



ALUM PROFILE | Moises Figueroa

First-generation college student earned degree, launched career with Concordia-Chicago's flexible, affordable Accelerated Degree Program



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BA, Health Care
Management, '14

As the eldest of three siblings and a first-generation college student, I became a "non-traditional" student out of necessity. It was the beginning of the financial recession and both of my parents had been laid off from their long-term employment.

I knew that my path to degree completion was not going to look like that of a traditional student. I was

able to complete my associate's degree at a community college by taking night and weekend classes that didn't interfere with my full-time employment.

As I neared completion I struggled to find an undergraduate degree program that would allow me to complete my bachelor's degree while also working a day job. Concordia-Chicago's Accelerated Degree Program allowed me to achieve the necessary work-school balance and at the same time offered a supportive environment that fostered learning through a cohort structure.

Q&A

Q. What did you like about the ADP structure?

A. Being able to focus on one class at a time instead multiple classes allowed me to immerse myself fully in the subject being taught.

Q. How would you rate your professors?

A. My professors were leaders in their respective fields with industry and management experience. They lectured on theory but also taught real-world application of that theory based on their own experience.

Q. How did the ADP advance your career development?

A. The cohort format allowed me to network with fellow students, many of whom were working professionals in the industry. Through my cohort, I was able to find my first job after graduation working in the health care industry for a pharmaceutical company.

Q. What is your current employment situation?

A. I am a Manager of Community Relations for the Southwest Illinois region for a health care company that operates clinics nationwide.

Q. Would you recommend the ADP to others?

A. I would highly recommend the program to any student who doesn't have the luxury of taking the traditional route toward degree completion. Concordia-Chicago's ADP is a wonderful option for undergraduate completion and was the right choice for me.