



Jeanette Stevens is pursuing a Master's in Social Innovation and Not-For-Profit Management and is using her fee waiver to maximize her benefits. We are still accepting applications for fall, and if you are using a state/MTSU fee waiver, this would be a great semester to start! **#mtsucgs**
#management

Undergraduate Major and Institution:

I double majored in International Relations and Global Studies at MTSU.

What graduate program are you pursuing?

I am pursuing a Master of Science in Social Innovation and Not-For-Profit Management.

How did you choose to pursue a graduate degree?

My opportunity to attend graduate school was a little bit abnormal. I was fortunate to be able to come back to MTSU as a full-time employee at the Career Development Center after graduation. Being an employee on campus allowed me to receive a fee waiver for courses, and I knew the time was right!

What's been your favorite course so far?

Do study abroad trips count? If so, definitely traveling to Cuba to study with MTSU professors. For traditional classes, I really enjoyed the undergraduate "Globalization" class in Global Studies. I feel like I walked out of that class with clear eyes and a new understanding of the world!

What is your favorite MTSU memory?

Broadly, I really loved living on campus my freshman year. I made so many friends and gained such a sense of community. A memory that sticks out to me is a group of friends teaching me how to ride a bicycle across campus!

Describe your career path for us:

My career path started somewhere I never expected: on-campus employment! I began working as a Peer Career Advisor at the Career Center my sophomore year, and quickly decided I love helping other students, and I loved the higher-education environment. My goal after graduation was to find work with a local nonprofit, but employment in the field was harder to find than I expected, so I took a job to pay the bills. After a year with that company, my former boss at the Career Center let me know the Recruiting Coordinator position was open, and I was thrilled to come back! I've been back on campus for 8 months now, and couldn't be happier. The biggest takeaway of my career journey so far is to not limit yourself. Go for opportunities that you may have never thought about. Learn what you love in a job, and even what you don't. You never know where you'll find your passion!

What advice would you give to a prospective student thinking about graduate school?

I think it's easy to get daunted by the idea of graduate school, but I would remind students that going to college also felt insurmountable at first, too. There is no clock ticking, so take your time and do what you can manage. It's never too late!

What are tricks to maintaining good work, school, life balance?

It may be cliché, but I would be lost without my paper planner. My day is split into 3 sections: work, school/social, and me-time. I start a class by taking my syllabus and scheduling as much time as needed each day to get the assignment done on time, and with time to spare. By not procrastinating and rushing the finish it at the end, I have plenty of time to get together with friends, or move pieces of my schedule around, if need be.

What summer plans do you have?

Due to our new pandemic normal, I plan to continue working from home, taking classes, and trying to get outside as much as possible!