

Business Administration (PhD)

Degree Requirements

Doctor Of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration (PhD) program in Management or Marketing is designed for individuals in business desiring to transition to an academic career or build skills for consulting occupations. The program weekend format is designed to allow students to complete the program through an intensive series of Friday through Sunday classes. In the event a situation is not addressed below, the regulations governing that situation will be determined by the Graduate School.

Minimum Requirements For Admission

Applicants must have successfully completed an MBA, a specialized Master's degree in business, or a professional degree in related areas of study, from nationally accredited programs subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Admissions Committee; Applicants must have a minimum of five years of professional experience in business or other professional fields. Instructors from business schools or colleges who want to upgrade their academic status with a doctoral degree are also eligible to apply. Classes are admitted once each year, starting in May. Check the website for specific deadlines. International students must meet or exceed the University's standard for language proficiency.

Students may apply on-line at <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/mcob/dba/index.html>.

General Information

Required Credits

A minimum of 60 semester hours of approved graduate credit is required. Details about the curriculum are given below.

Transfer Credit

Graduate courses taken at another AACSB accredited university in the same (or closely related) subject as that of the PhD program, may be considered in the PhD plan of study up to a maximum of 12 semester hours. Only grades of "A" or "B" may be accepted as transfer credit. The transfer credit is approved by the Dean of the Graduate School only after completion of a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate work in the doctoral program at USA.

Elective Substitution

With Director approval, up to three seminar elective and/or research methods may be substituted during the second year of courses

Residence, Full-time Study, And Continuation Registration

A minimum of eight consecutive terms of full-time study in residence is required.

Time Limit

All requirements for the PhD degree must be completed within 36 months from the date of matriculation. A student who has not satisfactorily completed the research component in a three year period must apply for a defined extension to complete the degree. This request must be recommended by the major professor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

A comprehensive examination is scheduled for the summer of the third year of the doctoral program. Failure to complete the work within the periods specified will necessitate reevaluation of the student's program and may result in a recommendation for dismissal by the Director of Graduate Studies to the Graduate Dean.

Doctor Of Philosophy Degree Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree is awarded in recognition of the student's demonstrated ability to conduct original, scholarly research at the highest levels without extensive supervision. The degree is not granted upon completion of a stated amount of course work, but rather after demonstration by the student of a comprehensive knowledge and research capability

in a specialized field of study. The student must demonstrate this ability in writing and by defending the research component based upon the result of an original investigation.

Grade Requirements

1. All students must earn an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in the program in order to graduate.
2. Students must pass a course with a grade of no less than a B.
3. Students may not drop (WD) from any course more than one time.
4. Students may not repeat a course more than one time.

Requirements For Degree

PhD students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of sixty (60) semester-hour graduate credit. A minimum of eight consecutive terms of full-time study is required.

To earn a PhD degree in Marketing from the University, a student must satisfactorily complete the following graduate courses and research assignments.

Term	Required Courses and Assignments	Credit Hours	
Year 1 / Summer			
	BUS 700	Fundamentals of Research	3
	BUS 702	Applied Statistics & Regression	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Fall			
	BUS 704	Multivariate Analysis	3
	MKT 701	Seminar in Marketing Management	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Spring			
	BUS 706	Research Methods	3
	MKT 703	Seminar in Supply Chain & Logistics	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Summer			
	BUS 708	Advanced Statistics and Applied Research	6
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
	Conceptual paper presented to review team		
Year 2 / Fall			
	BUS 710	Structural Equation Modeling	3
	MKT 705	Seminar Marketing Communication	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Spring			
	MKT 709	Seminars in Special Topics	3

	MKT 707	Seminar Marketing Strategy	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
		Paper submission to regional meeting	
Year 3 / Summer			
	MKT 799	Comprehensive Exam	3
		ABD status conditional on results of the comprehensive exam	
	MKT 799	Dissertation Research	3
Year 3 / Fall			
	MKT 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	
Year 3 / Spring			
	MKT 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	

To earn a PhD degree in Management from the University, a student must satisfactorily complete the following graduate courses and research assignments.

Term	Required Courses and Assignments		Credit Hours
Year 1 / Summer			
	BUS 700	Fundamentals of Research	3
	BUS 702	Applied Statistics & Regression	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Fall			
	BUS 704	Multivariate Analysis	3
	MGT 703	Seminar in Organizational Theory & Change	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Spring			
	BUS 706	Research Methods	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Summer			
	BUS 708	Advanced Statistics and Applied Research	6
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
		Conceptual paper presented to review team	
Year 2 / Fall			

	BUS 710	Structural Equation Modeling	3
	MGT 705	Seminar Marketing in Leadership	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Spring			
	MGT 709	Seminar in Special Topics	3
	MGT 707	Seminar Strategic Management	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
		Paper submission to regional meeting	
Year 3 / Summer			
	MGT 799	Comprehensive Exam	3
		ABD status conditional on results of the comprehensive exam	
	MGT 799	Dissertation Research	3
Year 3 / Fall			
	MGT 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	
Year 3 / Spring			
	MGT 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	

To earn a PhD degree in Business Analytics from the University, a student must satisfactorily complete the following graduate courses and research assignments.

Term	Required Courses and Assignments	Credit Hours	
Year 1 / Summer			
	BUS 700	Fundamentals of Research	3
	BUS 702	Applied Statistics & Regression	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Fall			
	BUS 704	Multivariate Analysis	3
	MGT 750	Research Design and Analytic Methods in Business	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 1 / Spring			
	BUS 751	Python for Business Analytics	3

	MGT 753	Applied Business Analytics I	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Summer			
	BUS 708	Advanced Statistics and Applied Research	6
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
		Conceptual paper presented to review team	
Year 2 / Fall			
	BUS 754	Applied Business Analytics II	3
	BUS 759	Machine Learning and AI for Business Analytics	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
Year 2 / Spring			
	BUS 710	Structural Equation Modeling for Business Analytics	3
	BUS 757	Computational Business Statistics	3
	BUS 789	Research and Teaching Concepts	1
		Paper submission to regional meeting	
Year 3 / Summer			
	BUS 799	Dissertation Research ABD status conditional on results of comprehensive exam	6
		ABD status conditional on results of the comprehensive exam	
Year 3 / Fall			
	BUS 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	
Year 3 / Spring			
	BUS 799	Dissertation Research	6
		Paper submission to a national or international conference	

Department Information

Graduate

In the event that a situation is not addressed below, the regulations governing that situation will be determined by the Graduate School.

Master Of Business Administration

The Mitchell MBA degree is accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business. It is a professional degree designed to enable individuals to study advanced concepts of business, industry, and government operations. The business environment is constantly changing and the coursework in the MBA program is designed to facilitate decision making within ambiguous and changing conditions. The program requires ten (10) courses each carrying three semester hours of credit.

The Master Of Accounting Degree Program

Students may earn a Master of Accounting degree in the Mitchell College of Business. The admissions requirements, academic regulations, and general degree requirements are similar to those required for the MBA Degree.

Students seeking the Master of Accounting degree are required to complete any of the foundation courses as designated by the Director of Graduate Studies. In addition, students must complete six (6) graduate accounting courses, two (2) general business courses, and two (2) elective courses. The entire program is on-line beginning fall semester 2018. Admission to the MAcc program is automatically approved upon application for USA Accounting graduates with an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA in the major of 3.0. These applicants may apply for a waiver of the GMAT exam.

Admission Requirements For MBA And MAcc Programs

The Mitchell MBA has a Fall only admission policy. The MAcc program will consider admissions at other times of the academic year.

To be admitted to the graduate programs within the Mitchell College of Business, the following are required:

1. A bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by the appropriate United States accrediting agency or equivalent for international institutions;
2. A grade point average of 3.0 is required for regular admission to the MBA program. Grade point averages below 3.0 will be considered on a case by case basis, and are subject to the approval of the MCOB Director of Graduate Programs.
3. Three (3) reference letters attesting to the qualifications of the applicant for graduate business study.
4. Applicants must take a graduate admissions test (GMAT or GRE) and report the score to the University of South Alabama. The MCOB gives preference to GMAT scores but will accept GRE scores under certain circumstances. For details on this policy, check with the Office of Graduate Studies at the Mitchell College of Business.
5. A personal statement from the applicant explaining his/her career ambitions, the reasons for their application to the Mitchell College of Business and an explanation why they achieved the score that they achieved on the graduate admissions test.
6. Applicants may request a waiver of GMAT if they hold a regionally accredited (or equivalent) advanced degree or have a minimum of 3-5 years of demonstrated professional work experience in an applicable area. Applicants who are currently enrolled, and in good standing, in an advanced degree program in a business related field from an AACSB institution may also be considered.
7. International students must meet or exceed the University's standard for language proficiency.

There is a "non-degree seeking" category for registration. Students in this category must obtain permission of the Director of Graduate Studies before registering for any graduate courses in the Mitchell College of Business. A student must re-apply if no course work has been completed within one year after admission into the Master of Accounting or the Master of Business Administration programs.

MBA Prerequisite Requirements

Four courses in the MBA program are suggested prospective students without sufficient prior academic training to complete preparation materials: MBA 502 Managing Accounting Information requires Principles of Accounting (ACC 211) or an equivalent course; MBA 503 Managing in the Business Environment requires Microeconomics (ECO 215) or an equivalent course; MBA 505 Managing People requires Principles of Management (MGT 300) or an equivalent course; and MBA 506 Managing Finance and Capital requires Business Finance (FIN 315) or an equivalent course. The principle is that all students entering the classroom are appropriately prepared. We strongly recommend that all applicants, but especially those without business background or training, successfully complete the prerequisite requirements. Applicants may fulfill the prerequisite requirements by completing the undergraduate courses or self-study courses available from the University Bookstore. All applicants should check with the MCOB Office of Graduate Programs for clarification.

Requirements For Regular Standing

Applicants with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher are given Regular Standing on entry into the program. A Provisional Admission student will qualify for Regular Standing upon completion of a minimum of nine semester hours taken for graduate credit (500 level) toward degree requirements provided at least a "B" average is maintained in all such work attempted.

Academic Regulations

The following regulations apply to all graduate students and encompass all work taken as a graduate student including all graduate degree courses (core, elective, concentration, business and accounting).

1. All students must earn an overall GPA of 3.0 or better
2. A maximum of one course with the grade of "C" may be counted toward a degree program.
3. No D Grades will be awarded
4. Students may not drop (WD) from any course more than one time.
5. Students may not repeat a course more than one time

Transient Approval

Students enrolled in the Master of Business Administration Program and the Master of Accounting Program are expected to complete all requirements at the University of South Alabama. Once enrolled at USA, students are expected to complete the degree requirements at USA. Transient student requests will be approved only under the following conditions:

1. The student is graduating and the specific course requirement is not offered at USA during that term.
2. The student is moving from the Mobile area and can complete the degree requirements at another accredited institution. Transient approval will not be granted for students to enroll in graduate classes at other local (non-AACSB accredited) institutions.

Time Limitation

All requirements for the MBA and MAcc programs must be completed within seven (7) calendar years from admission to the program.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships are awarded on an annual basis and are granted for the academic year. The stipend is for two semesters totaling \$8,000 and a tuition waiver of up to 12 semester credit hours per semester. Out of state fees are also waived. Any additional fees or cost are paid by the student.

Application forms can be obtained from the Office of Graduate Programs in the Mitchell College of Business.

Requirements For Degrees

MBA students must satisfactorily complete ten (10) three semester-hour graduate courses. Students seeking the Master of Accounting degree must complete ten (10) three semester-hour graduate accounting courses.

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