Unit 2 Self Directed Learning Plan (SDLP)

Download the SDLP Template:
http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/business/GB500/GB500_1306D/GB500_SDLP_Form.doc

Learning gains significance when it is related directly to your specific situation and goals. Your Self-Directed Learning Plan (SDLP) will help you identify and target the competencies you need to reach your professional objectives and also help you organize your Kaplan MBA learning experience to address your career objectives.

The SDLP will serve as a map of your progress throughout the Kaplan MBA program. View an example here: http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/business/GB500/GB500_1306D/GB500_sdlpexample.doc

You will identify your career goal and target development areas during GB500. At the beginning of each course, you will evaluate the course learning experience for relevance to your career goal and development areas. At the end of each course, you will reflect on how the course experience contributed to your professional development. The SDLP documents provide the history of your professional growth in the Kaplan MBA program.

We encourage you to continue to improve in your development areas throughout the program. The SDLP is your personal development plan that you may manage in a way that most benefits you. It may be stored in a folder on your personal PC or in your Program Portfolio. You will share it with each of your faculty so they can get to know your professional aspirations and assist your development. You may also wish to share it with your mentor(s) and career specialist.

Self-Directed Learning Plan (SDLP)

This week you will complete steps one and two of the SDLP. You will complete Step 3 in Unit 5. Revisions of Steps 2 and 3 are repeated in each course in the program.

First: Begin by filling out the first page, including a summary of your 3-5 year professional goal. State your goal with enough detail so your professors will understand the nature of the responsibilities associated with your objective.

If you are not sure of your goal, here are suggestions.

- Think of someone in a job that interests you. Find out a bit about their responsibilities and use that information to begin your SDLP. Since this is your personal document, you can adjust your goal as you become clearer about the profession you are attracted to. In fact, I hope your goal is modified due to your learning in the Kaplan MBA Program!

- The Career Center: https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/UniversityInfo/CareerResources/Index.aspx has many tools to help you create your career goals. You are encouraged to make use of these great tools and also to contact your Kaplan MBA Career Specialist Susan Tull at stull@kaplan.edu to discuss your professional interests.
• You may also want to visit the Kaplan Career Network at https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/Security/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCareerNetwork for additional resources.
• Watch a video about how to access the Career services at http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/crimJust/CJ101/CJ101CareerServices.htm

Second: Add your areas of development and strengths to leverage.

Your strengths to leverage are the skills, knowledge, and personal characteristics in which you excel, that motivate you, and are required by your professional objective. Your Insights Profile is an excellent data source. Be sure to include specific areas of expertise related to your professional goal.

**HINT:** Strong interpersonal skills can help you succeed even though you still have areas to improve upon. Thus, strengths in the interpersonal arena (e.g., approachability) would be important to leverage.

Your areas to develop are undeveloped skills, knowledge, and personal characteristics you need to be able to be successful in your target career. Your Insights Profile will help you determine your priority areas to develop.

Third: Link your strengths to leverage and areas to develop to GB500 course outcomes.

After exploring the course description, course outcomes, unit themes and outcomes, complete Step 2 of your SDLP for this course. Not all courses will directly impact your strengths to leverage and your areas of development. I encourage you to reflect earnestly about how the course content and experience might serve your goals, as well as about what you might proactively do in the course to develop in your target areas.

Once you have listed the strengths to leverage and areas to develop in column one, connect how you believe this course will help you improve in those areas by connecting to the **GB500 course outcomes listed below (place in column two):**

- **GB500-1:** Synthesize interrelationships among fundamental functions, resources, and processes that comprise the business system.
- **GB500-2:** Analyze personal styles and skills relative to leading and participating in virtual teams.
- **GB500-3:** Determine appropriate solutions for situations involving competition and collaboration in the global economy.

Provide a brief explanation of why you included the outcomes in column two and why you believe this will help you improve your skill areas.

Fourth: Submit your SDLP for GB500

Save your SDLP in a location and with a name that you will remember. Submit your SDLP Word document to the Unit 2: SDLP Dropbox.

This assignment will be graded based on evidence of thoughtful development of your SDLP.
I look forward to learning about your professional goal and how I can help you achieve it in this course. If you are prepared to submit it before the end of the unit week, please do. This will give me an opportunity to connect with each of you early in the term.

### SDLP Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Grading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Status on most action items</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Thoughtful modification and additions to objectives and actions that reflect development progress in the target area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reflects awareness of how course experience did or did not contribute to achieving professional objectives relative to several dimensions</td>
<td>23-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Status on some action items</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minimal modification or addition to objectives and actions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describes course experience and relates generally to professional objectives</td>
<td>20-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Status on one or two items</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No modification or addition to objectives and actions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describes course experience</td>
<td>16-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Very little or no activity on SDLP</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No SDLP or it consists of simple comment, such as &quot;I liked the course.&quot;</td>
<td>0-15</td>
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</tbody>
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