

MBA student Josh Rubin finds a business program to balance his wine

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"Making sound scientific decisions and sound business decisions shouldn't be mutually exclusive," he said. "The way the science fits in is that you get to make operational decisions that make sense from a scientific perspective."

Rubin turned to CSUCI's program, hosted at the University's Goleta campus. He enjoys the in-person experience.

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"I wanted an in-class MBA," he said. "There are a million online programs out there with big names, but you're not going to get the same experience out of it. It's the people: there's a really cool blend of other disciplines in our cohort."

Rubin also appreciates his newfound fluency in the language of practical business - before the program, he found accounting and financial statements daunting.

"Now I have the language to back up the arguments I'm trying to make on how science can save us money," he said. "It's the greatest immediate improvement for me."

And on the operations side, Rubin has found his management approach.

"Previously, I was expecting people to perform by the standards I hold for myself, and that's not really correct," he said. "When someone has different strengths than you, it could mean that they are the exact complement that your team needs."

"I think about my team differently now. What can I do to help them excel in the best way possible? Asking and answering that question is a lot of what management is."

The MBA is a program of CSUCI's Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics. It is offered in [Thousand Oaks](#) and in [Santa Barbara/Goleta](#) through CSUCI Extended University.