



First Year Student Experience

Ashley Pointon, MID '23



What value has the MID program provided after your first year?

The most significant benefit I have experienced personally from this program was **the immediate connections and networking that allowed me to make a significant job move within my first semester.** I anticipated making connections throughout the program and potentially making a job move upon completion of the program, so having

it happen in the first semester was really exciting. The Aggie Network is a truly amazing, and being in the MID program is no exception to that.

What unexpected skill have you discovered about yourself through the program?

I was able to develop soft skills in working with others through the group collaboration/projects that the MID program incorporates. I am a strong Type A personality, and being able to learn how to use that strength in a group setting without taking on too much myself was extremely helpful to me personally and professionally. **I found myself being able to better identify others strengths as well and working to utilize all of our individual strengths for the group's overall success.**

Give an example of what you've learned from the MID program so far.

The most important and immediately relevant knowledge I have gained from coursework comes from Dr. Bharani's

course, IDIS 652 Digital Distributor. We are going through an amazing time where more and more distribution is being moved to a digital environment, and Lockheed Martin (LM) is not exempt from this. From day one, in my new position with LM, I saw aspects of IDIS 652 in play. At LM, one of our big goals for 2022 is Digital Transformation, and **I am thrilled that I can now bring a fresh new perspective to LM directly from my coursework in the MID program.**

How has pursuing an MID accelerated your career goals?

Upon completion of the program, I am hoping to be prepared to apply for a promotion at LM based on my experience and my education gained from the MID program. We are all dealing with serious supply chain issues right now, and I am hoping through my capstone project I will be able to provide a solution that will benefit LM and demonstrate my ability to elevate the company in the eyes of our customer.

What advice do you have for anyone considering the MID program?

JUST DO IT! Do not put it off thinking that there will be a better time in your life to get it done. There is never a better time than now to invest in yourself and tackle a program like the MID degree - which is geared directly towards working professionals. **The benefits are almost immediate and definitely worth it!** I started the program with a full-time job, a 7-year-old, 4-year-old, and 6-month-old baby that I was nursing. My husband works long hours outside of our home. I was able to quickly adapt to the MID program requirements, while still carrying on my normal work schedule and family time. We have actually done quite a bit of traveling while I have worked through my degree, which has been another nice perk of doing a program like MID!