

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.B.A.)/ INFORMATION SYSTEMS, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) [DUAL DEGREE]

Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (<http://www.aacsb.edu/>)

Program goal

Master of Business Administration

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of effective management. The student also will come to understand the environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

An M.B.A. from VCU benefits students at various points in their careers. Individuals who have recently received their baccalaureate degrees may choose to refine their business skills while their undergraduate training is fresh. Individuals with work experience often find that an M.B.A. is the key to rapid promotion or a career change. Finally, an M.B.A. from VCU meets the needs of students who recognize that the best preparation for an uncertain future is continuous learning.

Master of Science in Information Systems

The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles using information systems to support organizations. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, business-technology-oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes

For M.B.A. graduates

1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
5. Students should be able to identify and understand major issues faced by organizations with evolving information technology and investigate issues and challenges faced by managers with changes in information technology.
6. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
7. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.
8. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.
9. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.
10. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm's performance.

For M.S. in Information Sciences graduates

1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.
4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the **Graduate School website** and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's

faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the [academic regulations section](#) for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the [academic regulations section](#) for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Business [policies and procedures for graduate students](#) are available on the school's website.

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.S. and M.B.A.	Fall	Jul 1	GMAT or GRE
	Spring	Nov 1	

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), applicants to the dual degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems program must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), students can earn both M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems degrees by having 12 credit hours counted toward both degrees.

Students in the dual degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.B.A. students, including the two lockstep semesters. To get both degrees, students will take all foundation courses required for the M.B.A. (unless waived), all nine core courses required for the M.B.A. and nine additional courses in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The INFO 661 course taken for the M.B.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and three of the additional information systems courses also will count toward the normally required three elective courses in the M.B.A. program.

One of the information systems courses must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components. The six information systems courses to be taken in addition to INFO 661, INFO 664, INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630 must be approved by the program adviser, and would normally be selected to satisfy one of the M.S. in Information Systems concentrations.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Foundation courses (not included in 54 hours required for combined degree program)		
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
ECON 500		3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
MGMT 540	Management Theory and Practice	3
MKTG 570	Concepts and Issues in Marketing	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
SCMA 530	Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business	3
Total Hours		21

M.B.A. course work

Course	Title	Hours
Advanced courses		
Each student must begin the advanced portion of the program with the courses below in each of the first two semesters. Full-time students will take additional courses from the remainder of the advanced program.		
Semester one (to be taken at the same time)		
ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
Semester two		
FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
Remainder of the advanced program		
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	3
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
Total Hours		27

M.S. in Information Systems course work

Course	Title	Hours
Core courses		
INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems	3
INFO 620	Data Communications	3
INFO 630	Systems Development	3
Electives		
Select six of the following:		18
INFO 611	Data Re-engineering	

INFO 614	Data Mining
INFO/CISS 616	Data Warehousing
INFO 622	Internet Security Management
INFO 632	Business Process Re-engineering
INFO 641	Strategic Information Systems Planning
INFO 642	Decision Support and Intelligent Systems
INFO 643	Information Technology Project Management
INFO/CISS 644	Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security
INFO 646	Security Policy Formulation and Implementation
INFO 654	Systems Interface Design
INFO 658	Securing the Internet of Things
INFO 691	Topics in Information Systems
INFO 693	Field Project in Information Systems
INFO 697	Guided Study in Information Systems
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Total Hours	27

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree option is 54.

Students in the combined program who wish to have an M.B.A. concentration other than information resources management would need to complete an additional three courses for the concentration area.

Contact

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Additional contact

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Program website: business.vcu.edu/academics/mba-options/dual-degrees/ (<https://business.vcu.edu/academics/mba-options/dual-degrees/>)