different ways the government can assist you with paying for your education.

Employer Billing and Reimbursement

Do you work full time? Many companies offer a benefit to support their employees' education. Yours might let your college bill your employer directly. Or your organization may prefer to reimburse you for at least part of your college tuition. If you're not sure what your employer is willing to pay, just ask. After all, it's in your employer's best interest to have more educated employees.

Think about it. When you pursue your own personal development, you don't just benefit yourself. You benefit your coworkers, too. Every company wants a well-trained, highly-skilled workforce. Let yours know that you take learning seriously. A good manager will appreciate your drive to achieve. If your employer offers to reimburse your tuition, they demonstrate their willingness to invest in you.

Of course, having a third party pay for part of your tuition may require some additional paperwork. So make sure you notify your school early on that your company is going to assist you. And to make sure you fill out the forms correctly, communicate with your Human Resources department.

Military Benefits

Active-duty service members, reservists, veterans, and their spouses may be eligible for a variety of benefits in return for their service. One place you could start is this website devoted to military tuition assistance for all branches of service. Benefits can be complicated, so be sure to speak with your Education Service Officer and get all the details.
A FINAL THOUGHT

Choosing higher education is a big decision, and it requires a significant investment of time and money. While these investments may seem scary, don’t panic! Take the time to research all your options, plan ahead, and get the most out of your college experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GETTING STARTED IN A DEGREE PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT AN ADVISOR AT ASHFORD UNIVERSITY: 866.711.1700.
ASHFORD UNIVERSITY
TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

THE SUCCESS OF TODAY’S TEACHERS WILL ENHANCE THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHILDREN.
Ashford University is committed to fostering that success and is proudly offering the Ashford University Teacher Scholarship to one of our area’s finest educators.

The scholarship winner may choose to enroll in either of Ashford University’s two online teacher education programs – the Master of Arts in Education or the Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology.

THE ASHFORD UNIVERSITY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDES:
/ Full program tuition paid;
/ All course materials provided; and
/ Waiver of Technology Fees.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:
/ Cover letter to the Ashford University College of Education describing who you are and what you teach. Please provide detailed contact information, including daytime phone number and email address.
/ Letter of nomination from your school principal;
/ Letter of recommendation from a colleague/peer at your school site; and
/ A 3-5 page, typed, and double-spaced reflective paper addressing BOTH of the following questions:
  1. Why would you increase student achievement in your school by earning this degree?
  2. How will you share your vision for increasing student achievement with your colleagues?

YOUR PRINCIPAL MUST FORWARD YOUR SUBMISSION NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2015, TO:
Dr. Joie Rottler Larson, Dean of the College of Education
Ashford University
400 North Bluff Blvd.
Clinton, IA 52732

Questions should be directed to Dr. Rottler Larson, 563.242.4023, ext. 7790.

A committee will conduct a blind review of all applications and will choose the scholarship award recipients. All decisions are final. This scholarship opportunity is competitive as only one scholarship is available.

The scholarship recipient will be notified by April 15, 2015.

For more information on Ashford University’s Master of Arts in Education or the Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology programs, please visit ASHFORD.EDU.

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan debt of students who completed this program, and other important information, please visit ASHFORD.EDU/PD.

Ashford UNIVERSITY®

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: To be eligible for the Ashford University Teacher Scholarship, teachers must be employed at a public or private K-12 school in the Iowa counties of Clinton, Scott, or Jackson; the Illinois counties of Carroll, Whiteside, or Rock Island; or any school district that has hosted Ashford University student-teacher clinical placements. Program participants must be employed at schools in those areas; residency is not a determining factor. The scholarship winner must meet Ashford University’s admission requirements to start the Master’s program. In order to continue to receive full scholarship benefits, the winner must maintain satisfactory academic progress and be continuously enrolled once admitted.
OUR AREA'S EDUCATORS ARE AMONG THE MOST TALENTED IN THE NATION. Their dedication to their students and love of their profession are unparalleled. Yet, sometimes their talents and creativity in the classroom go unnoticed. Ashford University would like to change that by continuing the Ashford University Teacher of the Year Award.

TO NOMINATE A TEACHER OR COLLEAGUE, PLEASE SEND THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW TO:
Dr. Joen Rottler Larson, Dean of the College of Education
Ashford University
400 North Bluff Blvd.
Clinton, IA 52732

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BY APRIL 1, 2015:
/ Your name and relationship to the nominee;
/ Your contact information (daytime phone number and email address);
/ Nominee teacher’s name;
/ Nominee teacher’s contact information (daytime phone number and email address);
/ Nominee teacher’s school name/district;
/ Nominee teacher’s grade level or subject; and
/ Narrative describing why the teacher should receive the "Ashford University Teacher of the Year Award."

Questions should be directed to Dr. Rottler Larson, 563.242.4023, ext. 7790.

A committee will conduct a review of all nominations and will choose the award recipient. All decisions are final. The recipient will be notified by April 15, 2015. The winner will receive $500.00 for classroom materials or supplies.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: To be eligible for the Ashford University Teacher of the Year Award, teachers must be employed at a public or private K-12 school in the Iowa counties of Clinton, Scott, or Jackson; the Illinois counties of Carroll, Whiteside, or Rock Island; or any school district that has hosted Ashford University student-teacher clinical placements. Program participants must be employed at schools in these areas; residency is not a determining factor.
CAREER RESOURCES
For Degree-Seeking Students and Alumni

MY CAREER
Career and Professional Development Center

1. Log into the Student Portal
2. Locate the Career and Alumni Services section
3. Click the My Career: Career and Professional Development Center link to access:

// RESUME BUILDER
// SAMPLE RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS
// EVENT LISTINGS AND REGISTRATION
// PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR RECORDINGS
// CAREER ADVICE VIDEOS
// JOB SEARCH TOOL ACCESS
// VIRTUAL INTERVIEW PRACTICE
// CAREER BLOGS AND DISCUSSION BOARDS
// LINKS TO MANY MORE CAREER RESOURCES!

careerservices@ashford.edu | 466.871.5709 ext. 20057
www.ashford.edu/careerservices
THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Getting into the right career is more than just having a resume! Career Services provides coaching and guidance that follows a seven-step process focusing on career development.

**SELF-ASSESSMENT**
Gather information about relevant skills, interests, values, and personality preferences.

**CAREER EXPLORATION**
Research potential careers or industries of interest to expand your knowledge.

**GOAL SETTING & CAREER PLANNING**
Create specific short and long-term objectives and identify careers that match.

**MARKETING YOURSELF**
Update your resume, cover letter, and online presence to showcase your top skills and qualifications.

**INTERVIEW PREPARATION**
Learn how to effectively communicate your skills and experience to employers.

**JOB SEARCH & NETWORKING**
Develop and utilize your professional networks to get connected with preferred career opportunities.

**CAREER MANAGEMENT**
Revisit your career goals regularly and assess your progress as you continually pursue opportunities to develop your career.

careerservices@ashford.edu | 866.574.5700 ext. 20067
www.ashford.edu/careerservices
YOU MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A DEGREE WITHOUT STUDENT LOANS.

Ask an Ashford University representative for more information regarding this great opportunity.
INTRODUCING THE ASHFORD UNIVERSITY LEADER DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

Combined with your company's tuition assistance, the grant covers the cost of tuition, course materials, and most fees!
HOW WOULD A DEGREE CHANGE YOU?

Designed for the modern professional, Ashford University provides courses that will build the skills that matter in your field.

AT ASHFORD YOU WILL EXPERIENCE:

Relevance
Online courses cover a full spectrum of modern knowledge, including more than 20 programs in the Forbes School of Business.

Technology
The Ashford Mobile app lets on-the-go students keep in touch with their professors and each other.

Community
Students and faculty interact and support each other in the online classroom and through Ashford's social-media platforms.

Tradition
Commencement is an important tradition, when thousands of students from across the country come together to celebrate their achievement.

NEXT STEP:
Speak with an Ashford University advisor about your benefits, payment options, and employer-approved degree programs. Call 888.231.5383.

For full grant details, visit ashford.edu/admissions
EARN YOUR ASSOCIATE'S, BACHELOR'S, OR MASTER'S DEGREE FROM OVER 60 ONLINE PROGRAMS:

Forbes School of Business*

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Accounting
Business Administration
Business Economics
Business Information Systems
Business Leadership
Consumer and Family Financial Services
eMarketing
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Human Resources Management
International Business
Operations Management and Analysis
Organizational Management
Project Management
Public Administration
Public Relations and Marketing
Real Estate Studies
Service Management
Sports and Recreation Management
Supply Chain Management
Sustainable Enterprise Management

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Organizational Management
Master of Business Administration
Master of Public Administration

College of Education

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE
Early Childhood Education

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Child Development
Cognitive Studies
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education Administration
Education Studies
English Language Learner Studies
Instructional Design
Library Science and Media

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology

College of Health, Human Services, and Science

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Applied Behavioral Science
Complementary and Alternative Health
Gerontology
Health and Human Services
Health and Wellness
Health Care Administration
Health Information Management
Psychology

MASTER'S DEGREE
Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

College of Liberal Arts

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE
Military Studies

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Applied Linguistics
Communication Studies
Cultural Anthropology
English
Environmental Studies
History
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Journalism and Mass Communication
Law Enforcement Administration
Liberal Arts
Military Studies
Political Science and Government
Social and Criminal Justice
Social Science
Sociology

Certain programs may not be available in all states.
To view a complete listing of courses and specializations, visit ashford.edu/degrees.

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan debt of students who completed each program, and other important information, please visit success.ashford.edu/pd.
HOW WOULD A DEGREE CHANGE YOU?

Learn to be highly effective in today's global business environment as a student of Forbes™ School of Business at Ashford University.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Find out how to earn a degree without student loans through the Ashford University Leader Development Grant.

Eligible employees may qualify for the unique benefits of this grant, which covers your required education costs, including:

- Tuition
- Course materials*
- Technology Fees
- Prior Learning Assessment fees
- Graduation fee

NEXT STEP:
Speak with an Ashford University advisor about your benefits, payment options, and employer-approved degree programs.
Call 866.866.5381.

For full grant details, visit success.ashford.edu/l-mobile

*If both electronic and hard copy course materials are available for the same course, the LUG program will only fund the electronic course materials, and if you choose to receive hard copy course materials, you will be responsible to pay the difference in price and shipping costs.

FORBES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS USED UNDER LICENSE.
FORBES™ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Ashford University combines the heritage and experience of a traditional college with the flexibility and effectiveness of an online institution.

Bachelor's programs

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Business Economics
- Business Information Systems
- Business Leadership
- Consumer and Family Financial Services
- eMarketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Human Resources Management
- International Business
- Operations Management and Analysis
- Organizational Management
- Project Management
- Public Administration
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Real Estate Studies
- Service Management
- Sports and Recreation Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Sustainable Enterprise Management

Master's programs

- Master of Arts in Organizational Management
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration

For more information about on-time completion rates, the median loan debt of students who completed each program, and other important information, please visit ashford.edu/pd.
START NOW /

Your next steps to achievement:

1. Set up an appointment with your Admissions Counselor. Call 888.898.4ASH (2747).

Your Appointment Date:

Your Appointment Time:

OR chat with an Admission Counselor online at success.ashford.edu/sheriffs
(M-F 8am - 8pm CST)

2. Be prepared to discuss your educational goals, including which degree program will help you
   grow, and to see if you qualify for a degree.

3. Fill out your application online.

   Go to success.ashford.edu/sheriffs and
   click "Ready to Apply?" in the upper right
   corner of the page.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAKING THE NEXT STEP TOWARD YOUR DEGREE!

DEGREE PROGRAMS /

YOU CAN EARN YOUR ASSOCIATE'S, BACHELOR'S, OR MASTER'S DEGREE FROM OVER 60 ONLINE PROGRAMS IN ONE OF ASHFORD'S FOUR COLLEGES:

Forbes™ School of Business
College of Education
College of Health, Human Services, and Science
College of Liberal Arts

To see a complete listing of degrees, please visit ashford.edu/degrees

THE GUIDE
National Sheriffs' Association

CALL 888.898.4ASH OR LEARN MORE BY VISITING SUCCESS.ASHFORD.EDU/SHERIFFS
Online Classroom
You have 24/7 access to your Student Portal, where you can access your online classroom, connect with instructors and other students, and check your degree progress. You'll participate in online discussions, where each student posts a response to the topic. Then reply to each other's posts and keep the conversation alive.

Scheduled From Start To Graduation
Your courses are scheduled for you. Graduate on time and don't take any unnecessary classes.

Digital Materials
With many of your courses, you will have access to Constellation, a suite of digital course materials that combine essential readings with audio and video. You can highlight, take notes, and even build your own study guide.

Ashford Mobile
You can learn on the go by participating in discussions and viewing upcoming assignments through your smartphone or tablet.

LEARNING WITH ASHFORD UNIVERSITY /

Given the velocity of change in today's business world, keeping pace with the required skills and knowledge is critical to your success.

Join the innovative online learning community at Ashford University to expand your horizons. At Ashford, you will experience:

Reliability
No matter your job title, you'll build the skills that matter in your field. Online courses cover a full spectrum of modern knowledge—from accounting to sociology to sustainable management.

Technology
Learn from interactive digital materials, rather than expensive textbooks. And the Ashford Mobile app will keep you up to date while on the go.

Community
Students and faculty interact and support each other in the online classroom. Social media sites enable everyone, including spouses, to connect and network whenever they wish.

Tradition
Commencement is an important tradition when thousands of students from across the country gather to celebrate their achievement.
PROMOTE YOUR TALENT AND SKILLS.
EARN YOUR DEGREE!

Choose courses designed with today's professional in mind. Qualified Sheetz employees who successfully apply to and attend Ashford University are eligible to receive these benefits:

/ 10% tuition grant
/ Technology fee waiver
/ Free required course materials for all mandatory courses
/ Prior Learning Assessment is covered

Learn more about this opportunity at success.ashford.edu/sheetz
Call 800.877.1918 to speak with an Ashford University advisor.
YOU CAN EARN YOUR ASSOCIATE'S, BACHELOR'S, OR MASTER'S DEGREE FROM OVER 60 ONLINE PROGRAMS THROUGH ASHFORD'S FOUR DISTINCT DISCIPLINES:

Forbes School of Business
College of Education
College of Health, Human Services, and Science
College of Liberal Arts

To see a complete listing of degrees, please visit ashford.edu/degrees
THE BENEFITS YOU DESERVE

Your undergraduate or graduate degree may be closer than you think. Your organization's alliance with Ashford University grants you these benefits:

- 5% Tuition Grant
- Technology Fees waiver
- Free required course materials for all courses

THE ASHFORD ADVANTAGE

Transfer up to 90 approved credits* to accelerate your degree completion. Any training programs you've participated in could translate into college credits. Find out how to combine your previous coursework with organizational training to make the maximum transfer impact.

*The transferability of credits is subject to Ashford University's transfer credit policies, and requires the submission of official transcripts. The official transcripts will be evaluated to determine the credits that will officially apply toward an Ashford University degree program.

Ashford University is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001, www.wasc.org.

CALL 866.894.9340 TODAY, OR VISIT SUCCESS.ASHFORD.EDU TO REQUEST MORE INFO.
DEGREE PROGRAMS

Forbes School of Business*
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Accounting
Business Administration
Business Economics
Business Information Systems
Business Leadership
Consumer and Family Financial Services
eMarketing
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Human Resources Management
International Business
Operations Management and Analysis
Organizational Management
Project Management
Public Administration
Public Relations and Marketing
Real Estate Studies
Service Management
Sports and Recreation Management
Supply Chain Management

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Organizational Management
Master of Business Administration
Master of Public Administration

College of Education
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Child Development
Cognitive Studies
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education Administration
Education Studies
English Language Learner Studies
Instructional Design
Library Science and Media

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology

College of Health, Human Services, and Science
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Applied Behavioral Science
Complementary and Alternative Health Gerontology
Health and Human Services
Health and Wellness
Health Care Administration
Health Education Psychology

MASTER'S DEGREE
Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

College of Liberal Arts
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Applied Linguistics
Communication Studies
Cultural Anthropology
English
Environmental Studies
History
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Journalism and Mass Communication
Law Enforcement Administration
Liberal Arts
Military Studies
Social and Criminal Justice
Sociology

YOUR ASHFORD EXPERIENCE

ABOUT ASHFORD UNIVERSITY
Achievement belongs to all of us at Ashford University. You'll find online courses that cover the full spectrum of modern knowledge. Instead of textbooks, much of your study material is available as cloud content. Students, alumni, and faculty around the country support each other on social networks. And all graduates are welcome to celebrate their achievements at commencement. Experience Ashford and earn the college degree you've always wanted.

ONLINE CLASSROOM
Earn your degree 100% online. You have 24/7 access to your Student Portal, where you can access your online classroom, connect with instructors and other students in online discussions, and check your degree progress.

SCHEDULED FROM START TO GRADUATION
Your courses are scheduled for you. You can graduate on time without taking any unnecessary classes.

ASHFORD MOBILE
You can learn on the go by participating in discussions and viewing upcoming assignments through your smartphone or tablet.

Ashford UNIVERSITY

ASH0296
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Your undergraduate or graduate degree may be closer than you think. Your organization's alliance with Ashford University grants you these benefits:

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- Free required course materials for all courses

THE ASHFORD ADVANTAGE

Transfer up to 90 approved credits* to accelerate your degree completion. Any training programs you've participated in could translate into college credits. Find out how to combine your previous coursework with organizational training to make the maximum transfer impact.

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Business Administration
Business Economics
Business Information Systems
Business Leadership
Consumer and Family Financial Services
eMarketing
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Human Resources Management
International Business
Operations Management and Analysis
Organizational Management
Project Management
Public Administration
Public Relations and Marketing
Real Estate Studies
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Sports and Recreation Management
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MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Organizational Management
Master of Business Administration
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College of Education
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Child Development
Cognitive Studies
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education Administration
Education Studies
English Language Learner Studies
Instructional Design
Library Science and Media

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning with Technology

College of Health, Human Services, and Science
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Applied Behavioral Science
Complementary and Alternative Health Gerontology
Health and Human Services
Health and Wellness
Health Care Administration
Health Education Psychology

MASTER'S DEGREE
Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

College of Liberal Arts
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Applied Linguistics
Communication Studies
Cultural Anthropology
English
Environmental Studies
History
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Journalism and Mass Communication
Law Enforcement Administration
Liberal Arts
Military Studies
Social and Criminal Justice
Social Science
Sociology

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- Organizational Management
- Project Management
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- Public Relations and Marketing
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- Service Management
- Sports and Recreation Management
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College of Education

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- Early Childhood Education Administration
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- Health and Human Services
- Health and Wellness
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- Applied Linguistics
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- English
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— Conan Tucker
Member of Reserve Unit, Speciation, 2011

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- Department of Defense employees
- Civilian employees of the US Coast Guard
- Veterans and VA employees

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You can transfer up to 60 approved credits*, including military and prior learning credits, toward your Bachelor's degree. Also, your prior college and military transcripts will be reviewed, free of charge, on your behalf upon enrollment.

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- Are you passionate about working with children and making a difference in their lives?
- Are you excited about meeting the needs of diverse children and their families?
- Do you want to be a leader in the field of education?
- Do you want to be at the forefront of educational policy and procedures?
- Are you eager to apply theory to professional practice as you build on your existing career or start a new one?

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Future of Early Childhood Education

"The demand for early childhood care and education programs continues to increase not only in response to the growing demand for out-of-home child care but also in recognition of the critical importance of educational experiences during the early years. Several decades of research clearly demonstrate that high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood programs produce short- and long-term positive effects on children's cognitive and social development."

National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2016.

A degree in early childhood education could be your key to any of these occupations:

- Daycare Provider
- Teacher Assistant
- Social Worker
- Human Services
- Camp Counselor
- Preschool Teacher
- Recreation Worker

Early Childhood Education at Ashford University

Earning your degree on your time is now possible. With a degree from Ashford University you are one step closer to qualifying for high-demand jobs in daycare, preschool, and elementary school settings. At Ashford University, you will have the opportunity to enhance your education while strengthening your skills and understanding of early child development and education. This program lays the foundation for your work in the field of early childhood education and will further your existing knowledge of the field. You will discover all the exciting opportunities of Early Childhood Education as you learn ways to apply your knowledge and skills to your educational goals.

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An online degree from Ashford University does not lead to immediate teacher licensure in any state. Ashford graduates will be subject to additional requirements on a state-by-state basis. Prior to enrolling, all prospective students are advised to contact the licensing body of their state to determine requirements for teacher certification, endorsement, and/or salary benefits in that state. None of Ashford's online education programs are CAEP, TEAC or NCATE accredited, which is a requirement in some states. Please visit ashford.edu for terms and conditions and additional disclosure information related to each education degree program. Alabamians, Californians, Georgians, Hawaii residents, Kentuckians, and Washington residents please see specific state disclosure information within the terms and conditions set forth on the website.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education degree is your first step in building a foundation for success in the world of child care and early childhood education. You will focus on important topics in early childhood, such as development, learning assessment, diverse learners, and instructional strategy.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Your Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education allows you to complete coursework in childhood development, intervention, and program development. When you complete the required coursework, you will be well-positioned for the education industry.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

Your Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education Administration prepares you for a career in early childcare administration, such as an assistant administrator or director. When you complete the required coursework, you will be well-versed in the education industry, highly trained in various theories of childhood development, and display advanced organizational management skills.
TAKE A
STEP
FORWARD

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If you are an RN with an Associate's degree or a nursing diploma, then Ashford University's RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing will provide you with the knowledge and skills to expand your career options.

Coursework and practice experiences cover a wide range of content—from patient care quality and safety, to leadership, community health, ethics, and technology. While the majority of your courses are online, the RN to BSN program's Practice Experiences will put you side-by-side with professionals in real world learning situations. Each course is five weeks and you take them one at a time. Ashford's flexible format allows you to maintain focus and balance school with work and family. You also have the technology to bring school to you, wherever you go. The world is your campus!

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EXPAND YOUR POTENTIAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

“Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% BY 2020”
(Institute of Medicine, 2010. Future of nursing report recommendations).

“Generally, registered nurses with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN) will have better job prospects than those without one.”

Let your past serve your future. Transfer approved credits toward your Bachelor's degree at Ashford University.
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The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected job growth for Medical Records and Health Information Technicians to grow 22% from 2012-2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.¹

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¹http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes219061.htm

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