

Chapter 18 - Graduate Programs

College of Business

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Ruston, LA 71272
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or by visiting the College's Web site:
<http://business.latech.edu>

Vision

We will be increasingly recognized for advancing the interests of our stakeholders through instruction, research, and service that

- integrates business, entrepreneurship, and technology;
- leads to innovation in business; and
- prepares our students to think strategically and become effective leaders.

Mission

Our undergraduate programs equip graduates to succeed in entry-level professional positions in the area of their academic major and/or to pursue entrepreneurial activities. Our master's programs address the continuing professional development needs of those preparing for mid-level general management positions, intrapreneurial/entrepreneurial leadership positions, and advanced specialist positions. Our DBA program equips graduates to become scholars in their disciplines and to think beyond traditional boundaries.

Our graduate programs drive our mission to engage in discipline-based scholarship that advances knowledge, improves management practice, and enhances business performance. This scholarship is both the foundation and stimulus of the College's commitment to excellence in instruction in our undergraduate and graduate programs.

We serve as exemplars to our students as we utilize our professional skills in service to our College and University, our professional societies, and our community. We recognize an obligation to advance the lifelong professional education needs of our alumni and the broader business community in our area and to contribute toward the economic development of Louisiana.

Accreditation

The College of Business is accredited by the AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Also, the School of Professional Accountancy is separately accredited by the AACSB.

Graduate Degrees Offered

Master of Business Administration

- Business Administration (with concentrations in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Economics, Finance, Information Assurance, Innovation, Management, Marketing, and Quality Assurance)

Master of Professional Accountancy

Doctor of Business Administration

- Business Administration (with concentrations in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Finance, Management, Marketing, and Quality Assurance)

Graduate programs in business are designed to prepare students to engage in professional and/or administrative careers in business and government, and to enter the academic community. Students may enter the master's programs any quarter. Each graduate student has an advisor to help plan his/her program and tailor it to individual needs and objectives. In the College, no grade lower than **C** in courses taken for graduate credit will be applied toward a degree program. Also, no more than two **Cs** will count toward a graduate degree. All courses pursued for graduate credit will be counted in the grade point average. *To receive a graduate degree, a student must have a cumulative average of at least 3.0 on all work pursued for graduate credit while registered at Louisiana Tech.*

Graduate Certificates Offered

Graduate Certificate in Information Assurance

A graduate certificate in Information Assurance is available to students who apply and complete CIS 521, 522, 523, and 524. No prerequisites are needed other than a baccalaureate degree. The certificate meets 4011 and 4016 National Security Agency guidelines.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for students of high academic accomplishment. The graduate student who holds an assistantship is expected to carry a reduced course load that will vary depending on scholastic record and amount of work required by the assistantship. Teaching assistantships are awarded to doctoral students.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is to offer an educational experience in business and management at the graduate level. The program is designed to provide breadth in exposure to the basic business disciplines and to facilitate the integration and application of knowledge of the various disciplines to the management of innovation. It is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental degree program offered by the Graduate Division and the academic departments of the College of Business. Ethical concerns and international issues are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Objectives and Outcomes

During the MBA program, students will:

- Examine the theory, principles, and knowledge necessary to manage modern business enterprises effectively;
- Work effectively in teams to formulate solutions to complex business problems;
- Develop an awareness of the issues and questions faced by those in leadership positions;
- Cultivate the particular skills necessary for the management of innovation;
- Design and communicate solutions to case studies and real-world problems;

Admission Requirements

To qualify for admission to the MBA program, applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate School of the University and the admission requirements of the Graduate Division of the College of Business. Any applicant who holds a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from an accredited college or university will be considered for admission regardless of the undergraduate field of study. An applicant for admission should understand that graduate work is not merely an extension of undergraduate work. Graduate study operates at a significantly higher level of rigor, demands scholarship of a higher order, and places more emphasis on research and student responsibility.

Once the admission requirements of the Graduate School have been met, the MBA Admissions Committee will grant admission to those individuals who demonstrate significant accomplishment and/or high potential for success. The decision of the Admissions Committee is based on a combination of the applicant's previous academic record and the applicant's score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Applicants with a composite score (equal to $200 \times \text{UGPA} + \text{GMAT score}$) of at least 1,100 (1,150 when calculated using the GPA from the applicant's last 60 credit hours) and who have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 and a GMAT score of at least 450 are eligible for unconditional admission to the MBA program. GMAT Score may be up to 5 years old at the time of application. Applicants meeting the minimum composite score but who are not able to meet the minimum GPA or GMAT requirements may be considered for conditional admission to the MBA program. Also, significant business experience may serve as an indicator of an individual's ability to complete the program, and thus may be considered by the Committee.

For information, contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Business, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272 or refer to our web site: <http://business.latech.edu>

Foundation Requirements

Students entering the MBA program with undergraduate degrees, other than business need to demonstrate a knowledge base sufficient to enable them to complete graduate-level work in business. At a minimum, each student is presumed to be computer literate and to have had recent college-level course work in the following core areas:

- computer information systems (CIS 310);
- economics (ECON 215);
- financial and managerial accounting (ACCT 201 and 202);
- financial management (FINC 318);
- operations management (MGMT 333);
- marketing (MKTG 300);
- management (MGMT 310);
- calculus and linear algebra (QA 390);
- statistics (QA 233)

The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research of the College of Business determines the acceptability of all work submitted in satisfaction of the foundation and prescribes appropriate courses to be taken to remove any deficiencies.

MBA Curriculum

The MBA curriculum consists of a central group of courses known as the Business Core and is supplemented by special coursework in Business and Advanced Analytical Skills. Depending on the student's individual professional needs, electives in the form of Application of Business Analytical Skills can be added to yield a concentration to the MBA.

Business Core

ACCT 505 Accounting Analysis for Decision Making	3
CIS 510 Information Resource Management	3
ECON 510 Managerial Economics	3
FINC 515 Financial Management	3
MGMT 510 Contemporary Management	3
MKTG 530 Marketing Management	3
QA 525 Quantitative Approaches to Decision Making	3
	21

Business Advanced Analytical Skills

MGMT 595 Administrative Policy	3
BUSN 500 Critical Thinking for Business	3
	6

Application of Business Analytical Skills

Electives	9
	9

Total	36
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A 30 hour general MBA is available with two College of Business electives. All electives must come from the College of Business unless otherwise approved by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. A student who has recently completed an undergraduate program with specialization (major and minor) in one of the areas of business may be required to substitute a graduate business elective for the course in that area specified in the curriculum. For example, a student with an undergraduate degree in Accounting will be required to take Accounting 508 in lieu of Accounting 505. Upon approval of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, students may transfer up to 9 hours of graduate credit toward the MBA degree. To be eligible for graduate credit, courses must have been taken at a college of business accredited by the AACSB.

MBA with a Concentration in Innovation (36 hours)

The MBA with a concentration in innovation is designed to provide students with the Business knowledge and analytical skills to think critically and develop innovative solutions to problems in a business environment. This concentration consists of the Business Core (21 hours), the Business Advanced Analytical Skills (6 hours), and the following courses comprising the Application of Business Analytical Skills (9 hours) (ENTR 510, 560, and 501).

MBA with a Concentration in Information Assurance (36 hours)

The MBA with a concentration in Information Assurance (IA) offers students a highly distinctive MBA experience by combining the power of the MBA with specialized knowledge of IA. IA courses as a concentration in the MBA follow National Security Agency guidelines and will meet 4011 and 4016 certification requirements. This concentration prepares students for managerial positions in systems and network security and consists of the Business Core (21 hours), the Business Advanced Analytical Skills (3 hours) consisting of MGMT 595, and the following

courses comprising the Application of Business Analytical Skills (12 hours) (CIS 521, 522, 523, 524).

MBA with a Concentration in Finance (36 hours)

The MBA with a concentration in Finance consists of the Business Core (21 hours), the Business Advanced Analytical Skills (6 hours), and advanced Finance courses (9 hours) comprising the Application of Business Analytical Skills.

MBA programs with concentrations in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Economics, Management, Marketing, and Quantitative Analysis each require 9 hours of Application of Business Analytical Skills specific to that discipline. For curriculum descriptions or more information, contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Business, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272 or refer to our web site: <http://business.latech.edu>

Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)

The Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) program is designed to provide graduate-level education in accounting for individuals seeking careers in public accounting, industry, and government. For information, contact the Director of the School of Accountancy or the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Business, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272 or refer to our web site <http://business.latech.edu>.

Objectives and Outcomes

The MPA program will:

- Provide students with the knowledge and tools needed to obtain meaningful employment and to have successful careers in Accounting or other business fields;
- Prepare students for management positions ;
- Provide the educational background for students to meet the educational requirements of various accounting certifications.

Additionally, the MPA program has been designed to enable students to achieve the following learning objectives:

- Strengthen students’ comprehension of accounting and business;
- Improve students’ ability to focus on appropriate issues and develop solutions to problems where needed;
- Further refine students’ oral and written communication skills;
- Broaden students’ understanding of global issues;
- Expand students’ understanding of professional and ethical issues faced by accountants;
- Develop student’s ability to appraise the accounting profession critically.

Admission (Accounting Background)

Admission to the graduate phase of the MPA program is based upon the combination of an applicant’s academic record and score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). The decision is based on a combination of the applicant’s previous academic record and the applicant’s score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Applicants with a composite score (equal to 200 x UGPA + GMAT score) of at least 1,100 (1,150 when calculated using the GPA from the applicant’s last 60 credit hours) and who have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 and a GMAT score of at least 450 are eligible for unconditional admission to the MPA program. Applicants meeting the minimum composite score but who are not able to meet the minimum GPA or GMAT requirements may be considered for conditional to the MPA program. Students may enter the program an quarter, and each student is assigned an advisor to help plan his/her program of study.

Transcripts of students entering the MPA program at the graduate level are evaluated and proper courses prescribed to satisfy the degree requirements. The undergraduate phase of the MPA program is given in the Accounting section of the undergraduate portion of this Catalog.

The normal graduate phase of the MPA program is given below. The graduate phase may normally be completed in one year by Accounting undergraduates who have performed satisfactorily in appropriate preparatory work. Upon approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, students may transfer up to six hours of graduate credit toward the MPA degree. For transfer courses to be accepted for graduate credit, courses must have been taken at a college of business accredited by the AACSB.

Year 5

Accounting 506 or 507	3
Accounting 508.....	3
Accounting 513.....	3
Accounting 521.....	3
Accounting Electives**.....	9
Business Electives (2 500-level non-accounting)	6
Business Law 410.....	3
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Total Semester Hours	30

*Total must include at least 15 hours of 500-level Accounting taken at Louisiana Tech.
 **Accounting 505 cannot be taken as an elective. Only 6 hours of accounting courses below the 500-level may be taken.

Admission (Non-Accounting Background)

In addition to meeting the core business course requirements, the applicant must have satisfactorily completed the following minimum accounting courses:

Accounting Systems	3
Intermediate Accounting *	9
Income Tax	3
Managerial Cost Accounting.....	3
Advanced Accounting	3
Auditing	3
Mathematics 222 or Quantitative Analysis 390.....	3
Quantitative Analysis 233	3
English 303 or 336.....	3
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Total Semester Hours	33

*Or an equivalent intermediate sequence which is 6 hours at some universities.

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

The Doctor of Business Administration degree is designed to prepare graduates for careers as effective university researchers and teachers or for senior research positions in business or government. The program is designed for students wishing to pursue full-time business doctoral studies in a residential program.

Objectives and Outcomes

- **Research:** A primary objective of the program is to train DBA candidates to become proficient researchers. Therefore, coursework involves research activities such as literature review and critique, theoretical modeling, research design, computer-assisted empirical analysis, and preparation of proposals and research papers.
- **Teaching:** Another objective is to train students to become proficient teachers. Most DBA candidates are provided the opportunity to teach undergraduate courses in their specialty area. DBA candidates typically are not assigned teaching responsibilities until late in their second year or in their third

year in the program. Prior to being put in the classroom, doctoral candidates receive training and mentoring in the art and practice of teaching.

- **Professional Activities:** In addition, all business doctoral students are expected to participate in national and regional academic conferences.

Study Program

Incoming students work with the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and their departmental doctoral faculty advisor to develop an individualized formal plan of study. Each plan of study must include the following:

- 24 hours of business core course work to acquaint the student with the functional areas of business. These courses can be waived if the student has satisfactorily completed equivalent graduate level course work at an AACSB accredited school of business.
- An in-depth major concentration (minimum of 18 hours) in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Finance, Marketing, Management or Quantitative Analysis
- Two minor areas of at least 9 hours each, one of which must be Quantitative Analysis (statistics). These supporting areas offer the student considerable latitude in identifying a course of study that can be tailored to the individual's interests and goals.
- 9 hours of BUSN 610 which is taught only in the Fall quarter. This course offers students an orientation to doctoral studies. Each Fall section focuses on a separate topic: general orientation (first year), orientation to teaching (second year), research and presentation skills (third year)
- Dissertation (minimum 15 hours of BUSN 650)

The program of study requirements listed above are independent of each other; courses taken to satisfy one requirement may not be used to satisfy any other requirement. Previous graduate work taken prior to admission to the Louisiana Tech DBA program may be used to satisfy these requirements if it is deemed appropriate by the student's program committee and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. In compliance with University regulations, the DBA degree requires the completion of 60 hours of graduate work beyond the baccalaureate degree. Within the credit hour requirement is the residency requirement. To satisfy the residency requirement, a student must complete at least three consecutive quarters and a minimum of 24 semester credit hours, exclusive of research and dissertation credit, beyond the master's degree or its equivalent, on the Louisiana Tech campus. The student's advisory committee typically specifies additional coursework well beyond the 24 hour minimum residency requirement.

Examinations and Dissertation

A written comprehensive examination covering the major area and a statistical tools qualifying exam are administered after the candidate has completed the relevant coursework in his/her official plan of study. Additional examinations and other requirements (such as a second year summer paper or a minor comprehensive exam) may be required by the major. These requirements will be specified in the student's formal plan of study. All examinations are to be taken on the main campus under the direct supervision of appropriate faculty members.

Candidacy and Time Limitation

After the student has successfully passed all examinations and requirements in their plan of study, the student will be admitted to candidacy. After the students' first year of coursework, the student (except Finance DBAs) must pass a statistical tools qualifier

exam. Students will be notified within four academic weeks the outcome of the exam. If a student fails the qualifier exam, he/she will have one additional opportunity to pass the qualifier about 2-3 months later. Doctoral faculty from each discipline will develop that discipline's statistical tools qualifying exam. After the second year, the student is required to write and present a second year research paper as evidence of his/her applied knowledge in research. The student must complete his/her dissertation and pass the final oral examination (dissertation defense) within a maximum of three calendar years after being admitted to candidacy, with up to two one-year extensions (not guaranteed). Students must request an extension of the three-year time limit in writing. Such a request must include a discussion of the reasons for the extension, a description of the work completed to date, and a projected timetable for completion of the dissertation.

Admission to the DBA Program

To qualify for admission to the DBA program, applicants must meet the graduate admissions requirements of the Graduate School and the doctoral admissions requirements of the College. If these requirements have been or can be met, the application will be reviewed by a doctoral admissions committee to determine personal characteristics, research interests and capability, motivation and perseverance, and promise of success in high-level advanced study.

The applicant's academic record and score on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) must demonstrate sufficient promise to indicate that s/he is qualified to perform successfully in the DBA program. More emphasis will be placed on an applicant's graduate record than on his/her undergraduate record if he/she have already earned his/her master's degree.

Admission Procedure

1. Contact the college to determine if your area of interest is accepting students in this particular year. Some programs accept students biannually.
2. Take the Graduate Management Admission Test. Arrangements can be made by calling (800) GMAT - NOW. Request that your test score be sent to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Business (code 6372), Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272.
3. Complete a Graduate School application for admission form and pay application fee. Applications can be obtained from the Graduate School, Louisiana Tech University, P.O. Box 7923, Ruston, LA 71272, or downloaded from our website <http://business.latech.edu> Return the completed application to the Graduate School.
4. Request official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended at any time in the past be sent to the Graduate School.
5. Send three letters of reference from persons who know your qualifications for doctoral study to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Business, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272. These letters should be submitted before or by the time the application is made. Also, you should send a current resume to the same address.
6. After the above 4 steps have been completed, you may be invited to participate in an interview with selected doctoral faculty. The admission decision will be made by the DBA Admissions Committee after this interview. All of an applicant's credentials will be used in making this decision.