

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS BY TAKING ON STRETCH ASSIGNMENTS

No matter what their goals and ambitions are, people tend to crave adventure and new hurdles to overcome. That's why taking on stretch assignments has become an appealing strategy for discovering new skills and abilities you never knew were there in the first place.

WHAT IS A STRETCH ASSIGNMENT?

In its most basic sense, a stretch assignment is any kind of project or task that is beyond your current skill set or expertise. Usually, it can be a short-term activity or even a permanent venture into a new field that will provide you with challenging experiences meant to expand your growing list of abilities.

The keyword here is “stretch,” which means that stretch assignments can extend your range of knowledge and help you unfold your hidden skills. It's also a fun step toward individual progress and character development. Other benefits to look forward to:

- **It helps build up your resiliency in tough situations**

Trying to overcome new challenges will help increase your resiliency level — even if there are times that lead to failure. The process is what counts, as acquiring new skills will get you out of your comfort zone and even help you build a new one. A stretch assignment will not just make the unfamiliar familiar to you, but it will also increase your endurance when another unexpected problem comes your way.



- **It provides a much-needed breather from the routine**

Nothing can exhaust you of your creativity and motivation more than being stuck in a routine where you do the same thing over and over for a long period of time. Stretch assignments will give you the chance to breathe in some fresh air and recharge your battery. After you finish a stretch assignment, you can go back to your original role, but this time you'll feel reenergized and inspired.

WHAT ARE SOME STRETCH ASSIGNMENT EXAMPLES?

Stretch assignments can vary in type and duration, but here are a couple of prime examples that may be found across different fields or industries:

- **Mentoring a teammate or a new member of the group**

Being great at what you do is one thing, but teaching someone to also be great at what you do takes another level of patience and commitment. When you become

good at your job, and you know that you're ready for whatever challenges it might provide, then that knowledge will give you the confidence to be a mentor to a younger teammate or a new member of your group.

- **Assuming a leadership role**

A stretch assignment can also help mold you into a great leader, as it doesn't just broaden your knowledge, but may also enhance your interpersonal skills. Remember, developing leadership skills can take time, and you can learn a lot by following the lead of your manager or of those you admire. These interpersonal skills can help you relate more to your team and interact with them, which in turn may help them respond well to your brand of leadership.

HOW WILL YOU ASK YOUR MANAGER FOR A STRETCH ASSIGNMENT?

If you feel like you're ready to move out of your comfort zone and take the next step, here's how you can approach your manager to ask for a stretch assignment:

- **Make sure that you're ready**

When you ask your manager or supervisor to give you a stretch assignment, make sure that you're mentally and emotionally ready to take on a new task. Stretch assignments will not just expand your skillset, but they can also test your patience and level of commitment.

To find out more about how DeVry's business programs can help you develop and pursue your vision of leadership [click here](#) to request more information

Through an education partnership in conjunction with DeVry University, you have access to education benefits in support of your professional and life goals. To learn about transferring qualifying credits, tuition rate savings and more, contact your benefits manager or HR department for more details.

- **Come up with a plan on how to help the team**

Sure, you are willing to learn a new role, but how could that help the team or the company move forward? Stretch assignments may be one of the best ways to grow individually, but remember that it's also important to be a valuable asset to the team. Back up your request by laying out the ways you think your new role can help your team achieve more success in the near future.

READY TO EXPAND YOUR SKILLSET?

With many businesses adapting to the technology-driven world, the way people work has also changed. Don't worry though — DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management is here to help you stay at the top of the world of business.

Grow your skillset by enrolling in either our [Bachelor's Degree in Business](#) which can be paired with one of four different specializations, or our [Master's of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#)¹ program that you can earn in as few as 10 courses, and the option to choose from 10 specializations.



¹ Master of Business Administration in Management program in New York.

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