

Lyda Ngin
Applied Learning – Reflection Paper

The wealth of knowledge I acquired from my academic courses in Public Administration proved to be an invaluable asset during my internship. Each class offered a detailed expertise, both theoretically and practically. Practices such as Strategic Leadership and Public Value, Organizational Leadership, and Qualitative Research Methodology enhanced my applied learning during the internship and contributed to my professional growth.

Although my initial goal was to intern with the United Way of Missoula County, a nonprofit organization dedicated to social impact in Missoula, Montana, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 thwarted my plans. Fortunately, I secured an alternate opportunity with Sinh, LLC, a private company in Grand Junction, Colorado. As a Strategic Communication Consultant, I utilized the academic skills acquired through my MPA program and prior work experience to deliver valuable outcomes for the company.

Participating in the Strategic Leadership and Public Value course gave me valuable skills that allowed me to analyze and understand my work environment effectively. By engaging with case studies, theories, and class discussions, I could identify the type of supervisor and colleagues I work with and tailor my leadership approach accordingly. At Sinh LLC., the executive is a macro manager focusing on achieving results.

Throughout my academic journey, I was fortunate enough to have a professor who provided unwavering support while pushing me to exceed my expectations. Thanks to the research techniques taught in the course, I learned to strive for excellence and never settle for mediocrity. Furthermore, the course taught me the importance of upholding ethical standards, maintaining credibility, and promoting transparency in all research and work completion aspects. These fundamental principles have proven invaluable in my current role as an independent consultant at Sinh, LL, where I am responsible for various research-related tasks such as data analysis and report organization. Additionally, I frequently communicate with web developers, carefully reviewing their terms and conditions, contracts, and services to explain clearly to my colleagues and clients. Without the practical experience gained from my research courses, I would have faced significant difficulty in accomplishing these tasks with the same level of efficiency and accuracy.

My experience with Sinh, LLC's Organizational Leadership program was genuinely enlightening. The program permitted me to observe various types of leaders and colleagues, which helped me reflect on my leadership qualities and areas for improvement. Throughout my internship, I gained insight into the unique leadership traits of private sector professionals, who displayed remarkable agility and efficiency in their decision-making processes. Working in both nonprofit and private sectors allowed me to sharpen my leadership skills and adapt my style to fit a variety of situations. As I consider my future in the social entrepreneurship sector - which combines elements of both nonprofit and private sectors - the skills I have developed will serve me well.

Upon reflection, I am deeply grateful for the invaluable knowledge and experiences I acquired while enrolled in the MPA program. The Strategic Leadership and Public Value, Qualitative Research Method, and Organizational Leadership courses proved highly beneficial during my tenure at Sinh, LLC. Additionally, I am assured that the other classes will be vital assets in my future career endeavors. I must also commend the Voinovich School of Ohio University faculty members for their strategic course design and effective delivery of the course content.