Operations Management Major
Unique Program Features and Opportunities

1. **Work Itself**: To work in operations management (OM), one needs to be able to manage multiple priorities, communicate with all levels of management, and demonstrate a greater level of dedication, commitment and responsibility. OM managers decide what needs to be done and when it must get done. The responsibilities/tasks to be done involve frequent change and collaboration with others. Continuous process improvement, maximizing profits, minimizing costs, synchronization of tasks, and optimization are second names of OM managers. Successful OM managers welcome change and diversity in tasks and personnel and have a constant eye for adding value. This creates an exciting and rewarding professional life.

2. **Plentiful Jobs & Good Salary**: Currently there are about 130 students enrolled in OM program at DESB. Roughly about 35 of them graduate every year. These are not sufficient numbers to even satisfy open jobs within the greater Salt Lake area let alone other foreign and domestic companies needing graduates with these skill sets. Most OM graduates have job offers at the end of their internship after the 3rd year at DESB and upon graduation several receive multiple job offers.

3. **Admission Process**: The unique OM experience starts right from when students enter upper division status and apply for admission into OM. This kick starts the interview process with the program director. During this informal visit, together they discuss things described above about the kinds of work OM managers do. The candidate is assessed using these criteria, one’s GPA and where they see themselves several years down in their professional career. Once the student is admitted into this elite program they become part of this student/faculty group which provides mutual support and professional development activities.

4. **Community Engaged/ Experiential Learning**: OM program at DESB is the only program which offers students the opportunity to be involved in projects/courses designated as community engaged learning. These experiential learning opportunities connect students with the greater community and provide instances where student teams help solve challenges facing local non-profit organizations.

5. **Operations in Practice**: This capstone class is again a part of the unique program and features OM graduates undertake. This class has two components: During the in-class learning module, students meet with a different faculty member from within the business school and work on a unique case and provide hypothetical solutions. The out-of-classroom component is truly a capstone opportunity in which students get to-gather in teams of 3-5 and solve real problems at real companies. Near the end of semester student teams present their results in these companies’ sponsored projects to the management teams of the host organizations and to the cognizant faculty members. – Thus adding value to a firm while still at the University.

6. **Internships**: Because OM program is connected with companies such as IM Flash Technologies, PepsiCo, GE Health Care, Utah Jazz, University of Utah Hospital & Clinics, Goldman Sachs, Boeing Aerospace company, BOSCH and the like; students are provided assistance through our dedicated undergraduate career management office in finding internships. OM program protocols call for juniors to be engaged in a professional (paid) internship during the summer prior to their senior year. This provides an excellent trial run for both the employer and the potential employee. Students often receive full time job offers at the conclusion of these internships.
7. **Study Abroad in Germany**: OM program at David Eccles School of Business offers a unique opportunity to study in Germany. Once there, students take classes (in English) from German faculty along with German students. Free German language classes are also offered. The OM classes are pre-approved and satisfy their graduation requirements at DESB. This semester abroad is a six month program and those who are interested in doing an internship in Germany with companies like BOSCH, Daimler, Porsche, Siemens and the like are provided assistance in applying for those opportunities at its conclusion. These internships last another six months after completing the coursework in Germany waive the capstone project requirement.

8. **Collaboration with Industry**: Operations Management related work is defined and performed in a unique way depending upon a service or manufacturing industry. Within each sector, tasks may yet again take different course but overall rely on the same skill set gained during the undergraduate program at DESB. Students are taken on tours of various companies and learn the inner-workings of these firms. This allows them the opportunity to short list the list of industry & companies in which they would like to be involved in during their careers. Some of the aforementioned companies form a part of this list.

9. **OM CO-OP Program**: This 7-month long paid CO-OP program with Goldman Sachs is again unique in DESB for students majoring in OM program. This program offers students at the end of their sophomore/junior year an incredible opportunity to be professionally engaged in America’s largest investment bank. Typically students start this coop-ship in January and work full time through July. During this time they earn regular salary typically offered to entering analysts. Upon completion of this program students attend fall and winter semesters at the U and complete their B.S. in OM and start working fulltime with the same firm. This CO-OP ship also waives the required capstone class for OM majors and serves as stepping stone to higher level responsibilities at Goldman.

10. **Student/Faculty Mentor Program**: OM program at DESB provides an opportunity to all students majoring in OM to attend a specially designated program called “Operations Seminar”. This 1-credit hour course taken every semester allows OM students to form a much closer network between themselves, faculty, and the employers at large. In this environment guest speakers from prominent industries are invited to speak and share their insight. Company tours are also arranged through this program. In addition skill building seminars like Excel proficiency, resume writing, interviewing skills and other professional value added seminars are held in this setting. This program is supervised by an OM faculty member who also serves as a mentor to all OM students as do seniors to juniors.

11. **Professional Certifications**: Certifications through professional organizations are used as evidence by peers in industry for one’s professional qualifications to hold certain positions. The operations management degree program at the DESB enables our undergraduates to obtain additional qualification through professionals in industry. After completing OIS 5650 (Six Sigma for Managers), students qualify to work on a project with their instructor, who is a Master Black Belt, to receive Green Belt Six Sigma certification. Similarly, after completing OIS 5640 (Project Management), students are eligible to apply for the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)® certification exam before completing their bachelor’s degrees in Operation Management.

**Message to Students:**

You are going to be an undergraduate student only once in your life. The major you choose at the University now will be the most probable career you will devote your working life to. Think what kinds of things you would like to be involved in 5, 10, or 15 years from now. If you like to be out and about, solve a variety of challenges and are not afraid of higher level responsibilities then Operations Management is the right major for you.

For more information and to **apply** to the major, visit: [http://undergrad.business.utah.edu/page/operations-management-0](http://undergrad.business.utah.edu/page/operations-management-0) or contact Professor Tariq Mughal at: tariq.mughal@business.utah.edu