

Hospitality Management

Currently, I am working through my second year of classes at the University of Louisville. Before discovering the individualized major path I was undecided. I always knew that I enjoy helping people feel welcome and comfortable. I've worked in the food service industry for over three years now and I have learned a lot about how to provide helpful service to customers and how to take on leadership positions when appropriate. I want to pursue my career in an environment and culture where I can grow and gain useful experience in my field. I have a part-time job at an event venue in downtown Louisville called Ice House. I am an employee of Crushed Ice Catering where I facilitate a range of different events and provide service to guests. My favorite events to work for are weddings and I hope that one day I can specialize in wedding planning and catering. Crushed Ice Catering offers seasonal internships that I will take advantage of while I'm not taking classes over the summer. This is why a Hospitality Management degree would help me get further in my professional development. I will take classes in the following departments: Communications, Business Management, and Women's, Sexuality, and Gender Studies.

Communications classes will help me build my problem-solving and interpersonal skills that will prepare me for any work environment. These classes will help me develop my professionalism and my ability to represent myself with confidence. Most importantly, the Communications 301 course I've taken this year specialized in event planning! I've learned so much about the event planning world and the importance of networking and building meaningful connections with people.

My second concentration will be Business Management. These classes will be taken at the College of Business where I'll gain a firm understanding of how businesses work within the economy. I'll get exposure to the inner workings of finance, accounting, and marketing. These classes will help me gain a fundamental understanding of business practices and strategies. Hospitality management is about managing employees and guest relations. I'll gain the leadership and teamworking skills to build healthy work environments for everyone!

Lastly, I will pursue an approved Arts & Sciences minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These classes will develop my critical thinking skills and prepare me for a wide range of career opportunities. I'll learn about how gender and sexism impact the work environment. I'll be equipped with skills and resources that will help combat hostile work environments, the gender pay gap, sexual harassment, homophobia, and discrimination or prejudice of any kind. Valuing diversity fosters creativity and innovation. I'll learn how to collaborate effectively with people from different backgrounds and identities than myself.

Having an individualized major will help me combine the skills of three different disciplines to ultimately provide me with everything I need for success after graduation. With a Hospitality Management degree, I can immediately enter the field of my choice: event planning and catering. I won't need to go to graduate or professional school but I will very likely get post-grad certifications in Distilled Spirits Business and become a Certified Special Events Professional.