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### First Students in Gardner-Webb's 10-Month MBA Program Preparing to Finish

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# First Students in Gardner-Webb's 10-Month MBA Program Preparing to Finish

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Office of University  
Communications

October 1, 2019

## *Accelerated Master's Program Experiences Exponential Growth*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The first students in the 10-month Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at Gardner-Webb University will finish in October. From its launch in January, interest in the master's degree offered fully online has exceeded expectations.

“We are excited about the continued growth of the 10-month MBA program,” assessed Mischia Taylor, dean of the GWU Godbold School of Business and instructor of business. “We have a diverse group of students, who are either looking to advance their career, are lifelong learners or are recent graduates. We were slightly surprised at the demand, and the number of applicants has been well above plan.”

Dr. Christine Sutton, assistant professor of business, taught the capstone course, which integrates everything the students have learned previously. She believes that accelerating the MBA program has enhanced both the 10-month and traditional MBA curricula. “I’m a huge fan of efficiency, and I feel we have streamlined it,” she observed. “It improves the program to be able to think through what is essential and align the learning goals. Our classes were good before, but now they are better because any time you take another in-depth look at something, you are going to have improvements.”

Semesters are eight weeks, and students enroll in two courses each session. This format appealed to Jenny Maybin, who received an associate's degree in office administration and transferred to Gardner-Webb to complete her bachelor's in business administration. She said the 10-month MBA came along at the right time for her. “I was trying to figure out how I was going to complete my degree before my wedding in April,” Maybin related. “Then, the program was introduced. It was like an answer to prayer. I am so thankful the



Jenny Maybin, who also received her bachelor's degree from Gardner-Webb, is nearing completion of the GWU 10-Month MBA program.

10-month MBA program was introduced, and I'm thankful to earn my graduate degree through Gardner-Webb University. The faculty are amazing."

When Devin McCullough, an anesthesiologist, heard about the 10-month MBA, he knew it was a good opportunity and also good timing for him. "I've always thought the business of medicine was a knowledge gap for me," he shared. "I changed jobs and had more time to broaden my horizons. Earning my MBA may lead to an administrative position for me."

A resident of Shelby, North Carolina, McCullough knew Taylor and was familiar with the top-notch reputation of the Godbold School of Business. The material he's learned about managing a business has also helped him with his personal finances. He appreciates the program's flexibility and the responsiveness of the faculty. When he experienced a challenging circumstance, Taylor worked with him, and he took one course in the eight-week period. "I like the way the modules are set up, and I like having a deadline," McCullough stated. "Gardner-Webb offers a very well put together program that has a lot of benefits—being totally online, efficiently packed into 40 weeks and you get a good education. It's a good value that will pay dividends in the future."



Devin McCullough

*Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university. Gardner-Webb emphasizes a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics to prepare students to become effective leaders within the global community. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.*