

How Wine Brings Career Success



In 1801, Thomas Jefferson's annual salary was \$25,000. That same year, Jefferson spent \$6,500 for provisions and groceries, \$2,700 for servants, and \$3,000 for wine. Most people today may not spend 12 percent of their annual salary on wine, but when looking at America's obsession with wine, we are not that far behind.

The U.S. is the world's leader in wine consumption (take that France!) and the retail value of wine sales rose 4 percent to \$30 billion in the U.S. last year. Wine is a huge industry in this country, and its foundation is in California.

Experts say that the wine industry will not only grow each year, it will also continue to change – so even more reason to study wine. "Wine education is important; since the most interesting thing about the wine industry is that you can never master it. It changes all the time.

You can never know everything about everything, but education helps," says Lisa Redwine, advance sommelier and SDSU wine instructor. "In fact, I study about an hour a day, just so I'm on top of things."

Wine study is a great way to break into the industry or keep up to date with this ever-changing product. Most people don't realize that they don't even need to know that much before embarking on a wine path. Redwine adds, "I remember a young student named Juan. He didn't know the difference between Chardonnay and Cabernet when he started his wine study. He now owns his own wine import company."

Juan is not the only one who changed his life after studying wine. "I recently got a phone call from a former student. He was in his 60s and he went on to open his own wine consulting business after earning his certificate, and I can name at least two students who now own their own wine stores," says Redwine.

Those two students, Traci Smith (owner of Splash Wine Bar in North Park) and Sandy Hanshaw (owner of The Wine Pub) reflect on how studying wine led them to owning their own businesses. "I was already on track for a career change, that being to open a wine bar. Taking wine classes did give me a lot of much needed wine knowledge that was a must in opening and running my wine bar and restaurant. I wouldn't have felt at all comfortable taking on such a business without the education," says Smith.

Hanshaw adds, "Taking the classes gave me the confidence and knowledge I needed to realize that I could have my own wine business

sometime in the future. And now I do! About a year after I completed the certification program, I was laid off from my career job, Hotel Sales. It was at this time that I made the change and opened up the Wine Pub. The certification program was a stepping stone to the success of the Wine Pub."

Even if you don't plan on opening a wine business, there are many other benefits to taking up wine study. For instance, you learn much more than tasting, you get real-life wine experience. "I really enjoyed the hands-on class at Stuart Cellars in Temecula. It was interesting to be in the barrel room and gaining firsthand knowledge on things that were happening with the wine right there in that room," says Hanshaw. Smith agrees, "We walked around the vineyards. We learned about what the vines need to grow well and produce good grapes. This helped me to better understand what goes into the wine before it even ends up in the bottle."

So whatever you want to do with your study, anything is attainable with wine.

NEW

Influence of Terroir Intensive

Dates and Time: Mondays, Oct. 10-24, 6-9 pm

This course examines wine terroir – the land from which the grapes are grown – which imparts a unique quality that is specific to that region.

California Intensive

Dates and Time: Mondays, Nov. 14-28, 6-9 pm

This course focuses on California wine, which has attained a prominent place on the international wine stage and has many interpretations of classic varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and a California original, Zinfandel.

Biomedical Quality Systems – Master of Science

Three Students Share Their Experiences

The Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Quality Systems (MSBQS) is a remarkable program. I could not have graduated in the time I did without the support I received from the BQS staff. My goal in obtaining a Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Quality Systems was to advantageously transition myself into a progressive and pioneering field.

The courses were scheduled in a 10-week period which made the assignment deadlines demanding, but manageable. This was a significant factor as a registered nurse with no experience in the biomedical device or pharmaceutical field. Each class objectives were clearly defined on the first day which helped me plan how I would handle the homework load. The BQS program maintained a standard feel with each class but also provided different instructors which kept my interest.

Since I continued to work full-time, studying online provided the flexibility I needed. I found the online platform beneficial because we had the opportunity to develop projects with classmates from all over the world. As a result there was an amazing, limitless exchange of information. Finally, the knowledge I gained from the courses in this program was invaluable and will undoubtedly help me in pursuing my new career.

Dorothy, San Diego, California

The Biomedical Quality Systems Master's degree taught me everything I needed to know about the importance of quality systems built in place in the biopharmaceutical industry. The courses include implementation of quality systems, necessity of validation programs, clinical designs and trials, importance of documentation and traceability, medical writing skills, communication as healthcare professionals, and much more. The program showed me abundant resources on the Internet regarding regulatory guidelines, code of regulations, and journals pertaining to the scope of the coursework. One of the best attributes of this program is the discussion board forum. This forum allows students to bounce ideas off each other and share their wealth of knowledge. Students from all over the world and from different dynamic companies are able to communicate and network with each other. Most of the students I have encountered were full-time working professionals in high profile companies as well as startup companies. The diversity of the students allow individuals to learn different processes companies utilize for each system in place.

Training on the job is one thing but it does not give you the background knowledge and history of why certain test analyses are used or why certain processes are performed in a certain way. The distance learning aspect of this program makes it very flexible and convenient for full time professionals to take courses and complete this Master's program.

Diane, Oceanside, California

The BQS program was amazing, and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in furthering their career in quality. The online courses were much more work than I thought, and I really felt like I learned the material at the end. I loved that many courses had graded assignments each week to help ensure you get the grades you earn throughout the course and not just whatever you score on the final. One important lesson I learned was how to better interact with a group over long distances and time zones. This really comes in handy when our company supply chain is global.

I entered this program as a newbie with only a few years of experience and was overwhelmed at first after introductions with my classmates who all had been pharmaceuticals for many years if not decades. However I quickly realized that the topics were easy to understand even for someone with less experience. I ended up learning great information from not just the teacher but also my peers.

The very small class sizes and open discussion forums were great for getting questions answered about the class or even networking about real life problems at work. The flexible electives system allowed me to take the classes I was the most interested in or that I thought would look better on my resume. I was nervous about getting through the university red tape living out of state but the staff was very knowledgeable and answered all of my questions so that everything ran smoothly.

Lisa, Edmonds, Washington