Balancing Work and Class: Student Stephen Ceresoli Serves His Country While Continuing His Education

Balancing college and a career is rarely easy, and this is no less true for a Directorate of Public Works serving at the U.S. Army Garrison at West Point. However, Stephen Ceresoli is accomplishing just that, and doing so through an accelerated program.

While his background is in industrial and systems engineering, his current effort is to apply those skills to healthcare. As Stephen puts it, “Healthcare had become my area of focus within my senior year, leaving me with the tough choice between continuing my education and pursuing professional work experience. Once I heard of the Executive Master of Science in Health Systems – Manhattan program I knew right away that it was the perfect option; continuing my education while gaining invaluable professional experience.”

His aim is to eventually transition into a process improvement role in a healthcare setting. While his full-time job presently is in another field, Stephen says the skills and techniques taught in the weekly classes are highly applicable to other industries and have enhanced his professional contributions.

An avid skier who also takes time to give back to his university by speaking with undergraduates, Stephen is a multifaceted professional who is managing his work-life balance in pursuit of new dreams. His in-class participation and outside project based work have set him on a fast-track to establish himself within his chosen field. While the program in which he is participating is geared toward experienced professionals, he was able to gain admission shortly after finishing his undergraduate degree.

“Coming into the program straight out of my undergraduate education allowed me a seamless transition into graduate level learning,” says Stephen.

Balancing a career and education is rarely easy, but Stephen proves that it is possible to do both, and with accelerated success.