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 worldwide 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 co-authoring research papers.

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:

- 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 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. Olin faculty members promote one-on-one mentoring relationships, often partnering with students for research that leads to co-authoring papers.
- A competitive edge in the business education market.

Contact:
Erin Murdock
Phone: 314-935-6340
Email: murdockel@wustl.edu
Website: http://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/academic-programs/PhD

Faculty

Dean

Mark Taylor (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=mark.p.taylor)
PhD, Birbeck College, University of London

Endowed Professors

Nicholas S. Argyres (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=argyres)
Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

William P. Bottom (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=bottomb)
Joyce and Howard Wood Distinguished Professor of Organizational Behavior
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

J. Stuart Bunderson (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=bunderson)
George and Carol Bauer Professor of Organizational Ethics and Governance
PhD, University of Minnesota

Siddhartha Chib (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=chib)
Harry C. Hartkopf Professor of Econometrics and Statistics
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Kurt T. Dirks (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dirks)
Bank of America Professor of Managerial Leadership
PhD, University of Minnesota

Philip H. Dybvig (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dybvig)
Boatmen’s Bancshares Professor of Banking and Finance
PhD, Yale University

Hillary Anger Elfenbein (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=ellenbein)
John K. Wallace Jr. and Ellen A. Wallace Distinguished Professor
PhD, Harvard University

Richard M. Frankel (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=frankel)
Beverly and James Hance Professor of Accounting
PhD, Stanford University

Barton H. Hamilton (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=hamiltonb)
Robert Brookings Smith Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship
PhD, Stanford University

Ohad Kadan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=kadan)
H. Frederick Hagemann, Jr. Professor of Finance
PhD, Hebrew University
Prospective Students

Washington University in St. Louis

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Ronald R. King (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=rking)
Myron Northrop Professor of Accounting
PhD, University of Arizona

Panos Kouvelis (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=kouvelis)
Emerson Professor of Operations and Manufacturing Management
PhD, Stanford University

Hong Liu (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=liuh)
Fossett Distinguished Professor in Finance
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Glenn M. MacDonald (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=macdonald)
John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics and Strategy
PhD, University of Rochester

Judi McLean Parks (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=mcleanparks)
Reuben C. and Anne Carpenter Taylor Professor of Organizational Behavior
PhD, University of Iowa

Todd T. Milbourn (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=milbourn)
Hubert C. and Dorothy R. Moog Professor of Finance
PhD, Indiana University

Chakravarthi Narasimhan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=narasimhan)
Philip L. Siteman Professor of Marketing
PhD, University of Rochester

Jackson A. Nickerson (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=nickerson)
Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Stephen M. Nowlis (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=nowlis)
August A. Busch Jr. Distinguished Professor of Marketing
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Robert A. Pollak (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=pollak)
Hemreich Distinguished Professor of Economics
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

P.B. (Seethu) Seetharaman (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=seethu)
W. Patrick McGinnis Professor of Marketing
PhD, Cornell University

Anjan Thakor (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=thakor)
John E. Simon Professor of Finance
PhD, Northwestern University

Guofu Zhou (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=zhou)
Frederick Bierman and James E. Spears Professor of Finance
PhD, Duke University

Professors

Tat Y. Chan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=chan)
PhD, Yale University
(Marketing)

Lingxiu Dong (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dong)
PhD, Stanford University
(Operations and Manufacturing Management)

Radhakrishnan Gopalan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=gopalan)
PhD, University of Michigan
(Finance)

Anne Marie Knott (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=knott)
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
(Strategy)

Xiumin Martin (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=xmartin)
PhD, University of Missouri-Columbia
(Accounting)

J. Lamar Pierce (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=pierce)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Strategy)

Stephen Ryan (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=stephen.p.ryan)
PhD, Duke University
(Economics)

Fuqiang Zhang (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=fzhang22)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Operations and Manufacturing Management)
Associate Professors

Mariagiovanna Baccara (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=mbaccara)
PhD, Princeton University
(Economics)

Markus Baer (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=baer)
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(Organizational Behavior)

Cynthia Cryder (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=cryder)
PhD, Carnegie Mellon University
(Marketing)

Daniel Elfenbein (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=elfenbein)
PhD, Harvard University
(Organization and Strategy)

Armando Gomes (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=gomes)
PhD, Harvard University
(Finance)

Todd Gormley (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=gormley)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Finance)

Jared Jennings (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jaredjennings)
PhD, University of Washington
(Accounting)

Baojun Jiang (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=baojunjiang)
PhD, Carnegie Mellon University
(Marketing)

Andrew P. Knight (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=knightap)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Organizational Behavior)

Mark Leary (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=leary)
PhD, Duke University
(Finance)

Robyn LeBoeuf (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=leboeuf)
PhD, Princeton University
(Marketing)

Asaf Manela (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=amanela)
PhD, University of Chicago
(Finance)

Raymond T. Sparrowe (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=sparrowe)
PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago
(Organizational Behavior)

Raphael Thomadsen (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=thomadsen)
PhD, Stanford University
(Marketing)

Danko Turcic (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=Turcic)
PhD, Case Western Reserve University
(Operations Manufacturing and Management)

Assistant Professors

Deniz Aydin (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=daydin)
PhD, Stanford University
(Finance)

Taylor Begley (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=tbegley)
PhD, University of Michigan
(Finance)

Seth Carnahan (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=carhangan)
PhD, University of Maryland
(Strategy)

Kimball Chapman (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=kimballchapman)
PhD, Pennsylvania State University
(Accounting)

Phech Colatat (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=pcolatat)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Strategy)

Kaitlin Daniels (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=k.daniels)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Operations Management)
Jennifer Dlugosz (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jdlugosz)
PhD, Harvard University
(Finance)

Jason Donaldson (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=j.r.donaldson)
PhD, London School of Economics
(Finance)

Jacob Feldman (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jbfeldman)
PhD, Cornell University
(Operations and Manufacturing Management)

Tarek Ghani (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=tghani)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Business Administration)

Arun Gopalakrishnan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=agopala)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Marketing)

Daniel Gottlieb (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=d.gottlieb)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Economics)

Chad Ham (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=cham)
PhD, University of Maryland
(Accounting)

Ashley Hardin (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=aehardin)
PhD, University of Michigan
(Organizational Behavior)

Xing Huang (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=xing.huang)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Finance)

Xiang Hui (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=xianghui)
PhD, Ohio State University
(Marketing)

Zachary Kaplan (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=zrkaplan)
PhD, University of Chicago
(Accounting)

Jeongmin Lee (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jlee89)
PhD, University of Maryland
(Finance)

Zawadi Lemayian (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=lemayian)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Accounting)

Thomas Maurer (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=thomas.maurer)
PhD, London School of Economics
(Accounting)

Yulia Nevskaya (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=yulia.nevskaya)
PhD, University of Rochester
(Marketing)

Hannah Perfecto (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=perfecto)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Marketing)

MaryJane Rabier (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=mjrabier)
PhD, University of Maryland
(Accounting)

Iva Rashkova (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=irashkova)
PhD, London Business School
(Management Science and Operations)

Sydney Scott (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=sydneyscott)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Marketing)

Bernardo Silveira (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=silveira)
PhD, New York University
(Economics)
Janis Skrastins (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jskrastins)
PhD, London Business School
(Finance)

Ngoc-Khanh Tran (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=ntran)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(Finance)

Ulya Tsolmon (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=utsolmon)
PhD, Duke University
(Strategy)

Dennis Zhang (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=denniszhang)
PhD, Northwestern University
(Operations and Manufacturing Management)

Professors of Practice

Peter Boumgarden (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=boumgardenp)
PhD, Washington University
(Organizational Behavior)

Samuel S. Chun (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=schun)
PhD, Washington University
(Marketing)

Clifford K. Holekamp (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=holekampc)
MBA, Washington University
(Entrepreneurship)

John Horn (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=johnhorn)
PhD, Harvard University
(Economics)

Patrick Moreton (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=moreton)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Strategy and Management)

Patrick Rishe (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=prishe)
PhD, Binghamton University
(Sports Business)

Timothy Solberg (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=solbergtg)
University of Chicago
(Sports Business)

Michael Wall (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=michael.wall)
Indiana University
(Marketing)

Senior Lecturers

Sergio Chayet (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=chayet)
PhD, Northwestern University
(Operations and Manufacturing Management)

Charles J. Cuny (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=cuny)
PhD, Stanford University
(Finance)

Thomas D. Fields (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=tfields)
PhD, Northwestern University
(Accounting)

Michael R. Gordinier (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=gordinier)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
(Management)

Konstantina Kiousis (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=kiousis)
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
(Business Administration)

Lee J. Konczak (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=konczak)
PhD, University of Missouri-St. Louis
(Organizational Behavior and Leadership Development)

David R. Meyer (https://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dmeyer24)
PhD, University of Chicago
(Management)

James Sawhill (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=sawhill)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
(Marketing)
Eli M. Snir (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=snir)
PhD, University of Pennsylvania (Management)

Mark E. Soczek (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=soczek)
ABD, Northwestern University (Accounting)

Durai Sundaramoorthi (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=sundaramoorthi)
PhD, University of Texas at Arlington (Management)

Lecturers

Cathy Dunkin (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=cdunkin)
BA, University of Missouri-Columbia (Management)

Ivan Lapuka (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=ilapuka)
PhD, University of South Florida (Marketing)

Staci Thomas (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=staci_thomas)
MA, Webster University (Communications)

Adjunct and Other Faculty

Pier Alsup (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=alsup.pier.y)
MS, Webster University (Marketing)

John Althoff (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=althoff.john)
BS, University of Missouri, STL (Accounting)

Amy Altholz (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=altholza)
MBA, Washington University (Accounting)

Yossi Aviv (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=aviv)
PhD, Columbia University (Operations Manufacturing and Management)

Richard Batsell (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=batsell)
PhD, University of Texas at Austin (Marketing)

Anatoliy Belaygorod (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=belaygorod)
PhD, Washington University (Finance)

Spencer Burke (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=burkesb)
JD, University of Pennsylvania (Management)

David Butler (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=david.butler)
MBA, Washington University (Health Care Management)

Amy Choy (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=amychoy)
PhD, Washington University (Accounting)

Robert Collins (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=rbcollins)
MS, Harvard University (Accounting)

Jeremy Degenhart (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jdegent9876)
BS, BA, Washington University (Finance)

Jim Deutsch (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jdeutschjr)
MA, Webster University (Finance)

William R. Emmons (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=emmons)
PhD, Northwestern University (Finance)

Peter S. Finley (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=finley)
MBA, Stanford University (Entrepreneurship)

Ronald K. Fisher (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=fisher)
JD, Washington University (Labor and Employment Laws)
Hans Fredrikson (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=hans.fredrikson)
MBA, University of Chicago
(Finance)

David Fritsch (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=fritschd)
MBA, Washington University
(Business Administration)

Judith Gebhardt (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jagebhardt)
PhD, California School of Professional Psychology
(Organizational Behavior)

Bruce Lee Hall (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=hallb)
PhD, MD, Duke University
(Health Care Management)

Carol F. Johanek (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=johanek)
MBA, Saint Louis University
(Marketing)

Nevada Kent IV
BSBA, Tennessee Technical University
(Accounting)

Sarah Luem (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=luem)
JD, Saint Louis University
(Management)

Steven Malter
PhD, University of Missouri-St. Louis
(Management)

Mary Mason (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=masonm)
MD, Washington University
(Management)

Tom McCain (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=tmccain)
MBA, Washington University
(Management)

Mark McLaren (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=mmclaren)
MBA, Columbia University
(Management)

Paul W. Paese (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=paese)
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(Organizational Behavior)

Donald W. Paule (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dpaule)
LLM, Washington University
(Business Law)

David Pearson (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=dpearson)
DBA, Indiana University
(Accounting)

Jeff Plunkett (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=jplunkett)
JD, Saint Louis University
(Accounting)

David A. Poldoian (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=poldoian)
MBA, Harvard University
(Entrepreneurship)

Kristin Poole (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=kipool)
MS, Saint Louis University
(Accounting)

Robert A. Portnoy (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=rportnoy)
PhD, University of Missouri-Columbia
(Human Resource Management)

Casey Quinn (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=quinnc)
MBA, Washington University
(Health Care Management)

Richard Ryffel (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=r ryffel)
MBA, Boston University
(Finance)

Anthony Sardella (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=asardella)
MBA, Northwestern University
(Management)

Russell Scalpone (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=rs scalpone)
PhD, Claremont Graduate University
(Operations Manufacturing and Management)

Martin K. Sneider (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=msneider)
MBA, Harvard University
(Marketing)
**Mark Sophir** (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=m.sophir)  
JD, University of Texas School of Law  
(Management)

**Ted Stann** (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=teddstann)  
(Management)

**Michael Stohler** (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=michael.stohler)  
BS, Bellarmine College  
(Economics)

**Cynthia A. Wichelman** (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=wichelmanc)  
MD, Stanford University  
(Business and Medicine)

**Robert Zafft** (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=robertzafft)  
JD, Harvard University  
(Law)

**Professors Emeriti**

**Nicholas Baloff**  
(Business and Public Administration)

**Stuart I. Greenbaum** (http://www.olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=greenbaum)  
Former Dean and Bank of America Professor Emeritus of Managerial Leadership  
PhD, Johns Hopkins University

**James T. Little** (https://olin.wustl.edu/EN-US/Faculty-Research/Faculty/Pages/FacultyDetail.aspx?username=littlej)  
Donald Danforth Jr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Business  
PhD, University of Minnesota

**Ambar Rao**  
Fossett Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Marketing

**J. George Robinson**  
Professor Emeritus of Marketing

**Robert L. Virgil Jr.**  
Dean Emeritus of the John M. Olin Business School and Professor Emeritus of Accounting

**John E. Walsh Jr.**  
(Management)

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### Degree Requirements

**PhD in Business Administration**

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

Upon 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 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 student's dissertation