



Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program

Graduate Assistant Position Overview

The Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has partnered with the University of Tennessee Knoxville in a graduate assistantship program designed to provide MBA students with maximum exposure to a wide variety of Y-12 business practices. This provides a unique opportunity for MBA students to combine real world business and academic experience.

As a key member of Y-12's staff, the graduate assistant will take an active and significant role in increasing the analysis and decision making process related to Y-12 business efforts. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: (1) managing and researching Y-12 technologies and their commercial potential, (2) interacting with potential investors of Y-12 technologies, and (3) performing comprehensive business plan studies (such as metric, financial, and operational analyses) to support key Y-12 decisions. This program is specifically designed to give broad exposure to a variety of operational areas of Y-12 as well as interaction with Y-12 and UT senior management.

Benefits/Compensation

Applicants accepted into the graduate assistantship program and granted government clearance will receive:

- A university tuition waiver and student insurance for each semester on payroll. However, the tuition waiver **does not include the MBA program fees or other university fees**. In addition, acceptance of this Graduate Assistantship precludes you from other employment activities unless pre-approved by the MBA Office, plus you cannot qualify for more than 1 tuition waiver in a single semester.
- A competitive hourly rate.
- Exposure to and involvement with Y-12 senior management through meetings, projects, and presentations.
- Communication with a diverse array of businesses and industries such as start-up firms, Fortune 500 companies, and venture capitalists.
- The opportunity to practice and demonstrate critical thinking, analytical and presentation skills acquired in the UTK MBA program focusing on entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, technology commercialization and business analytics.
- Extensive real-world experience, a key discriminator for future employment.

Graduate Assistant Job Responsibilities

- Performing market research studies to lead the development of Y-12 commercialization strategies.
- Helping drive new technologies into the marketplace by increasing the technological, economic and social impact of Y-12's technology development efforts.
- Collaborating with Y-12 staff to develop partnerships that connect Y-12 technologies with a variety of commercial entities, the ultimate goal being to increase the commercial prospects of new Y-12 technologies.

- Analyzing Y-12 technologies and their potential to work in non-traditional ways and connecting Y-12 with corresponding commercial entities.
- Performing business analyses that support other key Y-12 efforts.

Requirements of Applicant

- U.S. Citizenship (mandatory).
- Bachelor's degree with preference being in a technical field. A minimum of 2 years of full-time work experience in fields such as sales, marketing, finance or engineering are preferred, but not required.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and excellent active listening skills.
- A desire to learn and expand your current skill set.
- Critical and "outside-the-box" thinking.
- Ability to thrive in a team environment and work effectively with researchers, business leaders and industry contacts.
- Proficiency in data analysis and Microsoft Excel and Access software programs.

Comments by Program Participants

"The Y-12 graduate assistantship has greatly enhanced my MBA program experience. Having the opportunity to work with senior management and develop professionally has been exciting. I am thankful for all Y-12 has offered me."
 – Will Chappell, UT MBA Class of 2009

"My graduate assistantship at Y-12 has permitted me to apply the concepts and teachings learned in the MBA program to real-world industry. Also, Y-12 has a real teamwork atmosphere that mirrors the attitude found in the program."
 – Michael Bowman, UT MBA Class of 2010

Application Process

Entry to the program is highly competitive; however, all interested students are encouraged to apply. Please electronically submit (do not send hard copies): 1) **Statement of Interest**, which should be no more than one page, representative of your "pitch" in communicating your skills, strengths, and the reason the Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program opportunity aligns with your career goals, and 2) a current **Resume**. **Electronically submit to MBAAAdvantage@utk.edu, with Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program as the subject line.**

Finalists for the **Y-12/UT MBA Career Advantage Program** will be asked to participate in a personal interview. Finalists must be admitted to the MBA program to be considered for this assistantship.

The **Priority Application Deadline is March 1**. Initial selection (including the award of up to 100% of available funds) will be made beginning April 1st.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is a premier manufacturing facility dedicated to making our nation and the world a safer place. Operated by B&W Y-12 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, Y-12 plays a vital role in the Department of Energy's Nuclear Security Enterprise.

Y-12 helps ensure a safe and reliable U.S. nuclear weapons deterrent. We also retrieve and store nuclear materials, fuel the nation's naval reactors, and perform complementary work for other government and private sector entities.