

Military officer pursues master's degree to prepare for civilian leadership career

As an Army soldier in Iraq, Major Rick Jensen lived a life filled with uncertainty. Day-to-day military operations and harsh conditions made it difficult to focus on the future, but he was determined to plan for life after the military. Throughout an 18-month deployment overseas, Jensen pursued a master's degree that would prepare him for a civilian leadership role in business.

"Capella offered the flexibility I needed. I didn't have the freedom of a 9 to 5, Monday through Friday schedule, and the Internet wasn't always available to me. My instructors understood my situation and I was able to deliver my course work despite the challenges I was facing."

Jensen had been out of school for more than 12 years, and he found it a challenge to get back into the habit of studying and the civilian style of writing. He took advantage of Capella's Writing Center and found the support he needed to adapt. He was also surprised at the breadth of knowledge he acquired from other students in the courseroom. "I don't have any civilian business experience, so I appreciated exchanging information with fellow, non-military students. What I learned from them will help set me up for success later on."

He's also found his Capella course work valuable in his stateside role as a program manager in the Minnesota Army National Guard. "I'm using the leadership, management, and marketing skills with my statewide training team. Later, I can transfer that knowledge into a civilian career."

Jensen remains on track to complete his master's degree on his planned timeline, but he knows that life in the military can be unpredictable. "I've had to take a few leaves of absence, but Capella's Armed Forces and Veterans Support team always keeps in contact, going out of the way to ensure I can stay on track. That shows me Capella wants the very best for its students."



"The leadership, management, and marketing skills I've learned at Capella are already useful in my military role, but they're equally valuable in preparing me for a civilian career in business."

Rick Jensen

Current Program: MS in Organization and Management
Specialization: Leadership

Major
Minnesota Army National Guard

ACCREDITATION

Capella University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), www.ncahlc.org.

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