Meet the MBA Class of ’26: Marissa Yepez

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Marissa Yepez (MBA ’26)
Chicago, Illinois

Marissa Yepez is a highly accomplished Navy officer with 8 years of experience in project management, specializing in leading cross-functional teams in high-pressure environments. As a Surface Warfare Officer, she managed multi-million-dollar operations, streamlined processes, and oversaw the development of training programs for 550 personnel. Her proven ability to execute complex projects continued in her civilian career, where she led initiatives at Bayer Crop Science, increasing workflow efficiency by over 30% and delivering 100% of projects on time. Marissa holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and excels in strategic planning, risk mitigation, and resource allocation. Her strong leadership

and problem-solving skills have consistently driven success, and she is now seeking a challenging project management role where she can apply her expertise to achieve impactful results.

What is a fun fact about you?
I adopted my dog, Luna, from a shelter in Baton Rouge right before my senior year of college, and she's been by my side ever since. We've lived on the East Coast, West Coast, and now we're back in her home state of Louisiana. She's especially happy to be back in the warmer weather!

Why are you pursuing an MBA?
I'm pursuing my MBA to build on what I already know while expanding my expertise in areas like data analytics and sustainability. The Freeman curriculum is fast-paced and challenging, and I truly enjoy that type of learning experience. I also wanted to surround myself with others who have ambitious goals, and so far, I've had the privilege of meeting incredible classmates, professors, and advisors.

What attracted you to Freeman?
As a Tulane undergraduate alum, the idea of returning for another degree was exciting. Freeman's MBA program offers analytics and finance courses that match my interests, and the speakers who visit provide meaningful industry insights. Additionally, the Freeman alumni network is incredibly supportive, and having access to that kind of community was a significant factor in my decision.

Where do you hope to be in five years?
In five years, I aspire to have transitioned into the energy industry and developed expertise in my field, particularly in areas like renewable energy or commodities trading. I see myself in a leadership role where I can apply my skills and experiences to drive innovation and build a strong, collaborative team. Additionally, I hope to stay actively involved in the New Orleans community, contributing to its growth and giving back in meaningful ways.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I enjoy playing kickball and participate on several local teams. It's a great way to stay active and connect with others in the community.

*Learn more about the Freeman School's **full-time MBA program**.*