



PhD Program in Business Administration

In fall 2012, the University of Massachusetts Boston will plan to open its doors to the first track of a new PhD program in business administration.* Housed at the College of Management (CM), the program is a collaborative effort of the departments of Management and Marketing, Accounting and Finance, and Management Science and Information Systems. Its goal is to prepare students to become researchers and leaders who use and advance the theories and practices of business to improve the well-being of organizations and communities.

Business is increasingly seen as a site for remedying not only economic but also social problems, often in partnership with the public and nonprofit sectors. The new PhD program focuses intensively on research and analytical skills, with special attention to how these skills can be deployed in all sectors for advancing the economic and social health of regions both locally and globally. Graduates of the program will be prepared for academic careers in research-oriented business schools, as well as professional and executive positions in public and private organizations.

Contact:

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PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM DESIGN

Today's most pressing business issues can seldom be addressed by working within the confines of the traditional disciplines of management, and call out for analytical rigor and insights from across the disciplines. Topics currently pursued by College of Management faculty reveal these overlaps, such as corporate governance and top executive compensation; balancing work, life, and civic engagement through distance technology; and value creation through alliances among software creators, as just a few examples.

Given the complexity of contemporary business problems, the PhD in business administration is multidisciplinary, offering specialized training in three management disciplines while bridging theories, concepts, and research methods drawn from across the social and behavioral sciences. The primary tracks are: *Organizations and Social Change*, investigating how the resources and techniques of business can be harnessed to address societal issues (first entering class scheduled for fall 2012); *Finance*, providing training that facilitates innovations and provides tools for research grounded in current practical problems (starts in fall 2014); *Management Information Systems*, showing ways to use IT for sustainable business competitive advantage and to solve business/societal problems with technological innovations (starts in fall 2016).

Prospective students will apply to one of these tracks. A minimum of 60 credits is required for completion of the PhD, including 42 credits (14 courses) of core and elective credits, and 18 dissertation credits. Electives can be taken from classes offered by the College of Management or by other programs on campus such as the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and the College of Science and Mathematics. Coursework should be completed in two years, with another one to two years to write the dissertation.

All admitted students are eligible for four years of financial support. As part of their financial package and to enhance their professional development, PhD students serve as research assistants during their first two years of study and teach during the latter half of the program. Early in the program, students select a faculty committee to work with on their research. Each student will have the opportunity to learn as a research apprentice and to collaborate on projects with faculty and other students. Existing and planned research centers will provide platforms for student-faculty collaborative research and outreach into the business world.

ADMISSION

Admission to the doctoral program is selective. A faculty committee considers each application, evaluating applicants' areas of interest with respect to our curriculum and faculty research specialties, their prior academic preparation, letters of recommendation from former professors and mentors, and standardized test scores.

Each year the program plans to admit four to six students to the Organizations and Social Change Track. Finance and Management Information Systems will take approximately eight students each on alternate years once those two tracks are up and running. Successful applicants will have broad foundation knowledge across the traditional areas of study in business, or in the disciplines that provide the substantive foundations for business studies. Depending on the track, the admissions committee also expects a basic understanding of economics, statistics, and quantitative methods. A master's degree is not necessary for admission but some prior master's-level study in relevant subjects is a competitive edge. To apply, please submit an application on <http://www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply/>. The deadline is February 1st.

FACULTY

The UMass Boston business faculty is recognized for its research and academic achievements, as well as for its role in national and international thought leadership. The College of Management faculty are also exceptional teachers.

The faculty publish regularly in leading scholarly and management journals, with more than a dozen articles in the past five years in publications on the *Financial Times* list of top business journals. The academic interests of College of Management faculty include topics such as global poverty, social entrepreneurship, climate change, sustainable enterprise, and diversity in the workplace. CM faculty are active members of professional organizations and consultants and advisors to a range of corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

A key feature of the PhD program in business at UMass Boston is its focus on collaboration between PhD students and faculty. Students will be assigned to a faculty member and learn the craft of research by working closely with him or her on current research projects.

* Pending approval from the Massachusetts Board for Higher Education