Internationally-Minded

Having interest in both business and international relations, I decided that international business would be an appropriate major to pursue as a student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Within UH Manoa is the Shidler College of Business, which is “ranked among the top 25 institutions for international business” and is additionally the only Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accredited MBA program in Hawaii. This is significant for the fact that an AASCB accreditation infers that the college is equipped with the necessary resources for the student community to learn and advance in an prestigious college environment.

In order to be accepted into the college, a student must have completed a total of 55 credits with a minimum Grade-Point Average of 2.0 at UH Manoa, including the following courses:

- Information and Computer Sciences
- English Composition
- Speech
- Introduction to Financial Accounting
- Introduction to Managerial Accounting
- Calculus
- Introduction to Micro Economics
- Introduction to Macro Economics

Other additional required courses are:

- Legal Environment of Business
- Statistical Analysis for Business Decisions
- Information Systems for Global Business Environment
- Principles of Marketing
- Economic and Financial Environment of Global Business
- Business Finance
- Global Management and Organizational Behavior
- Strategic Management

The study of international business is one that examines the business environment on a global level, in order for that business to succeed within that environment. This involves “developments in training relationships between nations as well as focusing on specific functional area issues such as determining which foreign markets an organization should enter.” Additionally, at the Shidler College of Business, one would have to decide between two tracks, that is, a focus on marketing/management, or on finance/business economics. Additionally, in order for one to major in international business, one would have to double major in international business and one of the other business majors. These are: accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, human resource management, international business, management, management information systems and marketing.

Personally, I am considering the marketing/management track with a double major in human
resource management. Under the marketing/management track, one will be learning how external factors can affect the marketing and management aspects of a business. Some courses required for this field that effectively portray the purpose of study in this field are:

- Comparative Management: US and Japan
- Multi-National Business Management
- Asia-Pacific Business Practices
- Contemporary Asian Civilization
- International Relations
- International Business Law

The study of human resource management enables one to understand the concept of personal administration regarding recruitment, personnel training and development, compensation, labor relations, career planning and collective bargaining. Also, one will study how to recognize the “behavior and interactions of individuals, groups, and organizations” in order to better understand how to manage such situations. Along with this, one will learn how to successfully organize and manage groups and other related matters within the business environment and understand the “legislative realities of federal and state governments” of the work environment. Basically, the role of human resource management is to understand the individuals within the workplace in order to create a strong group of individuals who will be able to work cooperatively together.

At New York University is the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, of which their international business program is quite different from that of Shidler's program. As the sole purpose of this international business co-major is also to understand the business environment in a global perspective, there are many similar courses such as International Business Management, International Financial Management, and International Marketing Management. However, there are also courses that are not as Asia-based like in Shidler. Instead, courses are focused in a more broader sense such as Global Macro Issues or Economies in Transition. This could be beneficial for the student who wishes to study outside of the Pacific, focusing possibly on European, Latin American or even African issues—of which the courses at the Stern College are focused on.

It seems that because this major is entitled, “International Business Co-Major,” it is implied that this major can be a counterpart to any other major within the university. This differs from the international business major at Shidler, as you can have international business as a major as long as it is accompanied with another business major and thus, career opportunities would be within the business community. However, at Stern, it is clearly stated within the college's website that career opportunities for the international business major depend on what it is paired with although a couple options are government and international agencies.

However, outside of the Stern college is the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. At this school, one can either major in international business or human resource management, without having to double or “co-” major. However, pursuing either of these degrees in this college would have to be a “concentration” under the “Leadership and Management Studies” degree.

Under the international business concentration, required courses include:

- International Human Resource Management
Comparative Management Systems
International Trade and Investment
Comparative Political Economy
International Entrepreneurship
Managing Diversity in the Global Economy
Leadership Strategies for the Global Workplace

These are similar to Stern's courses as they seem more “global” than Asia-concentrated like at Shidler.

For the human resource management concentration, courses include:
- Human Resource Management
- Human Resource Leadership and Strategy
- Work Analysis and Design
- Recruitment, Selection, and Career Development
- Compensation Management
- Human Resource Technology and Policy
- International Human Resource Management
- Employment Law and Rights
- Managing for Performance Effectiveness

Simply by reading these course titles, it seems that the focus of the human resource management program at SCPS is comparable to that of the human resource program at Shidler.

In addition to the above courses, there are other required courses in order to obtain a degree in Leadership and Management Studies that are similar to Shidler's courses. These are its accounting, economics, calculus, business law, statistical, marketing, organizational, and management courses. Other courses include Business Ethics, Business Computing, Leadership: Theory and Practice, and Advanced Business Writing.

In the Advanced Business Writing course, one will learn how to write reports, proposals and manuals, all relating to the business world. For these three types of writing, the following is stated: “In writing reports, the model of the corporate annual report is used. In writing proposals, both solicited and unsolicited proposals are covered. In writing manuals, students learn how to compile technical information and provide graphic support.”

When reviewing the business courses at Shidler, the only course that I find similar to that of the Advanced Business Writing course is called Problems of Business Finance. This course focuses on the “application of financial principles to cases involving important financial decisions.” Most of the courses at Shidler seem to be courses that focus on more hands-on and critical thinking skills rather than any writing skills. If there are any courses that are writing-intensive or involve any writing at all, it is not mentioned specifically in its course descriptions. This makes it hard for students of business to combine their required business classes with the necessary writing classes thus prolonging graduation.

Being a transfer student, it was suggested to me to discuss with an advisor how my transferred credits could minimize the amount of writing courses that are necessary to take. Therefore, after discussing with an advisor, I would be able to clarify what courses are left for me to take in order to fulfill all the requirements for graduation.
Because I am just beginning my journey in pursuit of my business degree, it is exciting to learn about the particular classes that are needed in order to achieve my goal. Also coming from the Pacific, it is very helpful that UH Manoa has a lot Asia-based programs that could help me in my career. Therefore, I feel positive about entering this field and believe that it will only benefit me greatly in the end.

Meta-Commentary

Although I'm just a tad more confident in this revision paper than the initial draft, I still am unsure of what I'm aiming at by writing this paper. I have done the comparison and analysis that I think I've needed to do, but it seems very insufficient. Also, NYU's website was not as informational as UH's website, so I think that a lot of my material is lacking. I am finding it very hard to really go far with this kind of paper.

After meeting with my peers a couple of times, the assignment has grown clearer to me. Although I am still not 100% confident about my work, I feel that it is a working progress. David and Savannah both had very helpful suggestions that I included in my paper. Both said that I should bullet the classes that I needed to take, which I liked because it made my paper longer. Also, having Savannah review my paper also guided me personally in the process of obtaining my business degree, as I am just being and she is almost done.

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<td>Visiting both UH and NYU websites; composing the draft</td>
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<td>Making the next draft</td>
<td>Reviewing David and Savannah's comments; Reviewing the UH business website once again; making the revisions; concentrating; thinking of better words to use: trying to be creative at the same time doing all of the above</td>
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