

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, D.B.A.

Program Description

The Marshall University Doctor of Business Administration program is a research-based doctoral program that combines a disciplined approach to scholarship with a focus on compelling problems of practice. Students will study seminal and contemporary business literature to develop research questions in their area of interest. They will perform literature reviews, design and perform research studies, analyze data, and draw relevant conclusions that affect economic development and business innovation. Students will choose a concentration that focuses on one broad business area, and they will be required to complete a proposal and dissertation as part of the program.

Duration of Degree Program

The D.B.A. program is a 66-credit hour cohort program extending over three years with the coursework completed during the first two years. The third year is devoted to the completion of the dissertation. It is a full-time program with no part-time option. The entry term is in August (Fall Semester).

Concentrations

There are three concentration areas to choose from: accounting, health care management, or management and entrepreneurship. Students must declare one of these concentration areas when entering the program and finalize their choice during the first semester of study.

Program Delivery

Classes in the D.B.A. program are delivered using the hybrid method, which includes both online and face-to-face interactions. The face-to-face portion of the classes meet two times during the fall and spring semesters, and once in the summer semester. These face-to-face classes will be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays and will consist of approximately 12 to 15 hours of instruction. There are also three virtual classes held each semester (two during the summer session) on Saturdays. The remainder of the instruction and coursework will be completed online using Marshall's MUOnline learning platform. These online courses will be delivered asynchronously so that each student may work at a personal pace. Students will be required to possess a personal computer that is compatible with MU software for completion of the coursework.

Program Requirements: Proposal

D.B.A. program students are required to complete and submit a *dissertation proposal* to their Dissertation Committee. Students take nine hours of the dissertation course DBA 790 Dissertation Design, during the spring and summer semesters of their second year. In the last semester enrolled in DBA 790 Dissertation Design, students must defend their dissertation proposal and receive final approval from their dissertation committee. If students do not defend the proposal and receive final approval, within the nine required hours of DBA 790

Dissertation Design, they must register for additional hours of DBA 790 Dissertation Design until this is completed.

Dissertation

D.B.A. program students are required to complete and submit a *doctoral dissertation* to their Dissertation Committee. Students take nine hours of dissertation courses DBA 791 Dissertation, both semesters of the third year upon satisfactory completion of all other coursework and the proposal defense. In the last semester enrolled in DBA 791 Dissertation, students must defend their dissertation and receive final approval from their dissertation committee. If students do not defend and receive approval, within the eighteen required hours of DBA 791 Dissertation, they must register for additional hours of DBA 791 Dissertation until this is completed.

Grades And Time Frame

Proposal and dissertation courses are graded credit/no credit. Students must pass these courses and complete all other courses with a letter grade of "B" or better. Should a student fail to pass or complete a course with the required grade, the D.B.A. Program Committee may offer an alternative activity as a substitute or place the student on academic probation that, in some circumstances, could lead to dismissal from the program. The D.B.A. Program Committee will handle other delays in progress on a case-by-case basis. Students must complete the D.B.A. program within six years of starting the program.

Academic Conference Requirement

Students are required to present at two academic conferences, approved by the Program Director, prior to graduation.

Admission Requirements

The program will admit students every fall semester in a cohort. Students must meet all MU requirements for admission and be admitted to graduate study. Please refer to the Graduate Studies webpage at <http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission> (<http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission/>).

The admission process for the D.B.A. program will be competitive and will emphasize academic ability, professional work experience, and other indicators of potential for program success. The D.B.A. Program Committee will consider the following items as preferred qualifications:

- A completed master's degree in business or a related area from an appropriately accredited institution (must have a bachelor's degree at minimum);
- Relevant professional and/or senior level management experience;
- Other evidence of achievements and experience including written or oral contributions to the field of expertise, professional certifications, professional development programs, and awards/honors; and
- GMAT or GRE scores (optional).

The D.B.A. Program Committee is more likely to consider candidates for admission to the program if they have more of these qualifications. The materials that are required in the application package include:

- A cover letter and resume listing and describing the applicant's academic and work experience, and other qualifications;
- A personal interest statement that is 4 to 5 pages in length and explains the candidate's objectives for joining the program, goals

upon graduation, potential research questions of interest, and how the candidate's work experience will contribute to this research;

- Academic transcripts showing all undergraduate work and graduate work, if applicable; and
- Three letters of recommendation.

The D.B.A. Program Committee will review all documents to identify candidates who have a high likelihood of succeeding in the program.

The D.B.A. Program Committee will interview these candidates before making a final offer.

Plan of Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>First Semester (Fall)</i>		
DBA 701	Res Bus & Econ Dev	3
DBA 710	Bus Research Design Method	3
DBA 711	Bus Quant Methods I	3
<i>Second Semester (Spring)</i>		
DBA 702	Cur Research Bus Innovation	3
DBA 712	Bus Quant Method II	3
Choose one of the following depending on area of emphasis:		3
DBA 720	Research Sem in Man Acct	
DBA 730	Research Sem in HC Delivery	
DBA 740	Research Sem HRM	
<i>Third Semester (Summer)</i>		
DBA 703	Cur Research Issues Bus Tech	3
Choose one of the following depending on area of emphasis:		3
DBA 721	Research Sem in Audit	
DBA 731	Res Mgr Epidemiology	
DBA 741	Res Op Bus Models & Strat	
<i>Fourth Semester (Fall)</i>		
DBA 704	Research Global & Intl Bus	3
DBA 713	Bus Quant III	3
Choose one of the following depending on area of emphasis:		3
DBA 722	Research Sem in Fin Acct	
DBA 732	Res Sem HC Inform Mgt	
DBA 742	Res Sem in Entr, Sm Bus, & FF	
<i>Fifth Semester (Spring)</i>		
DBA 705	Ped in Bus Schools	3
DBA 714	Qual Methods	3
DBA 790	Dissertation Design	3
<i>Sixth Semester (Summer)</i>		
DBA 790	Dissertation Design	6
<i>Seventh Semester (Fall)</i>		
DBA 791	Dissertation	9
<i>Eighth Semester (Spring)</i>		
DBA 791	Dissertation	9
Total Credit Hours		66

- Health Care Management, Area of Emphasis in D.B.A. (<http://catalog.marshall.edu/graduate/programs-az/business/business-administration-dba/health-care-management-area-emphasis-dba/>)
- Management and Entrepreneurship, Area of Emphasis in D.B.A. (<http://catalog.marshall.edu/graduate/programs-az/business/business-administration-dba/management-entrepreneurship-area-emphasis-dba/>)

- Accounting, Area of Emphasis in D.B.A. (<http://catalog.marshall.edu/graduate/programs-az/business/business-administration-dba/accounting-area-emphasis-dba/>)