Business administration executives work in private and public sectors and are responsible for developing solutions to stay ahead of the competition through marketing, management and data analytics. Business administration executives are interested in learning more about and applying theoretical concepts to current economic and business issues.

At Ottawa University

Ottawa University's Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree program is an application-based doctoral program that combines a rigorous approach to scholarship with a focus on discovering compelling problems based in real-world practice. Through a combined framework of empirical exploration in the realm of strategy and evidence-based decision making, students learn the "science of business" and develop successful data driven strategies and solutions that can be applied to their respective organizations.

The Doctor of Business Administration degree was designed for those seeking to advance their careers in management, strategic and executive leadership, and consulting. The delivery for the 56 credit-hour degree coursework will include six, three-day, on-campus residencies each year of enrollment. Students will be able to continue their current employment while working on their doctorate. Graduates of this program will be expected to be at the forefront of strategic evidence-based management, an increasingly important skill for knowledge generation, and executives and scholar-practitioners expected to make significant contributions in business, leadership and the advancement of management practice and science.

Courses and Curriculum

The core curriculum of OU's DBA features current business and economic research. It emphasizes knowledge-based competitive strategy, communication skills, organizational development, and direct application to your current and future career goals.

With working professionals in mind, the 54 credit-hour doctoral degree program can be primarily online. Like all of the graduate programs offered by OU, the DBA is fast-tracked with flexible eight-week terms—six terms per year—allowing you to take courses at your pace and with the ability to take more than one course per term.

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Foundation Courses

ARP 9001
Applied Research Project: Research Execution I

Course focuses on both the theoretical and practical aspects of the applied research project proposal and assists students through the writing processes, including the problem statement and conceptual/theoretical framework as it relates to generation of the research problem. Design a personal best practices framework for completing their study and Chapter 1.

ARP 9002
Applied Research Project: Research Execution II

Introduces seminal readings in contemporary management and strategy and enhances students' abilities to recognize and understand emerging and dominant paradigms in management literature. Focuses candidates on the development of the literature review chapter that will be included in the applied research project. Complete chapter 2.

ARP 9003
Applied Research Project: Research Execution III

Expands upon DRES 8751 Quantitative Research Methodology II and DRES 8753 Qualitative Research Methodology II. Complete Chapters 3 and 4.

ARP 9004
Applied Research Project: Research Execution IV

Assists students working through the final chapters of the dissertation. Complete Chapters 5 and 6.

ARP 9100
Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive Exam is designed to test students' knowledge of the content of the DBA coursework and their ability to apply that knowledge to business problems requiring strategic solutions. Successful completion of the comprehensive exam is required for advancement to the final research project phase of the program.

ARP 9200
Applied Research Project Defense

Present an oral defense of the methodology and findings of the applied research project. Successful completion of the applied research project defense signifies completion of the doctoral program.

Corequisite: ARP 9004 Applied Research Project: Research Execution IV

BUS 8650
Strategic Organizational Development

Examines organizational effectiveness from the perspective of senior leadership. Blends organizational theory with concepts in the behavioral sciences that apply to organizational development. Examine leverage points that equip leaders to create high-performing organizations adaptable to volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) environments.

BUS 8652
Informed Decision Making

Focuses on decision-making from the perspective of senior leadership. Highlights strategic business decision-making processes when leaders or organizations face volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA). Complex and data-driven decisions are considered with emphasis on the power and utility of business analytics. Learn to construct and interpret decision trees, k-nearest neighbor predictions, Bayesian networks, and cluster analyses, as well as to explore the foundations of data mining.

BUS 8653
Qualitative Research Methods

Introduces classical qualitative research traditions, as well as the design and process of qualitative research projects. Gain discipline-specific hands-on experience discovering, observing, and analyzing organizational phenomena. Discern and assess researchable problems, and they will select and implement appropriate qualitative research strategies.

BUS 8660
Financial Value Generation Strategy

Examines financial strategy from the perspective of senior leadership, focusing on how organizations create and add value by positioning themselves competitively within the industry. Introduces students to the tools of game theory, such as Nash equilibrium; refinements and screening/signaling models used in modeling corporate finance research; and the application of financial strategies via directed casework.

BUS 8665
Strategic Human Capital Management

Explores cross-disciplinary theories of recruiting, developing, and deploying human capital. Propose your own diversity, equity, and inclusion models in the context of strategic business practice that prepares for the future and provides leadership competent to recruit, mobilize, and retain valuable human capital.

BUS 8670
Knowledge-based Competitive Strategy

Examines competitive advantage from the perspective of senior business leadership by exploring the growing role of data in business. Learn how knowledge assets provide organizations with competitive advantage and how organizational capabilities have potential to produce long-term superior performance; learn the tenets of agile strategy, including the framing of appreciative questions, asset identification, leveraging assets to achieve strategic outcomes, and selecting appropriate projects to attain strategic objectives.

BUS 8680
Technology-driven Organizational Challenges

Examines technology's impact on organizations from a strategic business leadership perspective and explores the means by which organizations can optimize the human experience with technology. Learn the opportunities and distinct challenges posed by the confluence of the digital community and the intertwining of technological change and business models. Additional emphasis is placed on understanding the main theories relative to innovation and technology strategy and synthesizing research in this area.

BUS 8690
Strategy Implementation Methodologies

Examines strategy implementation methodologies from a senior leadership perspective. Through case-study analyses and surveys, you will critically analyze the theoretical and empirical issues of strategic management implementation. Be equipped to derive and apply tactical solutions to strategic issues in order to scale business operations.

BUS 8760
Survey of Business Strategy

Surveys theories and frameworks that inform successful business strategy, including microeconomic theory, game theory, organizational theory, Clausewitz, Sun Tzu, Guerrilla strategies, Spheres of Influence, oligopoly theory, mutually assured destruction and brinkmanship, maneuver warfare and others. Emphasizes the concept of deliberate practice within a resource-based view of organizations.

BUS 8902
Special Topics: 21st Century Strategy
Undertake an extensive review of current topics, theories, practices or interests tailored specifically to the 21st Century age of creativity, innovation, and increasing competition in the field of business management. Through presentations, readings, case studies, discussions and assignments students come to recognize and avoid antiquated ideas about business strategy, while adopting and adapting fresher and better ideas.

BUS 9005
Doctoral Colloquium
The purpose of the doctoral colloquium is to help DBA students refine their selected dissertation topic. In this colloquium, doctoral students will engage faculty, industry practitioners, and other DBA students on topics related to their dissertation topics from the field of strategic management.

Corequisite: DRES 8753 Qualitative Research Methodologies II

DRES 8651
Quantitative Research Methodology
Provides an overview and understanding of quantitative research methods and appropriate parametric and non-parametric analytic techniques. Learn statistical research methods/techniques commonly used in the discipline and will be able to identify appropriate research design, to assess validity of collection and analysis of data, and to describe the role of statistics in addressing critical issues.

DRES 8750
Doctoral Orientation: Writing at the Doctoral Level
Introduction to the requirements, expectations, and mechanics of graduate-level academic writing. Develop the scholar-practitioner doctoral competencies of critical thinking and analysis via academic reading and writing at the doctoral level. Examine connections and distinctions among academic writing genres, master APA style guidelines, and understand the applied research project process.

DRES 8751
Quantitative Research Methodology II
Builds upon competencies in quantitative research methodologies. Requires hands-on experience with specific quantitative research methods and statistical analysis techniques, including logit/probit models, count models, event history models, and pooled cross-section modes. Theoretically grounded in introductory level econometrics, students implement the techniques, critique empirical studies in business and economics, and apply these techniques and critiques to doctoral research.

Prequisite: DRES 8651 Quantitative Research Methodologies I

DRES 8753
Qualitative Research Methodology II
Expands the students' understanding of techniques for development, measurement, and analysis of qualitative data. Specifically, through hands-on application of analysis techniques and theoretical selection, sensitivity, and saturation, students will critique and implement grounded theory and related methods and techniques via simulated business problems, scenarios, and case studies.

Corequisite: DRES 8653 Qualitative Research Methodologies I

Supplemental Courses

ARP 9005
Applied Research Project: Research Continuation I
Assists students in working through completion of outstanding work in chapters 1-3 of the applied research project. Course may be taken two times.

Prequisite: ARP 9002 Applied Research Project: Research Execution II

ARP 9006
Applied Research Project: Research Continuation II
Assists students in working through completion of outstanding work in chapters 4-5 of the applied research project. Course may be taken two times.

Prequisite: ARP 9003 Applied Research Project: Research Execution III

ARP 9007
Applied Research Project: Research Continuation III
Assists students in working through completion of outstanding work in chapter 6 of the applied research project. Course may be taken two times.

Prequisite: ARP 9004 Applied Research Project: Research Execution IV

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