**Business Administration**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Fall:** January 2

Fall admission only

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours:** 90

**Level:** Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 52.0201

**Dept. Code:** DEA

**Major/College Codes:** BUD BA

**Approved:** 1986

**Concentrations:**

Accounting

Finance

Information Systems

Marketing

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Muma College of Business

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The Ph.D. degree program offered by the Muma College of Business provides its graduates with preparation for careers as college and university professors and as research and staff personnel in industry and government. The doctoral degree program provides for intellectual growth as students work closely with faculty in seminars, research projects, and other assignments which develop their teaching and research skills. The curriculum offers breadth of understanding of the integral components of business administration as well as depth of field specialization sufficient to permit the student to make a meaningful contribution to their discipline. The program is sufficiently flexible to allow each student to build upon his or her strengths and to accommodate students with various levels of preparation in a wide variety of fields, and in areas outside the college. However, the degree conferred is Ph.D. in Business with a concentration in one of the departmental areas.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

* Competitive based on GPA, GMAT or GRE
* Personal statement
* Recommendations
* Interview
* International applicants from non-English-speaking countries must also have a TOEFL score of 550 or higher on the written version, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test or a 79 on the internet-based test.

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Hours: 90**

**Foundation- 0-15\***

**Core – 21 hours**

**Concentration –minimum 15**

**Support Field Hours - 9**

**Dissertation- 21**

**Additional Hours- 9\*\***

**\*Students who are eligible to waive foundation courses will need to replace those credit hours either with additional coursework determined in conjuction with the area coordinator or if the student has a completed master’s degree, relevant courses can be considered for transfer.**

**\*\* These hours will be determined by consultation with the concentration area coordinator. For students who have a completed master’s degree, relevant coursework can be considered for transfer credit.**

A minimum of 90 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree is required. This includes 21 hours of dissertation. A minimum of 45 hours of coursework must be completed at the University of South Florida.

**FOUNDATION COURSES (0-15 hours)**

These courses are designed to develop an appreciation of the institution of business and to help students see how their areas of specialization fit into this general picture. With the approval of the student's major committee, a student may satisfy these requirements in any of the following ways:

1. By completing an undergraduate degree in business at an AACSB accredited institution, with an average of "B" or better in the last 60 hours, no more than 5 years prior to admission to the Ph.D. program.
2. By completing an M.B.A. degree at an AACSB accredited institution, no more than 5 years prior to admission to the Ph.D. program
3. By completing one approved course with a grade of "B" or better in each of the functional areas: Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, Management, and Marketing. All graduate-level courses at the 6000 level or above, with the exception of specific "tool" courses (e.g. statistics), will count toward this requirement.
4. By successfully petitioning the doctoral Committee to accept previous academic work (e.g., specialized Masters programs in business, degrees granted more than 5 years ago, etc.) in fulfillment of all or part of this requirement. Such a petition must be initiated during the first semester of the major.

**CORE REQUIREMENTS (21 hours)**

The core courses are designed to provide a strong background in Economics and to develop the student's quantitative and statistical research skills. These courses are required of all students in the major. The College will waive a course only if the student has passed the same or equivalent course with a grade of “B” or better within the preceding five years.

The Economics requirement can be met by completing two graduate level economics courses that have been approved by the student’s major committee.

Students are required to take a one credit hour research skills course, QMB 7557, Research and Writing Skills for Doctoral students, in the first semester of the Program. Following this introductory course, the quantitative and statistical coursework is to be determined by the student's program committee in consultation with the student. A three course series is required. An appropriate sequence should be chosen from the following:

ECO 6424 Econometrics I 3

ECO 6425 Econometrics II 3

ECO 7426 Econometrics III 3

ECO 7427 Econometrics IV 3

QMB 6375 Applied Linear Statistical Models 3

QMB 7565 Introduction to Research Methods 3

QMB 7566 Applied Multivariate Statistical Methods 3

Any substitution of appropriate mathematics, statistical and quantitative coursework must be approved by the Doctoral Program Committee, preferably at the time of acceptance, or definitely before the student takes a substitute course. In addition, students are required to take an additional research elective approved by their advisory committee. Should a student earn a grade of "C" or lower in the core courses, the case will be brought before the Doctoral Committee for review. After reviewing the case, the Committee will take one of the following steps:

1. Require the student to pass an examination that covers the material relevant to the subject. A student who fails the exam on the first attempt may retake it within one year. A student who fails the exam on the second attempt will be subject to dismissal.
2. Require the student to retake the course. If the student retakes the course and fails to receive a grade of “B” or better, the student is subject to dismissal.

**CONCENTRATION – (Minimum 15 hours)**

Students select from the following concentrations: Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, or Marketing

All students will take at least five (5) courses at the 6000 or 7000 graduate level in an area designated as the student's Concentration. Students are encouraged to identify courses in the concentration field that will provide experience in applying current research techniques to problems in that field. To accomplish this, the student may propose a combination of formal classroom courses and independent directed-research courses. This combination may include a year-long research seminar in which the groundwork is laid for the student's dissertation. The specific agenda of courses will be determined by the student's program committee. The following fields are offered: Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, Management (inactive) and Marketing. Courses taken as part of the Foundation or Core sections may not be counted as part of the hours required for a concentration field.

**Accounting Concentration - 15 hours**

The Accounting concentration emphasizes:

* The mastery of one or more specialized areas of accounting, such as accounting information systems, auditing, or financial accounting
* The development of requisite skills to engage in respected applied, practical and scholarly research
* The development of effective teaching skills

Course requirements – In order to obtain a concentration in Accounting, the student must complete the following coursework:

ACG 7156 Seminar in Financial Accounting 3

ACG 7646 Seminar in Auditing 3

ACG 7356 Seminar in Management Accounting 3

ACG 7415 Seminar in Accounting Information Systems 3

ACG 7936 Seminar on Special Topics in Accounting 3

**Finance Concentration – 18 hours**

**Course requirements –**

In addition to the required core and foundation courses, the curriculum will normally include the following courses:

FIN 6804 3 Theory of Finance

FIN 7808 3 Advanced Micro Finance

FIN 7817 3 Financial Markets

FIN 7930 3,3 Selected Topics in Finance (Two Semesters)

FIN 7935 3 Finance Research Seminar

**Information Systems Concentration 18 hours**

Course requirements –

ISM 6124 3 Advanced Systems Analysis and Design\*

ISM 6218 3 Advanced Databases Management\*

ISM 6225 3 Distributed Information Systems\*

ISM 6930 3 Computational Methods in Business

ISM 7911 3 Seminar in Technical IS Research

ISM 7912 3 Seminar in MIS Organizational Research

**Marketing Concentration Requirements 18 hours**

Course Requirements –

Students will be required to successfully complete a minimum of 6 doctoral-level Marketing seminars. The six required courses may be selected from the following list:

MAR 7555 3 Consumer Behavior Theory

MAR 7635 3 Advanced Marketing Research: Design and Technique

MAR 7667 3 Marketing Models and Strategy Applications

MAR 7787 3 Marketing Theory and History

MAR 7910 1-12 Independent Study in Marketing (S/U only)

MAR 7930 Advanced Seminar in Marketing

MAR 7931 Seminar in Selected Marketing Topics including:

* Buyer-Seller Interaction
* Marketing Channels, Logistics and Supply Chain Management
* Marketing Management
* Marketing Strategy
* Readings in Marketing
* Sales Management

In addition, students will complete a “Pro-Seminar” every Fall semester of the first year of the major.

Note: The Professional Seminar does not count as one of the six required Ph. D. seminars.

**SUPPORT FIELD (9 hours)**

The support area will consist of a minimum of three graduate level courses (9 hours) from one or more of the fields listed under the concentration field, or elsewhere in the university. The support field and the concentration field cannot be taken in the same department. Courses within the support field can be selected to complement the concentration field and in special cases may include courses outside the Muma College of Business. The nature and number of the support area courses will be determined by the Student's Program Committee in consultation with the Ph.D. coordinator of the support field department. Courses taken as part of the Foundation or Core courses may not be counted as part of the 9 hours required for support fields.

**Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations:**

Upon completion of all coursework, students must pass the equivalent of a comprehensive examination in the concentration area. The student's performance on these “exams” should reflect familiarity with the literature, as well as with current issues and problems related to these fields. A student who fails either of the examss may retake it within one year. A second failure disqualifies the student from continuing the Ph.D. degree program. If the degree is not conferred within 5 calendar years of the comprehensive qualifying examination, a second and different examination must be taken. Students passing the qualifying examination are eligible for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree program.

The decision to administer a separate comprehensive exam for a support area will be made by the department in which the support area is taken. In the event that an interdisciplinary support area is selected, any department represented by six (6) or more semester hours may require a qualifying examination. In the event that no single department represents six semester hours or more, the student's graduate committee will solicit input from the faculty teaching the courses in the support area. If a majority of those polled take the position that a separate comprehensive examination in the support area is not appropriate, the exam will not be administered. If a separate comprehensive examination is not administered in a support area, material from the support area will be integrated into the comprehensive exam in the concentration area.

**DISSERTATION (minimum 21 hours)**

ACG 7980 Dissertation in Accounting

FIN 7980 Dissertation in Finance

ISM 7980 Dissertation in Information Systems

in Marketing

**Residency Requirement**:

Ph.D. students in the College are required to complete a minimum of 15 hours per calendar year. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the student being placed on conditional status.

**COURSES**

See [http://ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm)