



*"The leadership skills you pick up being a business major are unbelievable. You learn about not only what is on the outside of something, but all the internal things that make it up. In order to understand it well, you must not see it from just face value. One must immerse themselves in it, so they can fully understand what is going on, which is what being a business major is all about. That is one of the biggest things that being a business major has taught me about leadership."----- Jonathan Spoelhof, Student Senator*

Eight out of 13 Calvin student senate members have a business/accounting major or minor. They all believe that studying business at Calvin has greatly improved their leadership skills.

Some student senators chose the business major because they see business everywhere and love to use it as a way of communication to reach the world around them. Some of them picked business with the purpose of developing leadership skills already in mind. "My entire life I have been called to leadership and when coming to Calvin, business seemed like the perfect fit," said Ashley Holmes, a current freshman student senator.

At Calvin, a broad range of business concentrations are available including small business, human resources, operations, marketing, finance, and accounting. Students learn various leadership insights from different courses. As Emily Bruins, a student senator and second-year accounting major, said, "In my Organizational Business course I am taking right now, I have learned a lot about people skills, and how peoples' emotions and behavior affect their work. I've also learned a lot about individual versus group work, and what motivates people."

Unlike those in most large universities, by teaching in a small liberal arts college, our business professors give all their attention to undergraduates. An average 1:17 faculty to student ratio enables professors to help and interact with every student in their classes. Yeaji is

the VP of programming and a business major as well. "I was drawn to Calvin College because of how approachable and helpful the professors are here. I wanted to have a close relationship with my professors and I have been gaining that every semester." In addition, as devoted Christians, the professors also commit to prepare students "to lead the transformation of business for the renewal of society according to God's purpose"---*Calvin Business Department Vision*. Feeling called by God, the professors incorporate Christian values into student leadership development; as Yeaji has agreed, "The professors challenge me to become a leader in my everyday life. Their ways of reflecting their faith and practicing their beliefs in their career and especially in the way they love their students uplift me to be a living representation of Christ."

For the student senators, the leadership skills they learned from business have turned into practical experience. They value their business study experience as one of the most important elements of leadership development. When Emily thinks about her experience at Calvin as an accounting student, "Throughout the courses I've taken and the several speakers I've learned from, I've become more motivated to be assertive, organized, diligent, and patient; and I think these are all qualities that are necessary as a leader."

With almost 70 student organizations on Campus and various internship opportunities off campus, by choosing a business major in Calvin, students will not only benefit from the learning experience but also find a place to become a leader.

Are you ready to be a leader?

*By: Linda Shi*