Beginning next fall, Manchester College will offer a new way to earn a college degree ... Fast Forward.

This program puts bright, highly motivated students into careers, graduate school and medical school an entire year quicker – while saving as much as $25,000 – without sacrificing any of the opportunities of a Manchester College education.

Manchester is the only college or university in Indiana to offer such a 4-in-3 program in every major.

“Our faculty members are committed to making Fast Forward work for all departments – in education, accounting, pre-med, music, psychology, English, peace studies, and all our other majors,” said President Jo Young Switzer. Manchester offers more than 55 areas of study.

Fast Forward students combine aggressive semester schedules with online summer coursework. They’ll still complete internships and international study, participate in campus extracurricular activities and athletics, and receive financial aid. The online courses will be general education, such as political science, sociology and economics.

“Fast Forward isn’t for everyone, but we know it is exactly what some students need,” said David F. McFadden, executive vice president. "If you’re bright, disciplined and ready to dig into college, this is a great way to get a start on your future."

Qualified students have a clear idea of where they are headed after college, whether straight into a profession such as accounting, or to medical school or law school, for example. "For them, saving time and money is paramount," said McFadden. The average starting salary for Manchester accounting graduates, for example, is $41,000.

Students will take the same number of classes as in a four-year program and will pay the same per-credit-hour fee as all Manchester students. But they will save a year of room and board, and with the lower-cost summer online tuition.

For more about how to Fast Forward to a college degree and career, visit fastforward. manchester.edu or call 800-852-3648.
Experience Counts
Internships offer a great start on a career

Melissa Heffner started out as a mathematics and education major. Yet, without ever spending a single hour in a business setting, she decided to add a business minor, and accept an internship opportunity with the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce.

“I decided to put everything I had into doing it well,” she said. That was a life-changing decision for Melissa. The senior changed her major to business and mathematics, and is considering a future in event planning, one of her responsibilities at the Chamber, where she continues to work part-time.

Will Patch interned last summer with the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District, processing, advertising and repairing disposed computers and other electronics. “It was the perfect match of all my skills,” said Patch, a senior chemistry major.

Patch recertified more than 100 computers, set up test stations for monitors and computers, repaired and recertified consumer electronics and sent seven computers back out to the community as donations. Pending are arrangements for a lab of computers for the Youth Services Bureau in Wabash to train and provide internet access for underprivileged youths.

Near the end of his internship, Patch wrote a business proposal for expanding the program as a non-profit organization that would work with solid waste management districts and vendors for recycled materials. Now, he is a consultant for Wabash County Solid Waste Management, turning his business plan into reality.

These are just two of the many success stories Manchester College students share because of the opportunities their internships provide. Employers often favor job candidates who have completed internships that demonstrate the students have gained valuable skills and work ethic to be successful in today’s working world. In turn, the students provide their internship employers with fresh perspective, enthusiasm and budding talent that’s waiting to step out and shine.

As a parent, you can help your student prepare for his or her future career:

1. Talk about the importance of gaining valuable work experience and test-driving careers through internships.
2. Encourage your student to visit the Office of Career Services early and often. As you can see by the Career Services website, we’ve much to offer your student.
3. Be supportive and talk to your student about his or her experiences. This generation is poised to change the face of the work environment and we want to give them as many tools as they need to be successful in their chosen careers.

For more information about internships, contact Jennifer Fisher, assistant director for internships, in the Office of Career Services: 260-982-5025 or jlfisher@manchester.edu.

Faculty Spotlight: Mark Angelos

For 16 years, Mark Angelos has taught courses in European and medieval history, as well as courses in gender studies at Manchester College. Dr. Angelos has a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois
and research interests in women’s and economic history in medieval Europe.

This past fall, he spent a sabbatical leave furthering his research on how medieval Italian women participated in international business.

Dr. Angelos has been leading study abroad January Session classes since 2002, traveling most of the countries of Europe with his Manchester students. He especially enjoys leading Comparative Civilization tours of Britain, Ireland, Italy and Spain. His students look forward to learning history where the ancient and medieval worlds remain part of day-to-day life.

During 2008 January session, Dr. Angelos led two dozen Manchester students through Ireland, Scotland and England. The group began in southern Ireland and toured the capital city of Dublin. After a few days in north Wales and the English Lake District, they headed to Scotland, where they saw the Highlands (and looked for the monster in Loch Ness). Their study continued in Sterling Castle and the capital city, Edinburgh. Finally, they spent a week in England, including York, Stratford, Bath, Stonehenge, and ending in London.

Dr. Angelos lives in Fort Wayne, Ind., with his wife, Heidi Prussing, an information technologist for Allen County Public Library. With sons, Parker, 10, and Nicholas, 7, the family spends summers camping, gardening, cooking and making music together. The couple also teaches youth religious education at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne.

About his work at Manchester, Dr. Angelos is quick to reply, "The best thing about MC is the great people I get to work with each day – students, staff and fellow faculty!"

You can see photos from the January Session Comparative Civilization class led by Dr. Angelos in our Photo Album.