Business Administration, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in business administration requires a minimum of 72 s.h., including approved transfer credit. The program is flexible, permitting students to choose a specialization area according to their interests. Coursework and related experience enable students to achieve competence in economic theory, statistical methods, and behavioral science as well as expertise in a major and minor study area. Students also have opportunities to develop research and teaching skills.

Ph.D. coursework consists of prerequisites (as necessary), the Ph.D. core, major and minor study areas, and dissertation research, described in brief below. For more detailed information about Ph.D. requirements, contact the individual Tippie College of Business departments or visit their websites.

Core Courses

Core courses develop research competence and provide background for specialized study. Doctoral students consult with their advisors to develop a study plan that reflects the individual student’s background and interests and satisfies core requirements.

Major Study Area

At least 12 s.h. of approved doctoral-level courses must be completed in one of the following areas: accounting, finance, human resource management, management information systems, marketing, operations management, organizational behavior, or quantitative methods.

Minor Study Area

Students must complete a minimum of 9 s.h. of doctoral-level courses beyond the Ph.D. core course requirements in one of the major study areas listed above or in a concentration outside the Tippie College of Business.

Comprehensive Examinations

Students must satisfactorily complete a comprehensive examination, consisting of written or oral parts or both, at the discretion of their major department.

Dissertation

Students must present a dissertation proposal at a forum attended by dissertation committee members and open to interested faculty members and graduate students, as established by the student’s major department. Researching and writing the dissertation typically require two years of full-time effort.

Final Examination

Ph.D. candidates defend the dissertation in an oral examination attended by dissertation committee members and open to interested faculty members and graduate students.

Admission

Applicants to the Ph.D. program in business administration must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and have their scores sent to the University in order to be considered for admission. The Departments of Business Analytics, Finance, Management and Entrepreneurship, and Marketing accept test scores for either the GRE or GMAT. The Department of Accounting accepts only GMAT scores. Required scores on these tests and their weight in admission decisions vary by department.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test, or the Duolingo English Test (DET) and have their scores sent to the University of Iowa. An IELTS total score of at least 7.0 with no subscore below 6.0 or a minimum score of at least 105 on the Duolingo English Test satisfies the English language requirement. Applicants who use the IELTS or Duolingo tests are required to take the on-campus English Proficiency Evaluation.

Admission is for fall entry. Completed applications should be submitted as early as possible and no later than the following deadlines.

- Accounting: January 15
- Business Analytics: January 15
- Finance: January 15
- Management and Entrepreneurship: January 15
- Marketing: January 15

Visit Ph.D. Programs on the Tippie College of Business website to learn more.

Career Advancement

The Doctor of Philosophy program prepares students for research positions in business and government or for research and teaching positions at academic institutions.