



Kyle Hughes, MBA – Music Business student and graduate assistant, shares 5 pieces of valuable advice for students including: "Take ownership of your own education and learning. Pushing yourself to reach your goals and maximize what your program can do for you reduces the chances that you leave college feeling like it was not worth it." ♦ Read more below to learn more about Kyle and how he chose MTSU after graduating from University of Denver. **Jones College of Business, MTSU**

Current job position and employer:

I work for MTSU as a graduate assistant in the Marketing Department of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Specifically, this is my second year working for Prof. Thom Coats in the Center for Professional Selling.

Undergraduate Major:

I earned a Bachelor of Music in Sound Recording and Audio Production in 2017 and a Graduate Performance Certificate in Jazz Percussion Performance in 2019.

Undergraduate institution:

Both my previous degree and certificate were earned at the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver.

Why MTSU:

One of my mentors in the audio department of the Lamont School of Music recommended MTSU to me after he earned his MFA here. MTSU also offered me the most financial aid through a graduate assistantship compared to the other universities I applied for. I initially came to MTSU to pursue a graduate degree in the recording arts and technology, but I switched to the MBA last year. The fact that the program offers multiple concentrations, including music business, heightened its appeal.

Best part about grad school:

I enjoy the specialization of the courses and increased independence. Personally, my marketing and music business courses have been the most entertaining and enlightening. Working as a graduate assistant has also been rewarding in that I can see how both the students develop each semester and how the program is growing in the long run.

Plans after graduate school:

I plan to work in the administrative or marketing side of the music industry, whether that is here in Nashville or elsewhere. I also hope to be able to continue more of my own music projects on the side, once I have more time available.

Favorite place on campus:

I feel like I should say my home office, since that is where so much of my graduate work has happened. However, my favorite place on campus is probably still the recording studios. Even though I am not currently active as an audio engineer, working in a studio is adrenaline pumping or deeply relaxing, depending on the project.

What do you like to do in your free time:

What is free time for graduate students? I would be lying if I said that I do not love to sleep when I can. To relax and decompress I enjoy baking, gaming with my friends, listening to music, and working on my own passion projects.

Advice to prospective students:

1. Take advantage of all the resources that are available to you. There are multiple events and services offered throughout the year that can be insightful and beneficial.
2. Take ownership of your own education and learning. Pushing yourself to reach your goals and maximize what your program can do for you reduces the chances that you leave college feeling like it was not worth it.
3. Network as much as you can.
4. Specifically for prospective students, reach out to program chairs, professors, and points of contact. If you can, meet in-person or over ZOOM. These meetings will give you better insight

into programs than just researching online will. Ask what the employment rate is and what kind of jobs the graduates from your program are working, once they finish their degree.

5. Take time to relax and have fun. For undergraduate students especially, watch out for burn out.