New graduate programs in business, science and social justice to come in 2021, 2022

From the Buffalo Business First:

New master’s degrees in business analytics, clinical and translational therapeutics and social justice are on the docket for upcoming academic years. Though these degrees were planned pre-pandemic, the health crisis is likely to have an impact on the need and interest.

**Canisius College**’s master’s in business analytics launches this fall and will be taught in a mix of online and in-person class time. The program will take full-time
students one calendar year to complete.

The master’s degree aims to combine data skills and fluency with the ability to understand business problems. While there are people who are experts at one or another, businesses need people who can understand and analyze data and also have the business acumen to explain results and insights, said Denise Rotondo, dean of Canisius’ Wehle School of Business.

Students will have projects and internships with local companies and will work with students in other master’s programs to solve problems collaboratively, as they would in the real world, Rotondo said.

Though the program was in the works prior to 2020, Rotondo said the pandemic accelerated the business trend of analyzing data to make strategic decisions as well as researching customer patterns.

The University at Buffalo is starting a master’s in clinical and translational therapeutics program this fall.

The degree, which is housed in UB’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, combines the knowledge of working in clinics with the ability to perform research, said Brian Tsuji, professor and associate dean of clinical and translational sciences. Students will choose a concentration in clinical trials, pharmacotherapy, translational pharmacology, experimental therapeutics and pharmaceutical outcomes.

The program typically takes one year to complete. The degree will give graduates an advantage when applying for fellowships, residencies or jobs in clinical pharmacy or the pharmaceutical industry.

Medaille College aims to launch its master’s degree in social justice and equity studies in fall 2022.

The program includes theory, academics and real-world experience on how to put leadership development and
activism into practice, said Nicole Jowsey, chair of Medaille’s department of interdisciplinary studies.

The degree, which will take two years to complete, may appeal to undergraduates who want to work in the fields of nonprofits, future diversity, equity and inclusion, law, social work or cultural studies.

“It’s really open to people who are interested in working in the community, organizing in social justice but want to take a bit of a different path and want more experience in that work,” she said.

Though the issues are certainly not new, the last 16 months have brought more attention to equality issues and socioeconomic differences, Jowsey said.

“The last year and a half have created a greater sense of urgency among different pockets in the community to say, ‘How can I help?’” said Kenya Hobbs, diversity, equity and inclusion vice president.

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