Business Administration

Washington University’s Olin Business School is one of the nation’s leading research institutions, with a faculty whose research productivity consistently ranks among the highest in the business school community. Olin faculty members are recognized the world over for their important contributions to the creation of new knowledge. We also take great pride in our commitment to excellence in teaching.

Our PhD students are guided by highly productive researchers who are among the nation’s top scholars. Faculty work closely with students to help them hone their research skills, often building one-on-one mentoring relationships that include the co-authoring of research papers.

The development of strong problem-solving skills equips our students to strategically address complex, unstructured business issues that result in innovative thinking and new ideas for research that have value to the academic community and application in the business world.

Olin's PhD program in business provides the following:

- A challenging core curriculum and a strong background in basic disciplines
- Emphasis on collaborative relationships between faculty and students, which enhances the educational process and the search for the student’s first faculty appointment
- Personalized advising for the successful completion of PhD program requirements and a customized course of study that fits the student’s particular area of interest
- A collegial network built on mutual respect and a shared school of thought
- A competitive edge in the business education market

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Faculty

Dean

Mark Taylor  
PhD, Birbeck College, University of London

Endowed Professors

Nicholas S. Argyres  
Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

William P. Bottom  
Joyce and Howard Wood Distinguished Professor of Organizational Behavior  
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

J. Stuart Bunderson  
George and Carol Bauer Professor of Organizational Ethics and Governance  
PhD, University of Minnesota

Siddhartha Chib  
Harry C. Hartkopf Professor of Econometrics and Statistics  
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Kurt T. Dirks  
Bank of America Professor of Managerial Leadership  
PhD, University of Minnesota

Philip H. Dybvig  
Boatmen’s Bancshares Professor of Banking and Finance  
PhD, Yale University

Hillary Anger Elfenbein  
John K. Wallace Jr. and Ellen A. Wallace Distinguished Professor  
PhD, Harvard University

Richard M. Frankel  
Beverly and James Hance Professor of Accounting  
PhD, Stanford University

Barton H. Hamilton  
Robert Brookings Smith Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship  
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Ohad Kadan  
H. Frederick Hagemann, Jr. Professor of Finance  
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Bulletin 2019-20
Business Administration (09/23/19)

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John E. Walsh Jr.
(Management)

Degree Requirements

PhD in Business Administration

PhD students must complete 36 credit hours; maintain satisfactory academic progress; pass certain examinations; fulfill residence and teaching requirements; and write, defend and submit a dissertation.

Upon the successful completion of business PhD study, the student is awarded a PhD from the Graduate School at Washington University.

Core Foundation

- A strong foundation in microeconomics or psychology, probability & statistics, and quantitative methods
- Exposure to the student's area of specialization and the required research tools
- Successful completion of the core exam

Specialization

- Courses in one or more areas of study
- In-depth knowledge in the chosen field
- Active association with the research process through faculty mentoring
- Completion of the field exam

Research

- Participation with faculty in research activities
- Research paper presentation
- Individual research pursuing a specialized topic of interest
- Preparation and defense of the dissertation