

Doctor of Philosophy in Business

School of Business

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Financial Aid

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program receive financial assistance. Contingent on satisfactory progress and availability of funds, the school provides financial assistance to most students for the first 4 years of their programs. Financial assistance is available in varying degrees through assistantships, fellowships, grants, loans, and employment.

Assistantships

Students are supported for at least the first four years in the doctoral program with a 50 percent time graduate research or graduate teaching assistant appointment, contingent on satisfactory progress in the program. Furthermore, all tuition and fees are paid. Appointment as a graduate teaching assistant at 40 percent time or more entitles the student to a 100 percent tuition waiver.

For non-native speakers of English, an appointment as a graduate teaching assistant is only made after the student passes the SPEAK test or the Test of Spoken English administered by KU's Applied English Center (<https://aec.ku.edu/>).

Fellowships and Grants

The School of Business has been successful in nominating doctoral students for fellowships and grants from sources outside the school. Business students have received awards from the Richard D. Irwin Foundation, Kauffman Foundation, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Beta Gamma Sigma, the American Accounting Association, Accounting Doctoral Scholars, and KU. These awards allow the student to receive support for a semester while working on his or her dissertation.

The School of Business maintains active files on these and other sources of fellowships and grants, recommends qualified students for the awards, and works closely with students in submitting application materials

Visit the Graduate Studies website for information about other funding opportunities (<http://graduate.ku.edu/funding/>) for graduate students at KU.

Assistance in the form of loans or employment is available through:

Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://financialaid.ku.edu/>)
KU Visitor Center
1502 Iowa Street
Lawrence, KS 66045
785-864-4700

Ph.D. Admission

Standard Admission Requirements for all Graduate Programs:

All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.

Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.

English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency.

Additional Program Requirements:

The applicant must hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required. No specific undergraduate preparation in business is required.

The applicant must demonstrate competence as a scholar through a high level of previous academic performance and high percentile scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Scores may not be older than five years at the time of application. In addition, international applicants must present high scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or IELTS.

Finally, the applicant must demonstrate the ability for doctoral study in business, either by a record of achievement in the previous professional or academic experience, including research and scholarship or through letters of recommendation and a personal interview.

These requirements are intended only as suggestions for minimum admission standards. They should not be construed as a guarantee of admission to the Ph.D. program.

A complete application file includes:

1. A completed Graduate School Application
2. Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (these scores will not be waived for any applicant)
3. Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency.
4. Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies completed. A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
5. Three letters of recommendation
6. Resume or CV
7. Statement of Purpose

A \$65 non-refundable application fee for domestic students and \$85 for international students, payable to the University of Kansas, must accompany all applications.

We only offer admission for the fall semester and the application deadline is January 10th.

All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.

Submit your graduate application online (<http://graduate.ku.edu/>).

Doctor of Philosophy in Business

The program is designed for students who wish to become tenure-track scholars and scholar-teachers. Our program is selective and rigorous, yet it provides a collegial, supportive, and intellectually stimulating atmosphere for original research and effective teaching by providing mastery of the knowledge in a particular field, a thorough understanding of research methodology, the ability to communicate effectively, and the motivation for continuing self-education. Students must specialize in a concentration and develop a broad knowledge of other areas of business and their interrelationships in the management function.

The program is limited in size so each student can work closely with faculty members to receive substantial individual attention.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

By the end of the third semester of the aspirant's program (excluding summer sessions), an aspirant must complete the following qualifier requirements. All aspirants must demonstrate some proficiency in doing original research of publishable quality and some proficiency in teaching.

These courses should be completed in the first 2 years of a student's program. A minimum of 15 courses plus BUS 902 and BUS 903 are required for completion of the degree. At or before the end of the aspirant's third semester in the program, a qualifier assessment team, composed of five faculty members, holistically determines whether or not a student continues in the program.

The aspirant for the Ph.D. in business administration must have an area of concentration, supporting areas, and preparation in research methodology.

Concentration

Each aspirant, with the assistance of her or his faculty advisor and the area faculty, selects an area of concentration from the traditional business disciplines of accounting, analytics, information, and operations, finance, human resources management, marketing, organizational behavior, and strategic management. An aspirant also may propose an interdisciplinary concentration that is a combination of these disciplines or may include emphases such as international business, law, and economics. The aspirant must take at least five advanced courses in the concentration. These courses may include those offered outside the School of Business.

Supporting Areas

Coursework in the area of concentration is supplemented and strengthened by study in one or two supporting areas. A supporting area is one that supplements and complements the concentration. The aspirant satisfies the supporting area requirement by taking at least 4 advanced courses in the supporting areas (at least 2 courses in each of 2 supporting areas or at least 4 courses in 1 supporting area). Courses recommended for preparation for the qualifier assessment may not be included in satisfying the supporting area requirement.

Probation and Dismissal Guidelines

To be in good standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average; if the grade-point average falls below 3.0, the student is placed on probation. This is followed by a letter to the student confirming the probation and explaining the student's options.

A student is placed on probation for one academic semester. If the cumulative grade-point average has not risen to 3.0 in the next semester of enrollment (excluding summers), the student can either be dismissed or allowed to continue on probation. Continued probation requires the area director for the student's concentration to write a letter to the Ph.D. Team explaining why the student should be allowed to continue.

A graduate student can be dismissed on the recommendation of the area director for the student's concentration. Usually, a graduate student is dismissed because of a low grade-point average; however, failure of examinations or failure to make satisfactory progress toward the degree is also cause for dismissal. Academic dismissal should occur before a semester begins; but if a student is dismissed during the semester, the dismissal is effective only at the end of the semester in which the Ph.D. Team gives notification of dismissal.

Policy for KU School of Business Ph.D. Program on Academic Misconduct:

We believe that doctoral students should be held to a higher standard with regard to academic integrity than other students in the School given their future role in doing research and teaching in the university setting as well as enforcing such standards in their own classes. To this end, the faculty of the KU School of Business provides a course, BUS 903 - Responsible Conduct in Research, that is required of each student in the Ph.D. program.

Consistent with USRR 2.5.1 and existing Graduate Studies Policies on "Good Academic Standing" and "Dismissed Enrollment," this document discusses the guidelines for probation and dismissal of doctoral students who commit academic misconduct. The Ph.D. program administrators will regularly check with the Provost's office for any records of misconduct by business doctoral students in any class at KU (inside or outside of the School of Business). For example, these checks will occur (but are not limited to): (a) at the end of the first year for use in the qualifying review process; (b) prior to start of any teaching responsibilities; (c) prior to comprehensive exams; (d) prior to the dissertation proposal defense.

Instances of misconduct will be shared with the members of the Ph.D. team, advisor, and deans of the School.

The first case of any academic misconduct in a class *anywhere* in the university may result in probation or dismissal of the student depending on the severity of the misconduct and the student's response. It is expected that the advisor, Ph.D. team chair and team members, and Ph.D. program director will all be granted access to the details of a misconduct case by the professor involved. If probation, the conditions for the probation are set by the Ph.D. team chair and Ph.D. program director in consultation with the advisor and Ph.D. team members. The conditions may include (but are not limited to) such assignments as reviewing the literature on the area of the responsible conduct in research violated by the misconduct and/or reviewing the material covered in the target class. These conditions and the choice of probation vs. dismissal will be based on the details of each individual case. Importantly, if the student is not dismissed as a result of the first offense and if the conditions for the probation are not met in a timely manner, or if a second act of misconduct occurs, the student will likely be dismissed from the Ph.D. program.

Dissertations will also be reviewed by the advisor and program director for academic misconduct before being submitted to the Research and Graduate Studies Office. Academic misconduct on a dissertation is grounds for dismissal from the program. Academic misconduct on the dissertation that is not discovered until after graduation may be grounds for revoking the Ph.D. degree. In summary, the Ph.D. program in the KU School of Business seeks to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity with this policy.

Research Methodology

When preparing for the qualifier assessment, area groups should ensure that the student’s program includes adequate preparation in research methodology.

Responsible Scholarship

Students in the first or second year must enroll in BUS 903 Responsible Conduct of Research. This course builds students’ abilities to analyze ethical issues and introduces students to various issues that may arise while engaging in the research endeavor.

Note: Contact your department or program for more information about research skills and responsible scholarship, and the current requirements for doctoral students. Current Lawrence and Edwards Campus policies on Doctoral Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship are listed in the KU Policy Library.

Teaching

Students enroll in BUS 902 Teaching Seminar during the first semester in which they teach independently. Before the completion of the Ph.D. program, all students also must have teaching experience equivalent to teaching at least 2 undergraduate courses independently in 2 different semesters.

Examinations

To advance to candidacy, the student must pass a written-oral comprehensive examination in the concentration. Finally, the student must pass an oral defense of the dissertation research proposal and the dissertation.

Accounting

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BSAN 920	Probability for Business Research	4
BSAN 921	Statistics for Business Research	4
BE 917	Advanced Managerial Economics	3
ECON 715	Elementary Econometrics	3
ACCT 928	Introduction to Accounting Research	3
ACCT 929	Seminar in Archival-Based Accounting Research	3
ACCT 930	Seminar in Auditing Research I	3
ACCT 932	Seminar in Financial Accounting Research I	3
ACCT 936	Accounting Research Design and Corporate Governance Seminar	3
Supporting Areas: Choose 6		
BSAN 922	Advanced Regression	3
FIN 937	Seminar in Business Finance	3
FIN 938	Seminar in Investments	3
FIN 939	Seminar in Financial Institutions	3

ECON 730	Topics in Industrial Organization	3
ECON 769	Financial Economics	3
ECON 817	Econometrics I	3
ECON 818	Econometrics II	3
ECON 830	Game Theory and Industrial Organization	3
ECON 869	Advanced Financial Economics	3
ECON 880	Advanced Topics in Economic Theory: _____	1-3
ECON 915	Advanced Econometrics I	3
ECON 916	Advanced Econometrics II	3
ECON 917	Advanced Econometrics III	3
ECON 918	Financial Econometrics	3
PSYC 790	Statistical Methods in Psychology I	3
PSYC 791	Statistical Methods in Psychology II	3
PSYC 894	Multilevel Modeling	4
MATH 727	Probability Theory	3
MATH 728	Statistical Theory	3

Analytics, Information, and Operations

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BSAN 920	Probability for Business Research	4
BSAN 921	Statistics for Business Research	4
ECON 800	Optimization Techniques I	3
ECON 801	Microeconomics I	3
ECON 802	Microeconomics II	3
or ECON 830	Game Theory and Industrial Organization	
ECON 817	Econometrics I	3
Area of Concentration:		
BSAN 922	Advanced Regression	3
BSAN 923	Stochastic Process	3
or MATH 865	Stochastic Processes I	
BSAN 925	Empirical Methods in Operations Management	2-5
or BSAN 924	Seminar in Machine Learning	
or IST 995	Doctoral Seminar in Information Systems: _____	
or BSAN 935	Analytical Research in Operations Management	
or BSAN 926	Research Methods	

Supporting Areas: Choose at least six courses from the options below.

ECON 790	Game Theory and Applications	3
ECON 818	Econometrics II	3
ECON 830	Game Theory and Industrial Organization	3
ECON 916	Advanced Econometrics II	3
EPSY 906	Latent Trait Measurement and Structural Equation Models	3
EPSY 930	Applied Longitudinal Analysis	3
FIN 821	Corporate Finance	3
FIN 830	Investments	3
MATH 765	Mathematical Analysis I	3
MATH 790	Linear Algebra II	3
MKTG 952	Introduction to Marketing Models	3

Finance

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BSAN 920 or MATH 727	Probability for Business Research Probability Theory	4
BSAN 921 or MATH 728	Statistics for Business Research Statistical Theory	4
BSAN 922	Advanced Regression	3
ECON 800	Optimization Techniques I	3
ECON 801	Microeconomics I	3
ECON 802	Microeconomics II	3
BE 917	Advanced Managerial Economics	3
FIN 901	Current Research in Finance	2
FIN 937	Seminar in Business Finance	3
FIN 938	Seminar in Investments	3
FIN 939	Seminar in Financial Institutions	3
Advanced elective in finance or economics or research methods		
ECON 817	Econometrics I	3
ECON 818	Econometrics II	3
Select one of the three sequences below:		
Sequence 1:		
ECON 715	Elementary Econometrics	3
Advanced elective in research methods		
Sequence 2:		
ACCT 928	Introduction to Accounting Research	3
ACCT 932	Seminar in Financial Accounting Research I	3
Sequence 3:		
ECON 770	Economics of the Labor Market	3
ECON 870	Applied Microeconomics	3

Human Resource Management

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BE 701 or BE 917 or ECON 700	Business Economics Advanced Managerial Economics Survey of Microeconomics	3
MGMT 905	Management Research Methods	3
MGMT 916	Major Management Theories	3
MGMT 950	Seminar in Human Resource Management I	3
MGMT 951	Seminar in Human Resource Management II	3
MGMT 953 or MGMT 954	Seminar in Organizational Behavior I Seminar in Organizational Behavior II	3
MGMT 956 or MGMT 957	Seminar in Strategic Management I Seminar in Strategic Management II	3
MGMT 998	Independent Study for Doctoral Students	1-5

At least six additional courses with advisor approval

Marketing

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
MKTG 901	Introduction to Research Methods in Marketing	3
MKTG 951	Consumer Behavior	3
MKTG 952	Introduction to Marketing Models	3
MKTG 957	Managerial Issues in Marketing	3
Consumer Behavior Track:		
BE 917 or ECON 700	Advanced Managerial Economics Survey of Microeconomics	3
BSAN 920 or MATH 727	Probability for Business Research Probability Theory	4
BSAN 921	Statistics for Business Research	4
PSYC 791	Statistical Methods in Psychology II	3
PSYC 818	Experimental Research Methods in Social Psychology	3
PSYC 894	Multilevel Modeling	4
Choose at least five of the following courses:		
PSYC 723	Advanced Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYC 725	Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PSYC 735	Psycholinguistics I	3
PSYC 774	Advanced Social Psychology I	3
PSYC 775	Advanced Social Psychology II	3
PSYC 787	Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gerontology and Aging	3
Quantitative Track:		
BSAN 920 or MATH 727	Probability for Business Research Probability Theory	4
BSAN 921 or MATH 728	Statistics for Business Research Statistical Theory	4
BSAN 922	Advanced Regression	3
ECON 800	Optimization Techniques I	3
ECON 801	Microeconomics I	3
ECON 809	Optimization Techniques II	3
ECON 817	Econometrics I	3
ECON 818	Econometrics II	3
BE 917 or ECON 730	Advanced Managerial Economics Topics in Industrial Organization	3
EECS 836	Machine Learning	3
EECS 839	Mining Special Data	3
BIOS 902	Bayesian Statistics	3
Other substitutional courses for the above:		
ECON 916	Advanced Econometrics II (when content is time series, VAR models)	3
EECS 649	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	3

Organizational Behavior

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BE 701 or BE 917 or ECON 700	Business Economics Advanced Managerial Economics Survey of Microeconomics	3
MGMT 905	Management Research Methods	3
MGMT 916	Major Management Theories	3

MGMT 950	Seminar in Human Resource Management I	3
or MGMT 951	Seminar in Human Resource Management II	
MGMT 953	Seminar in Organizational Behavior I	3
MGMT 954	Seminar in Organizational Behavior II	3
MGMT 956	Seminar in Strategic Management I	3
or MGMT 957	Seminar in Strategic Management II	
MGMT 998	Independent Study for Doctoral Students	1-5

At least six additional courses with advisor approval

Strategic Management

Ph.D. students must take the following:

Code	Title	Hours
BE 701	Business Economics	3
or BE 917	Advanced Managerial Economics	
or ECON 700	Survey of Microeconomics	
MGMT 905	Management Research Methods	3
MGMT 916	Major Management Theories	3
MGMT 950	Seminar in Human Resource Management I	3
or MGMT 951	Seminar in Human Resource Management II	
MGMT 953	Seminar in Organizational Behavior I	3
or MGMT 954	Seminar in Organizational Behavior II	
MGMT 956	Seminar in Strategic Management I	3
MGMT 957	Seminar in Strategic Management II	3
MGMT 958	Special Topics in Strategic Management	3
MGMT 998	Independent Study for Doctoral Students	1-5

At least six additional courses with advisor approval

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in scholarly literature in chosen field
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in research methodologies in chosen field
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct satisfactory original research through solo or co-authored first- and second-year papers.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research by completing a dissertation that contributes significantly to the literature in area of specialization.
- Demonstrate progress towards a publication considered top-tier in chosen discipline.
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- Gain visibility by presenting research, critiquing other research, and networking within chosen discipline.
- Achieve placement in a doctoral-granting academic institution.
- Demonstrate proficiency as mentor / graduate teaching assistant.
- Demonstrate proficiency in independent teaching.