

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

Advanced study in business administration and information systems is available through a dual degree program sponsored by the School of Business.

The dual degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems program allows students to earn two degrees with a minimum of 63 graduate credits rather than the 75 graduate credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earning both degrees.

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may effectively increase the number of credits needed to earn the degrees.

Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree program are to:

- Prepare individuals to be effective leaders and managers in today's high technology world
- Equip individuals with tools and techniques that optimize returns on technology investments
- Enhance communication skills relating to technology management in complex and diverse organizations
- Provide the ability to analyze and appropriately incorporate technological, economic, environmental and behavioral factors in decision-making as it relates to achieving strategic organizational goals overall including, but not limited to, technology
- Develop the ability to plan and implement effective governance and security mechanisms to enhance information security in organizations

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree program are the following:

- Complementing the general management skills obtained in the M.B.A. with a solid specialization in information systems, technology and information systems management
- Acquiring a high degree of competency with specialized knowledge unique to technology and technology management
- Enhanced ability to effectively compete for technology management positions across a wide spectrum of levels and organizations
- Enhanced job prospects – particularly for candidates intending to switch careers or striving to move up within their organizations
- The ability to effectively complete both degrees within a shorter time frame with considerable time and tuition savings

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded sequentially or simultaneously. Students are not required to begin both programs in the same semester, but must have at least one semester before

graduation where they are enrolled in both degrees for the dual credits to be applied to both degrees.

Student learning outcomes

See each degree program page for student learning outcomes.

Other information

Advising

A program manager will serve as an adviser and administrative liaison for students. The assigned program manager will assist in developing a plan of study to meet the curriculum requirements of both programs. A faculty adviser from the Department of Information Systems will help students consider electives that will best serve their professional goals.

Admission requirements

Students must officially apply and be admitted to each degree program separately before the pursuit of the dual degree program may begin. It is not required to begin both programs in the same semester. View the application requirements for each program for additional details.

Degree requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 63 total credits to earn the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems. Students without sufficient background in information systems may be required to first complete prerequisite course work.

A total of 12 credits may be counted toward both programs:

Course	Title	Hours
INFO 520	Data Communications (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 530	Systems Development (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems (core requirement for M.S.; satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers (M.B.A. core requirement; satisfies INFO 640 core requirement in M.S.)	3

Curriculum requirements for the dual degree

Course	Title	Hours
M.B.A. requirements		
• Required courses		
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers (satisfies INFO 640 core requirement in M.S.)	3
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3

MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
• Electives		
Satisfied by INFO 520, INFO 530 and INFO 610		
M.S. requirements		
• Required courses		
INFO 520	Data Communications (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 530	Systems Development (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 544	Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security	3
INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 640	Information Systems Management (satisfied by M.B.A. core requirement INFO 661)	3
• Information system electives		9-15
Select three to five from the following:		
INFO 511	Data Reengineering	
INFO 532	Business Process Reengineering	
INFO 535	Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security	
INFO 609	Data-centric Analysis/Planning	
INFO 614	Data Mining	
INFO 616	Data Warehousing	
INFO 617	Text Analytics	
INFO 636	Securing Cloud Infrastructure	
INFO 641	Strategic Information Systems Planning	
INFO 642	Decision Support and Intelligent Systems	
INFO 643	Information Technology Project Management	
INFO 645	Prescriptive Analytics	
INFO 646	Security Policy Formulation and Implementation	
INFO 648	Business Data Analytics	
INFO 658	Securing the Internet of Things	
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	
INFO 691	Topics in Information Systems	
INFO 693	Field Project in Information Systems	
INFO 697	Guided Study in Information Systems	
• Other approved electives		0-6
A maximum of two non-INFO electives may be completed from the preapproved list below for students that have satisfied course prerequisite requirements.		
SCMA 603	SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management	
SCMA 632	Statistical Analysis and Modeling	

SCMA 642	Decision and Risk Analytics	
SCMA 669	Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business	
Total Hours		63

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 63.

Sample plan of study

What follows is an example plan that meets the prescribed requirements. Students may work with their adviser to consider an individual enrollment plan that best meets their goals. Part-time enrollment and summer courses may be considered.

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers (satisfies INFO 640 core requirement in M.S.)	3
MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Year two

Fall semester		Hours
ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
Information systems electives		9
Term Hours:		12

Year three

Fall semester		Hours
INFO 520	Data Communications (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 530	Systems Development (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
INFO 544	Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security	3
Information systems or other approved elective		3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

Information systems or other approved elective	3
Term Hours:	3
Total Hours:	63

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 63.

Contact

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Additional contact

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