

Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program

Graduate Assistant Position Overview

The Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has partnered with the University of Tennessee Knoxville in a graduate assistantship program designed to provide MBA students with maximum exposure to a wide variety of Y-12 business practices. This provides a unique opportunity for MBA students to combine real world business and academic experience.

As a key member of Y-12's staff, the graduate assistant will take an active and significant role in increasing the analysis and decision-making process related to Y-12 business efforts. Examples of responsibilities include: (1) managing and researching Y-12 technologies and their commercial potential, (2) interacting with potential investors of Y-12 technologies, and (3) performing comprehensive business plan studies (such as metric, financial, and operational analyses) to support key Y-12 decisions. This program is specifically designed to give broad exposure to a variety of operational areas of Y-12 as well as interaction with Y-12 and UT senior management.

Benefits/Compensation

Applicants accepted into the graduate assistantship program and granted government clearance will receive:

- A university tuition waiver and student insurance for each semester on payroll. However, the tuition waiver does not include the MBA program fees or other university fees. In addition, acceptance of this Graduate Assistantship precludes you from other employment activities unless pre-approved by the MBA Office, plus you cannot qualify for more than 1 tuition waiver in a single semester.
- A competitive hourly rate.
- Exposure to and involvement with Y-12 senior management through meetings, projects, and presentations.
- Communication with a diverse array of businesses and industries such as start-up firms, Fortune 500 companies, and venture capitalists.
- The opportunity to practice and demonstrate critical thinking, analytical and presentation skills acquired in the UTK MBA program focusing on entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, technology commercialization and business analytics.
- Extensive real-world experience, a key discriminator for future employment.

Examples of Graduate Assistant Job Responsibilities

- Performing market research studies to lead the development of Y-12 commercialization strategies.
- Helping drive new technologies into the marketplace by increasing the technological, economic and social impact of Y-12's technology development efforts.

- Collaborating with Y-12 staff to develop partnerships that connect Y-12 technologies with a variety of commercial entities, the ultimate goal being to increase the commercial prospects of new Y-12 technologies.
- Analyzing Y-12 technologies and their potential to work in non-traditional ways and connecting Y-12 with corresponding commercial entities.
- Performing business analyses that support other key Y-12 efforts.

Requirements of Applicant

- U.S. Citizenship (mandatory).
- Bachelor's degree with preference being in a technical field. A minimum of 2 years of fulltime work experience in fields such as sales, marketing, finance or engineering are preferred, but not required.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and excellent active listening skills.
- A desire to learn and expand your current skill set.
- Critical and "outside-the-box" thinking.
- Ability to thrive in a team environment and work effectively with researchers, business leaders and industry contacts.
- Proficiency in data analysis and Microsoft Excel and Access software programs.

Comments by Program Participants

"The Y-12 graduate assistantship has greatly enhanced my MBA program experience. Having the opportunity to work with senior management and develop professionally has been exciting. I am thankful for all Y-12 has offered me."

– Will Chappell, UT MBA Class of 2009

"My graduate assistantship at Y-12 has permitted me to apply the concepts and teachings learned in the MBA program to real-world industry. Also, Y-12 has a real teamwork atmosphere that mirrors the attitude found in the program."

– Michael Bowman, UT MBA Class of 2010

Application Process

Entry to the program is highly competitive; however, all interested students are encouraged to apply. Please express interest to your admissions and/or career counselor.

Finalists for the Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program will be asked to participate in a personal interview. Finalists must be admitted to the MBA program to be considered for this assistantship. Timing of appointments are based on Y-12 needs.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is a premier manufacturing facility dedicated to making our nation and the world a safer place. Operated by B&W Y-12 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, Y-12 plays a vital role in the Department of Energy's Nuclear Security Enterprise.

Y-12 helps ensure a safe and reliable U.S. nuclear weapons deterrent. We also retrieve and store nuclear materials, fuel the nation's naval reactors, and perform complementary work for other government and private sector entities.