

Learning Journal Unit 1

UNIV 1001-01 Online Education Strategies - AY2025-T2

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EMBRACING A NEW CHAPTER: MY EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

Introduction

Returning to school marked a significant turning point in my life. Having six years of retail management experience, I came to see that I needed more training and credentials if I was to advance in my career. Research by Shiri et al. (2023) shows that 78% of professionals who return to education in the middle of their careers enjoy a significant wage increase within two years after degree attainment. I decided to seek higher education right away because of this statistic and my love for business statistics.

I have chosen to pursue the Bachelor of Computer Science degree right now to acquire skills and knowledge that aligns with my goals to complete the master's degree in business analytics/Data analytics in future. My professional goals and the demands of the market today are perfectly aligned with this program. I am especially drawn to the blend of advanced analytical skills and business principles. Andersen (2024) predicts that by 2026, 85% of company positions would require data analytics expertise, making this degree extremely relevant for prospects in the future.

Positions like analytics team leader, data strategy consultant, and business intelligence analyst are among my desired career paths. Working with software companies or consulting organizations where I can apply my new analytical skills and real-world business experience is of special importance to me. I have hope for these career pathways because of the increasing need for experts who can convert data into business insights.

However, I'd be dishonest if I didn't acknowledge my concerns about this new journey. Balancing full-time work with academics feels daunting. Time management and maintaining a balance between work-life are my biggest worries. Additionally, I feel somewhat anxious about mastering the technical aspects of data analytics, especially since my background is primarily in business operations.

To address these concerns, I've already started developing strategies. I've created a detailed study schedule, discussed flexible working hours with my employer, and joined online communities like Coursera to focus on data analytics and learning programming languages like Python and R. I'm also utilizing campus resources like learning resource centers and online libraries to ensure I stay on track.

Conclusion

Looking ahead, I feel both excited and prepared for this educational journey. Though the road may be difficult, the possibility for personal and professional development makes it worthwhile. With this degree program and my real-world expertise, I hope to open interesting prospects in the developing business analytics sector.

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