Business Administration

Graduate Programs

The Master of Business Administration Degree

The Master of Business Administration program provides graduate professional education for individuals preparing for administrative careers in either the private or public sectors. It is a comprehensive yet flexible program providing the knowledge and analytical tools to cope with the complexities of management within diverse environments. There are a number of delivery options for the MBA: full-time, part-time and online.

Full-Time MBA

The full-time MBA is a 36-credit-hour semi-lockstep program designed for individuals who want a cohort-based experience. Applicants must have earned a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent from an accredited university and have competitive GPA and GMAT scores. Full-time students may choose between a general MBA and an in-depth specialization. Students choosing a general MBA are free to select 9 hours of electives in functional areas of business such as marketing, finance or management. Students seeking a more in-depth area of study may select from the following twelve options: Accounting, Business Sustainability, Data Science, Economics, Energy Business, Entrepreneurship, Global Marketing, Human Resource Management, Information Assurance, Marketing Analytics, Non-profit Management and Risk Management.

Part-Time MBA

The part-time MBA is a 33-credit-hour program designed for individuals who wish to enroll on a part-time basis. The self-paced program allows students to take classes as their schedules permit. Applicants must have earned a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent from an accredited university and have competitive GPA and GMAT scores.

Online

The MBA part-time program can be completed through a distance-learning format. Distance learning is an ideal educational format for individuals seeking an alternative to the traditional on-campus classroom experience. Classes are delivered via video streaming on the Internet. Interaction with faculty and other students occurs through a web-based environment.

Regardless of the delivery option, admission is granted to those students whose potential for successful graduate study is clearly indicated by the undergraduate grade-point average, the score on the Graduate Management Admissions Test, letters of recommendation from three sources, past work experience, extracurricular and community activities and stated career goals.

The required number of credit hours for the MBA degree and consideration of a waiver for GMAT/GRE scores for admission under exceptional circumstances are subject to changes after approval by the OSRHE.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD in business administration is an interdepartmental program in the Spears School of Business, including accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, management, management science and information systems, marketing and an executive research option. The degree emphasizes flexibility to meet the particular needs and objectives of individual candidates. The program is designed to provide the highest degree of preparation for the individual student, enabling him or her to make significant professional contributions in research, teaching or business or governmental positions.

Requirements

Students select one major area of study from either accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, hospitality and tourism management, management, management information systems/management science or marketing, and two minor areas. The dissertation is usually written in the student’s major area. One of the minor areas must be taken in the Spears School of Business. The second minor may be taken from another department within the Spears School of Business or from a department outside the Spears School.

All candidates for the PhD degree in business administration are expected to have a basic competence in all the major functional areas of business administration—accounting, economics, finance, management, management information systems/management science and marketing. In addition, basic competence is expected in research methods and statistics. Students who possess a recent master’s degree in business from a program accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) will generally have satisfied most of the basic competence requirements in these areas.

Administration

The program is administered by the dean of the Graduate College and the department in which the student enrolls with the assistance of a faculty advisory committee.

Major and Minor Areas

The candidate’s advisory committee is responsible for assisting in the development of a plan of study that assures competence in the major and minor areas and in economics and quantitative analysis. All PhD students in residence are required to do teaching or research on a half-time basis while earning the degree.

For additional information about the PhD see the respective departments.