

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SMEAL - M.B.A., D.B.A.)

Degree Requirements

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The M.B.A. program consists of two distinct portions:

1. preprogram competency expectations, including accounting, economics, mathematics, and statistics; and
2. a minimum of 35 credits at the 500 or 800 levels, with a minimum of 18 at the 500 or 800 level and at least 6 credits at the 500 level.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
BA 512	Quantitative Analysis for Managerial Decision Making	2
BA 533	Economics for Managers	2
BA 800	Marketing Management	2
BA 801	Management	2
BA 802	Team Process and Performance	2
BA 804	Ethical Leadership	2
BA 805	Negotiation Theory and Skills	1
BA 810	Supply Chain and Operations Management	2
BA 811	Financial Accounting	2
BA 815	Business Statistics for Contemporary Decision Making	2
BA 817	Communication Skills for Management	4
BA 821	Foundation in Managerial Accounting	2
BA 830	Emerging Technology Trends in Business	1
BA 831	Foundations in Finance	2
BA 832	Global Business Environment	1
BA 835	Global Perspectives	1
BA 880	Leadership Immersion	2
BA 836	Global Immersion	1
Culminating Experience		
BA 571	Strategic Management ¹	2
Total Credits		35

¹ The culminating experience for the M.B.A. is BA 571. This course is designed to bring together the many functional areas previously studied and integrate them into a strategic analysis of the entire firm.

Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The total number of required credits for the Doctor of Business Administration program is 81 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level, with a minimum of 24 at the 500 or 800 level. The required minimum 81 credits

include, 48 core credits, 6 elective credits, and 27 culminating research project credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
<i>Core Courses</i>		
MGMT 548	Seminar in Management	3
SCIS 501	Business Analytics	3
BA 511	Seminar on Statistical Analysis	3
SCIS 502	Supply Chain Strategy	3
FIN 588	Seminar in Corporate Finance Research	3
ACCTG 502	Accounting Research and Analysis	3
BA 560	Applied Business Research	3
MKTG 556	Marketing Management	3
MGMT 591	Organizational Research Design	3
BA 559	Qualitative Analysis in Business	3
BA 594	Research Topics	18
<i>Electives</i>		
The remaining 6 elective credits must be chosen from a list of approved elective courses maintained by the graduate program office.		6
<i>Culminating Experience</i>		
BA 580	Doctorate of Business Administration Culminating Research Project	27
Total Credits		81

BA 580, in fulfillment of GCAC-707, is the Professional Doctoral Culminating Experience for the DBA program. There are several requirements and expectations associated with the culminating experience.

Culminating Research Project in Business- BA 580 (27 cr.)

This project, in fulfillment of GCAC-707, is the Professional Doctoral Culminating Experience for the DBA program. There are several requirements and expectations associated with the culminating experience.

1. The student must engage in an original research project, wherein they collect primary (e.g., employee or customer data) or secondary (e.g., firm characteristics and performance, review of scholarly literature) data in the pursuit of answering a research question. They must analyze that data, form conclusions based upon their analyses and produce a written product that documents the entire research project.
2. After producing the written product, they must present their research product to their committee (noting that this is a public oral presentation¹). This presentation should occur at the end of the third year of study. The committee should evaluate the presentation on its quality, documenting the originality of ideas, accuracy of research methods and analyses, and insightfulness of conclusions. Two-thirds of the committee must vote to pass in order for the student to successfully complete this requirement. At the discretion of the committee, a student who fails their presentation will have the opportunity to re-present once within six months.

3. The Professional Doctoral committee must meet all Graduate Council requirements.

Expectations for the Culminating Research Project:

- An applied research question that may not result in creating new theory but leverages and tests existing theory to answer a research question pertinent to others in their field. This may alternately involve creating new algorithms or mathematical models to explore research questions.
- Involves the collection of data (primary or secondary), analysis of that data, and an interpretation of the results.
- The final written product should be thought of as translational work – that is, it should both be based upon and demonstrate disciplinary knowledge but is aimed at applied practitioners.

¹ Per GCAC-707, 5-b-ii (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-707-professional-doctoral-culminating-experience/>)

Other Requirements

The qualifying examination will be completed after the first year in the program. There are several requirements and expectations associated with the qualifying exam.

1. The purpose of the qualifying exam is to provide an early assessment of whether the student has the potential to develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes included in the program.
2. The qualifying exam will be a written assessment of the student's ability to complete the Doctor of Business Administration.
3. The written product will be assessed by the Qualifying Exam Committee, which will be drawn from Graduate Faculty who are primarily faculty in the program. The committee should evaluate the written product on its quality. Two-thirds of the committee must vote to pass in order for the student to successfully complete this requirement. D.B.A. students must also pass a Comprehensive Examination. English competence shall be formally attested to by the graduate program before the doctoral student's Comprehensive Examination is scheduled.