



#### Letter FROM THE AUTHORS

#### **Dear Business Students**

How do you define success? For some, success is a high-paying job, promotions, and financial security. For others, success is finding a rewarding balance between work and personal time. Regardless of how you define success or what your personal goals are, we wrote this text with one purpose: To help you succeed not only in today's competitive business world, but also in your personal life.

As authors, we believe that success is measured not only by the grade you receive at the end of the semester, but also by how you use the information and concepts in this text to build a foundation for a better life. It's important to begin reading this text with one thing in mind. This business course doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, learning about business and how you can become successful can be fun. To help you succeed, this new edition of *Foundations of Business* is packed with updated content and information that can help you not only get a better grade, but also help you reach your personal goals and enjoy a successful life.

We worked hard to make sure there's something in every chapter to help you understand the world of business and become a better employee, a more informed consumer, and, if it's your dream—a successful business owner. In every chapter, you find special coverage about how social media, efforts to sustain the planet, the current state of the economy, and the challenges that face the nation impact businesses, employees, and consumers. All new boxed features help reinforce the success theme, including Career Success, Ethical Success or Failure, Entrepreneurial Success, and Striving for Success. You can also use the concept checks, chapter summary, discussion questions, and case problems to reinforce important concepts. And the activities in the Building Skills for Career Success at the end of each chapter will help to improve the skills you need for success.

We're especially proud of the CourseMate website for *Foundations of Business*. A number of learning activities—all designed to help you to experience success—are available at cengagebrain.com. There you will find:

- Interactive quizzes
- Student PowerPoint slides
- Links to videos
- Chapter audio reviews
- · Games and crossword puzzles
- Interactive flashcards

It's time! Take the next step and read Chapter 1 to see how Pride/Hughes/Kapoor can help you learn about business and enjoy success in not only your career, but also your life.

Sincerely

Bill Pride w-pride@tamu.edu Bob Hughes bhughes@dcccd.edu Jack Kapoor kapoorj@cod.edu

# Foundations of Business

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William M. Pride

Texas A&M University

Robert J. Hughes

Dallas County Community Colleges

Jack R. Kapoor

College of DuPage



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Senior Vice President, Global Product Manager,

Higher Education: Jack W. Calhoun

Vice President, General Manager, Social Science

& Qualitative Business: Erin Joyner Product Director: Mike Schenk Product Manager: Jason Fremder

Sr. Content Developer: Joanne Dauksewicz

Product Assistant: Megan Fischer Marketing Manager: Robin LeFevre Content Project Manager: Darrell E. Frye

Media Developer: Kristin Meere

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To Nancy, Allen, Michael, Ashley, Charlie, and James Robinson Pride
To my wife Peggy and to my mother Barbara Hughes
To my wife Theresa; my children Karen, Kathryn, and Dave; and in
memory of my parents Ram and Sheela Kapoor

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### About the Authors

#### William M. Pride Texas A&M University

William M. Pride is professor of marketing, Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. He received his PhD from Louisiana State University. He is the author of Cengage Learning's *Marketing*, 15th edition, and a market leader. Dr. Pride's research interests are in advertising, promotion, and distribution channels. His research articles have appeared in major journals in the fields of advertising and marketing, such as *Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, and the *Journal of Advertising*. Dr. Pride is a member of the American Marketing Association, Academy of Marketing Science, Association of Collegiate Marketing Educators, Society for Marketing Advances, and the Marketing Management Association. He has taught principles of marketing and other marketing courses for more than 30 years at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

#### Robert J. Hughes Richland College, Dallas County Community Colleges

Robert J. Hughes (PhD, University of North Texas) specializes in business administration and college instruction. He has taught Introduction to Business for more than 35 years both on campus and online for Richland College—one of the seven campuses that are part of the Dallas County Community College District. In addition to Business and Foundations of Business, published by Cengage Learning, he has authored college textbooks in personal finance and business mathematics; served as a content consultant for two popular national television series, It's Strictly Business and Dollars & Sense: Personal Finance for the 21st Century; and is the lead author for a business math project utilizing computer-assisted instruction funded by the ALEKS Corporation. He is also active in many academic and professional organizations and has served as a consultant and investment advisor to individuals, businesses, and charitable organizations. Dr. Hughes is the recipient of three different Teaching in Excellence Awards at Richland College. According to Dr. Hughes, after 35 years of teaching Introduction to Business, the course is still exciting: "There's nothing quite like the thrill of seeing students succeed, especially in a course like Introduction to Business, which provides the foundation for not only academic courses, but also life in the real world."

#### Jack R. Kapoor College of DuPage

Jack R. Kapoor (EdD, Northern Illinois University) is professor of business and economics in the Business and Technology Division at the College of DuPage, where he has taught Introduction to Business, Marketing, Management, Economics, and Personal Finance since 1969. He previously taught at Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Management, San Francisco State University's School of World Business, and other colleges. Professor Kapoor was awarded the Business and Services Division's Outstanding Professor Award for 1999–2000. He served as an Assistant National Bank Examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department and as an international trade consultant to Bolting Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Mumbai, India.

He is known internationally as a coauthor of several textbooks, including Foundations of Business, 3rd edition (Cengage Learning), has served as a content consultant for the popular national television series The Business File: An Introduction to Business, and developed two full-length audio courses in business and personal finance. He has been quoted in many national newspapers and magazines, including USA Today, U.S. News & World Report, the Chicago Sun-Times, Crain's Small Business, the Chicago Tribune, and other publications.

Dr. Kapoor has traveled around the world and has studied business practices in capitalist, socialist, and communist countries.

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Michael Bento,

Owens Community College

Patricia Bernson,

County College of Morris

Laura Bulas,

Central Community College, NE

Brennan Carr,

Long Beach City College

Paul Coakley,

The Community College of

Baltimore County

Jean Condon,

Mid-Plains Community College

Mary Cooke,

Surry Community College

Dean Danielson,

San Joaquin Delta College

John Donnellan,

Holyoke Community College

Gary Donnelly, Casper College

Karen Edwards,

Raich Edwards,

Chemeketa Community College

Donna K. Fisher,

Georgia Southern University

Charles R. Foley,

Columbus State Community

College

Mark Fox,

Indiana University South Bend

Connie Golden,

Lakeland Community College

Karen Gore,

Ivy Tech Community College—

Evansville

Carol Gottuso,

Metropolitan Community College

John Guess,

Delgado Community College

Frank Harber,

Indian River State College

Linda Hefferin,

Elgin Community College

Tom Hendricks,

Oakland Community College

Chip Izard,

Richland College

Eileen Kearney,

Montgomery Community College

Anita Kelley,

Harold Washington College

Mary Beth Klinger,

College of Southern Maryland

Natasha Lindsey,

University of North Alabama

Robert Lupton,

Central Washington University

John Mago,

Anoka Ramsey Community

College

Rebecca J. Mahr,

Western Illinois University

Pamela G. McElligott,

St. Louis Community College

Meramec

Myke McMullen,

Long Beach City College

Carol Miller,

Community College of Denver

Jadeip Motwani,

Grand Valley State

Mark Nagel,

Normandale Community College

Dyan Pease,

Sacramento City College

Jeffrey D. Penley,

Catawba Valley Community

College

Angela J. Rabatin,

Prince George's Community College

Anthony Racka,

Oakland Community College—

Auburn Hills Campus

Dwight Riley,

Richland College

Kim Rocha,

Barton College

Carol Rowey,

Community College of Rhode

Island

Christy Shell,

Houston Community College

Cindy Simerly,

Lakeland Community College

Yolanda I. Smith,

Northern Virginia Community

College

Gail South,

Montgomery College

Rieann Spence-Gale,

Northern Virginia Comm.

College—Alexandria Campus

Kurt Stanberry,

University of Houston, Downtown

John Striebich,

Monroe Community College

Keith Taylor,

Lansing Community College

Tricia Trover,

Waubonsee Community College

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W. M. P.

R. J. H

J. R. K

#### **Advisory Board**

Pride/Hughes/Kapoor, FOUNDATIONS OF BUSINESS, 3e (Conducted in-depth reviews, attended focus groups, responded to quick mini-surveys)

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Michael Bento Owens Community College Patricia Bernson County College of Morris Brennan Carr Long Beach City College Paul Coakley The Community College of Baltimore County Donna K. Fisher Georgia Southern University Charles R. Foley Columbus State Community College Connie Golden Lakeland Community College John Guess Delgado Community College Frank Harber Indian River State College

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## **Exploring the World of Business and Economics**

#### **Learning Objectives**

What you will be able to do once you complete this chapter:

- Discuss what you must do to be successful in the world of business.
- Define *business* and identify potential risks and rewards.
- Define *economics* and describe the two types of economic systems: capitalism and command economy.
- Identify the ways to measure economic performance.

- Examine the different phases in the typical business cycle.
- Outline the four types of competition.
- Summarize the factors that affect the business environment and the challenges that American businesses will encounter in the future.

#### Why Should You Care?

Studying business will help you to choose a career, become a successful employee or manager, start your own business, and become a more informed consumer and better investor.

Get Flashcards, Quizzes, Games, Crosswords, and more @ www.cengagebrain.com.

#### **How Starbucks Brews Up Global Profits**

Starbucks was a small, decade-old business in 1981 when Howard Schultz happened to be in its store in Seattle's Pike Place Market and sipped the founder's freshly brewed coffee. Intrigued by the product and the possibilities, he soon joined the firm. Then he traveled to Italy and got a first hand taste of the robust espressos and the welcoming ambiance in local coffeehouses. Back home, Schultz decided to start his own company, opening European-style cafés serving premium coffees brewed to order. A few years later, he and a group of investors bought Starbucks and began opening cafés all across America. To raise millions of dollars for funding new cafés and creating new products, Starbucks sold stock and became a publicly traded corporation in 1992.

Now, after 25 years of aggressive growth, Starbucks has spread its unique brand of coffee culture around the country and around the world. The company's familiar green-and-white mermaid logo appears on its nearly 18,000 cafés in 60 countries, with future openings planned throughout Asia, Northern Europe, and beyond. The ever-expanding menu includes hot and iced coffees and teas, fruit juices and chilled drinks, and an assortment of pastries, wraps,

and yogurts. Thanks to acquisitions and partnerships, the Starbucks empire also includes packaged coffee beans, coffee ice cream, coffee drinks, and fruit juices sold in supermarkets, as well as high-tech coffeemakers for home and office.

Starbucks is a company with a conscience. It provides health-care coverage to both full-time and part-time employees, a benefit that many companies offer to full-timers only. It also emphasizes environment-friendly practices such as composting coffee grounds, conserving water, and recycling paper, glass, and plastic. In addition, Starbucks is piloting the development of smaller, certified energy-efficient stores constructed from locally available materials. Looking ahead, how will Starbucks handle such critical challenges as intense competition and economic uncertainty?<sup>1</sup>

#### Did You Know?

Starbucks rings up more than \$13 billion in annual revenue through nearly 18,000 cafés in 60 nations.

Wow! What a challenging world we live in. Just for a moment, think about how you would answer the question below.

In the future, which of the following is the most serious problem facing Americans?

- a. The national debt.
- b. The high unemployment rate.
- c. A volatile stock market.
- d. Consumer pessimism.
- e. An unstable economy and business environment.

Unfortunately there is no one best answer because all of the above options are serious problems facing you, American businesses, and the nation. Ask almost anyone, and they will tell you that they are worried about at least one or more of the above problems. At the time of the publication of your text, there are signs of economic improvement when compared to the last five years, but people still worry about their future and the future of the nation. Still, it is important to remember the old adage, "History is a great teacher." Both the nation and individuals should take a look at what went wrong to avoid making the same mistakes in the future.

In addition, it helps to keep one factor in mind: Our economy continues to adapt and change to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world and to provide opportunities for those who want to achieve success. Our economic system provides an amazing amount of freedom that allows businesses like Starbucks—the company profiled in the Inside Business opening case for this chapter—to adapt to changing business environments. Despite troubling economic times and a weak economy, Starbucks—and its employees—is a success because it was able to introduce new products, open new stores, meet the needs of its customers, earn a profit, and sell stock to the general public.

Within certain limits, imposed mainly to ensure public safety, the owners of a business can produce any legal good or service they choose and attempt to sell it at the price they set. This system of business, in which individuals decide what to produce, how to produce it, and at what price to sell it, is called **free enterprise**. Our free-enterprise system ensures, for example, that Amazon.com can sell everything from televisions, toys, and tools to computers, cameras, and clothing. Our system gives Amazon's owners and stockholders the right to make a profit from the company's success. It gives Amazon's management the right to compete with bookstore rival Barnes & Noble and electronics giant Sony. It also gives you—the consumer—the right to choose.

In this chapter, we look briefly at what business is and how it became that way. First, we discuss what you must do to be successful in the world of business and explore some important reasons for studying business. Then we define *business*, noting how business organizations satisfy their customers' needs and earn profits. Next, we examine how capitalism and command economies answer four basic economic questions. Then our focus shifts to how the nations of the world measure economic performance, the phases in a typical business cycle, and the four types of competitive situations. Next, we look at the events that helped shape today's business system, the current business environment, and the challenges that businesses face.

**free enterprise** the system of business in which individuals are free to decide what to produce, how to produce it, and at what price to sell it

## YOUR FUTURE IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF BUSINESS

The key word in this heading is *changing*. When faced with both economic problems and increasing competition not only from firms in the United States but also from international firms located in other parts of the world, employees and managers began to ask the question: What do we do now? Although this is a fair question, it is difficult to answer. Certainly, for a college student taking business courses or an employee just starting a career, the question is even more difficult to answer. Yet there are still opportunities out there for people who are willing to work hard, continue to learn, and possess the ability to adapt to change. Let's begin our discussion in this section with three basic concepts.

- What do you want?
- Why do you want it?
- Write it down!

During a segment on a national television talk show, Joe Dudley, one of the world's most respected black business owners, gave the preceding advice to anyone who wanted to succeed in business. His advice can help you achieve success. What is so amazing about Dudley's success is that he started a manufacturing business in his own kitchen, with his wife and children serving as the new firm's only employees. He went on to develop his own line of hair-care and cosmetic products sold directly to cosmetologists, barbers, beauty schools, and consumers in the United States and 18 foreign countries. Today, Mr. Dudley has a multimillion-dollar empire—one of the most successful minority-owned companies in the nation. He is not only a successful business owner but also a winner of the Horatio Alger Award—an award given to outstanding individuals who have succeeded in the face of adversity.<sup>2</sup>

Although many people would say that Joe Dudley was just lucky or happened to be in the right place at the right time, the truth is that he became a success because he had a dream and worked hard to turn his dream into a reality. He would be the first to tell you that you have the same opportunities that he had. According to Mr. Dudley, "Success is a journey, not just a destination."

Whether you want to obtain part-time employment to pay college and living expenses, begin your career as a full-time employee, or start a business, you must *bring* something to the table that makes you different from the next person. Employers and

#### **Learning Objective**

Discuss what you must do to be successful in the world of business.

#### **Career Success**

### Improve Your Productivity!



No matter what career you choose, you'll be much more effective on the job if you use these five keys to higher productivity.

- Focus on one task at a time. If you divide your attention, you can't apply as much mental muscle to complex projects or difficult challenges.
- Make your workload more manageable. Divide large tasks into small steps so you won't feel as intimidated by all you have to accomplish. Just as important, you can determine which steps should be completed now and which can wait for another day.
- 3. Organize your work space and your work day. It's easier to focus and put your hands on the materials you need when you're not surrounded by clutter. Keep yourself on track by making notes (electronically or on paper) about what you plan to do and when. If you don't complete your daily or weekly "to do" list, check again to see what should take priority and what you can cut out or postpone.
- 4. Structure your time. Plan to avoid distractions and interruptions during some parts of every work day. Turn off your e-mail, close the web browser, and settle down to concentrate for a set period.
- 5. Give your brain a break. Treat yourself to a brief break every few hours. Stand up, stretch, walk around if you can, and think about something else for a couple of minutes. When you return to the task at hand, you'll feel more refreshed—and you may even have some fresh ideas.

Sources: Based on information in Daniel Bortz, "10 Ways to Be More Productive at Work," *U.S. News & World Report*, May 4, 2012, http://money.usnews.com; Sabah Karimi, "7 Ways to Jump-Start Your Productivity at Work," *U.S. News & World Report*, February 27, 2012, http://money.usnews.com; Eilene Zimmerman, "Distracted? It's Time to Hit the Reset Button," *New York Times*, November 19, 2011, www.nytimes.com; Daniel McGinn, "Being More Productive," *Harvard Business Review*, May 2011, http://hbr.org.

our economic system are more demanding than ever before. Ask yourself: What can I do that will make employers want to pay me a salary? What skills do I have that employers need? With these two questions in mind, we begin the next section with another basic question: Why study business?

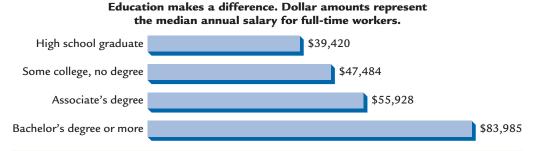
#### Why Study Business?

The potential benefits of higher education are enormous. To begin with, there are economic benefits. Over their lifetimes, college graduates on average earn much more than high school graduates. Although lifetime earnings are substantially higher for college graduates, so are annual income amounts (see Figure 1-1). In addition to higher income, you will find at least five compelling reasons for studying business.

FOR HELP IN CHOOSING A CAREER What do you want to do with the rest of your life? Like many people, you may find it a difficult question to answer. This business course will introduce you to a wide array of employment opportunities. In private enterprise, these range from small, local businesses owned by one individual to large companies such as American Express and Marriott International that are owned by thousands of stockholders. There are also employment opportunities with federal, state, county, and local governments and with charitable organizations such as the Red Cross and Save the Children. For help in deciding which career might be right for you, read Appendix B: Careers in Business, which appears on the text website. To view this information:

- 1. Go to www.cengagebrain.com.
- 2. At the CengageBrain.com home page, search for the ISBN for your book (located on the back cover of your book) using the search box at the top of the page. This will take you to the product page where companion resources can be found.

#### FIGURE 1-1 Who Makes the Most Money?



Source: "Educational Attainment of Householder—Households with Householder 25 Years Old and Over by Median and Mean Income," The U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov (accessed January 2, 2013).

In addition to career information in Appendix B, a number of additional websites provide information about career development. For more information, visit the following sites:

- Career Builder at www.careerbuilder.com
- Career One Stop at www.careeronestop.org
- Monster at www.monster.com

To click your career into high gear, you can also use online networking to advance your career. Websites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social media sites can help you locate job openings, help prospective employers to find you, and make a good impression on current and future employers. To make the most of online networking, begin by identifying and joining sites where you can connect with potential employers, former classmates, and others who may have or may hear of job openings. Next, be sure your online profiles, photographs, and posts communicate your abilities and interests. Finally, be ready to respond quickly when you spot a job opening.

One thing to remember as you think about what your ideal career might be is that a person's choice of a career ultimately is just a reflection of what he or she values and holds most important. What will give one individual personal satisfaction may not satisfy another. For example, one person may dream of a career as a corporate executive and becoming a millionaire before the age of 30. Another may choose a career that has more modest monetary rewards but that provides the opportunity to help others. What you choose to do with your life will be based on what you feel is most important. And *you* are a very important part of that decision.

**TO BE A SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEE** Deciding on the type of career you want is only the first step. To get a job in your chosen field

and to be successful at it, you will have to develop a plan, or a road map, that ensures that you have the skills and knowledge the job requires. You will also be expected to have the ability to work well with many types of people in a culturally diverse workforce. **Cultural (or workplace) diversity** refers to the differences among people in a workforce owing to race, ethnicity, and gender. These skills and an appreciation for a culturally diverse workplace, can give you an inside edge when you are interviewing with a prospective employer.

This course, your instructor, and all of the resources available at your college or university can help you to acquire the skills and knowledge you will need for a successful career. But do not underestimate your part in making your dream a reality. In addition to the job-related skills and knowledge you'll need to be successful in a specific job, employers will also look for the following characteristics when hiring a new employee or promoting an existing employee:

- Honesty and integrity
- Willingness to work hard
- Dependability
- Time management skills
- Self-confidence
- Motivation
- Willingness to learn
- Communication skills
- Professionalism

Employers will also be interested in any work experience you may have had in cooperative work/school programs, during summer vacations, or in part-time jobs during the school year. These things can make a difference when it is time to apply for the job you really want.

#### **Personal Apps**

## Sometimes you have to reach for success!

There's an old saying that if you choose a career you like, you never have to work a day in your life. For most people, the first decision is choosing a career. Then the material in the sections "To Be a Successful Employee" and "To Improve Your Management Skills" can help you achieve success.



cultural (or workplace) diversity differences among people in a workforce owing to race, ethnicity, and gender



#### A life changing decision! Often

the most important factor to consider when choosing a career is what you think is important. For some people, more responsibility, promotions, and money may be important. For others, more free time and the opportunity to help others may be more important. Ultimately, it's your choice—an important choice that can affect the rest of your life.

**TO IMPROVE YOUR MANAGEMENT SKILLS** Many employees want to become managers because managers often receive higher salaries and can earn promotions within an organization. Although management obviously can be a rewarding career, what is not so obvious is the amount of time and hard work needed to achieve the higher salaries and promotions. For starters, employers expect more from managers and supervisors than ever before. Typically, the heavy workload requires that managers work long hours, and most do not get paid overtime. They also face increased problems created by an unstable economy, increased competition, employee downsizing, the quest for improved quality, and the need for efficient use of the firm's resources.

To be an effective manager, managers must be able to perform four basic management functions: planning, organizing, leading and motivating, and controlling. All four topics are discussed in Chapter 6, Understanding the Management Process. To successfully perform these management functions, managers must possess four very important skills.

- *Interpersonal skills*—The ability to deal effectively with individual employees, other managers within the firm, and people outside the firm.
- *Analytic skills*—The ability to identify problems correctly, generate reasonable alternatives, and select the "best" alternatives to solve problems.
- Technical skills—The skill required to accomplish a specific kind of work being
  done in an organization. Although managers may not actually perform the
  technical tasks, they should be able to train employees and answer technical
  questions.
- Conceptual skills—The ability to think in abstract terms in order to see the "big picture." Conceptual skills help managers understand how the various parts of an organization or idea can fit together.

In addition to the four skills just described, a successful manager will need many of the same characteristics that an employee needs to be successful.

**TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS** Some people prefer to work for themselves, and they open their own businesses. To be successful, business owners must possess many of the same characteristics that successful employees have, and they must be willing to work hard and put in long hours.

It also helps if your small business can provide a product or service that customers want. For example, Steve Demeter, the CEO and founder of the software development firm Demiforce, began his career by creating the *Trism* application for the Apple iPhone. *Trism* was an immediate sensation and sold 50,000 copies at \$4.99 in its first two months on Apple's App Store. Now Demeter and the employees at Demiforce are working with a number of promising ideas in the works all with one goal in mind: to provide games and applications that people want.<sup>4</sup>

Unfortunately, many small-business firms fail: Approximately 70 percent of them fail within the first ten years. Typical reasons for business failures include undercapitalization (not enough money), poor business location, poor customer service, unqualified or untrained employees, fraud, lack of a proper business plan, and failure to seek outside professional help. The material in Chapter 5, Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Franchises, and selected topics and examples throughout this text will help you to decide whether you want to open your own business. This material will also help you to overcome many of these problems.

#### Concept Check

- ✓ What reasons would you give if you were advising someone to study business?
- ✓ What factors affect a person's choice of careers?
- Once you have a job, what steps can you take to be successful?

#### TO BECOME A BETTER INFORMED CONSUMER AND INVESTOR The

world of business surrounds us. You cannot buy a home, a new Ford Fusion Hybrid from the local Ford dealer, a pair of jeans at Gap Inc., or a hot dog from a street vendor without entering into a business transaction. Because you no doubt will engage in business transactions almost every day of your life, one very good reason for studying business is to become a more fully informed consumer.

Many people also rely on a basic understanding of business to help them to invest for the future. According to Julie Stav, Hispanic stockbroker-turned-author/radio personality, "Take \$25, add to it drive plus determination and then watch it multiply into

an empire."<sup>5</sup> The author of *Get Your Share* believes that it is important to learn the basics about the economy and business, stocks, mutual funds, and other alternatives before investing your money. She also believes that it is never too early to start investing. Although this is an obvious conclusion, just dreaming of being rich does not make it happen. In fact, like many facets of life, it takes planning and determination to establish the type of investment program that will help you to accomplish your financial goals.

#### **Special Note to Business Students**

It is important to begin reading this text with one thing in mind: *This business course does not have to be difficult*. We have done everything possible to eliminate the problems that you encounter in a typical class. All of the features in each chapter have been evaluated and recommended by instructors with years of teaching experience. In addition, business students were asked to critique each chapter component. Based on this feedback, the text includes the following features:

- Learning objectives appear at the beginning of each chapter.
- *Inside Business* is a chapter-opening case that highlights how successful companies do business on a day-to-day basis.
- *Margin notes* are used throughout the text to reinforce both learning objectives and key terms.
- Boxed features in each chapter highlight how both employees and entrepreneurs can be ethical and successful.
- *Two Personal Apps* in each chapter provide special student-centered examples and explanations that help you immediately grasp and retain the material.
- *Sustaining the Planet* features provide information about companies working to protect the environment.
- Social Media features provide examples of how businesses and individuals are using social networking and social media sites.
- *Concept Checks* at the end of each major section within a chapter help you test your understanding of the major issues just discussed.
- *End-of-chapter materials* provide a chapter summary, a list of key terms, discussion questions, a Test Yourself Quiz, and a video case about a successful, real-world company.
- The last section of every chapter is entitled *Building Skills for Career Success* and includes exercises devoted to enhancing your social media skills, building team skills, and researching different careers.
- End-of-part materials provide a continuing video case about Graeter's Ice Cream, a company that operates a chain of retail outlets in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area and sells to Kroger Stores and other retailers throughout the country. Also, at the end of each major part is an exercise designed to help you to develop the components that are included in a typical business plan.

In addition to the text, a number of student supplements will help you to explore the world of business. We are especially proud of the website that accompanies this edition. There, you will find online study aids, such as interactive quizzes, key terms and definitions, student PowerPoint slides, crossword puzzles, and links to the videos for each chapter. If you want to take a look at the Internet support materials available for this edition of *Business*,

- 1. Go to www.cengagebrain.com.
- 2. At the CengageBrain.com home page, search for the ISBN for your book (located on the back cover of your book) using the search box at the top of the page. This will take you to the textbook website where companion resources can be found.

As authors, we want you to be successful. We know that your time is valuable and that your schedule is crowded with many different activities. We also appreciate the fact that textbooks are expensive. Therefore, we want you to use this text and get the most out of your investment. To help you get off to a good start, a number of suggestions for developing effective study skills and using this text are provided in Table 1-1.

TABLE 1-1 Seven Ways to Use This Text and Its Resources

Prepare before you     go to class.	Early preparation is the key to success in many of life's activities. Certainly, early preparation for this course can help you to participate in class, ask questions, and improve your performance on examinations.
2. Read the chapter.	Although it may seem like an obvious suggestion, many students never take the time to really read the material. Find a quiet space where there are no distractions, and invest enough time to become a "content expert."
Underline or highlight important concepts.	Make this text yours. Do not be afraid to write on the pages of your text or highlight important material. It is much easier to review material if you have identified important concepts.
4. Take notes.	While reading, take the time to jot down important points and summarize concepts in your own words. Also, take notes in class.
5. Apply the concepts.	Learning is always easier if you can apply the content to your real-life situation. Think about how you could use the material either now or in the future.
6. Practice critical thinking.	Test the material in the text. Do the concepts make sense? To build critical-thinking skills, answer the discussion questions and the questions that accompany the cases at the end of each chapter. Also, many of the exercises in the Building Skills for Career Success require critical thinking.
7. Prepare for the examinations.	discussion questions and the questions that accompany the cases at the end of each chapter. Also, many of the exercises in the Building Skills for Career Success require critical thinking.  Allow enough time to review the material before the examinations. Check out the concept check questions at the end of each major section in the chapter and the summary at the end of the chapter. Then use the resources on the text website.

Because a text should always be evaluated by the students and instructors who use it, we would welcome and sincerely appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us by using one of the following e-mail addresses:

Bill Pride: w-pride@tamu.edu Bob Hughes: bhughes@dcccd.edu Jack Kapoor: kapoorj@cod.edu

#### **Learning Objective**

Define *business* and identify potential risks and rewards.

**business** the organized effort of individuals to produce and sell, for a profit, the goods and services that satisfy society's needs

#### **BUSINESS: A DEFINITION**

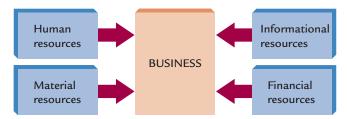
**Business** is the organized effort of individuals to produce and sell, for a profit, the goods and services that satisfy society's needs. The general term *business* refers to all such efforts within a society (as in "American business"). However, *a business* is a particular organization, such as Kraft Foods, Inc., or Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores. To be successful, a business must perform three activities. It must be organized, it must satisfy needs, and it must earn a profit.

#### The Organized Effort of Individuals

For a business to be organized, it must combine four kinds of resources: material, human, financial, and informational. *Material* resources include the raw materials used in manufacturing processes as well as buildings and machinery. For example, Mrs. Fields Cookies needs flour, sugar, butter, eggs, and other raw materials to produce the food products it sells worldwide. In addition, this Colorado-based company needs human, financial, and informational resources. *Human* resources are the people who furnish their labor to the business in return for wages. The *financial* resource is the money required to pay employees, purchase materials, and generally keep the business operating. *Information* is the resource that tells the managers of the business how effectively the other three resources are being combined and used (see Figure 1-2).

Today, businesses are usually organized as one of three specific types. *Service businesses* produce services, such as haircuts, legal advice, or tax preparation. H&R Block provides tax preparation, retail banking, and software and digital products to both businesses and consumers in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

#### A business must combine all four resources effectively to be successful.



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Manufacturing businesses process various materials into tangible goods, such as delivery trucks, towels, or computers. Intel, for example, produces computer chips that, in turn, are sold to companies that manufacture computers. Finally, some firms called marketing intermediaries buy products from manufacturers and then resell them. Sony Corporation is a manufacturer that produces stereo equipment, televisions, and other electronic products. These products may be sold to a marketing intermediary such as Best Buy or Walmart, which then resells the manufactured goods to consumers in their retail stores.

#### **Satisfying Needs**

The ultimate objective of every firm must be to satisfy the needs of its customers. People generally do not buy goods and services simply to own them; they buy goods and services to satisfy particular needs. Some of us may feel that the need for transportation is best satisfied by an air-conditioned BMW with navigation system, stereo system, heated and cooled seats, automatic transmission, power windows, and remote-control side mirrors. Others may believe that a Chevrolet Sonic with a stick shift will do just fine. Both products are available to those who want them, along with a wide variety of other products that satisfy the need for transportation.

When firms lose sight of their customers' needs, they are likely to find the going rough. However, when businesses understand their customers' needs and work to satisfy those needs, they are usually successful. Back in 1962, Sam Walton opened his first discount store in Rogers, Arkansas. Although the original store was quite different from the Walmart Superstores you see today, the basic ideas of providing customer service and offering goods that satisfied needs at low prices are part of the reason why this firm has grown to become the largest retailer in the world.

#### **Business Profit**

A business receives money (sales revenue) from its customers in exchange for goods or services. It must also pay out money to cover the expenses involved in doing business. If the firm's sales revenues are greater than its expenses, it has earned a profit. More specifically, as shown in Figure 1-3, **profit** is what remains after all business expenses have been deducted from sales revenue.

A negative profit, which results when a firm's expenses are greater than its sales revenue, is called a *loss*. A business cannot continue to operate at a loss for an indefinite period of time. Management and employees must find some way to increase sales revenues and reduce expenses to return to profitability. If some specific actions are not taken to eliminate losses, a firm may be forced to close



Do you recognize these two entrepreneurs?

Although you may not recognize the two people in this photo, there's a good chance that you will recognize the businesses that they started. On the left is Jack Dorsey—one of the co-founders of Twitter and Square, Inc. On the right is Howard Schultz—the founder and CEO of Starbucks. Both are known for the ideas that helped make their companies a success.

**profit** what remains after all business expenses have been deducted from sales revenue