# Doctor of Philosophy in business administration

## Program information

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| **College** | College of Business | | |
| **Department or school** | Department of Management Programs | | |
| **Degree abbreviation** | Ph.D. | **CIP code** | 52.0201 |
| **Program website** | business.fau.edu/masters-phd/phd-program/traditional-phd | | |

### Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do, and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate, so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

## Program mission

The doctoral program emphasizes independent inquiry, skill in research methods, sharing research findings, and developing teaching skills. It prepares scholars to conduct business research and teach at the university level.

### Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

### How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by preparing independent researchers and skilled university teachers in business. Their research advances knowledge that helps communities prosper.

## About the program

The Doctor of Philosophy in business administration prepares students for careers in research and university teaching. Students choose a concentration such as accounting, finance, information technology and operations management, management or marketing, and an executive format is also offered. Coursework covers statistics, econometrics, and quantitative methods, plus courses in concentration. Students then pass a comprehensive exam and complete a dissertation.

# Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: communication skills (Outcome 1); content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

## A. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

**Areas this program addresses (check at least two)**

- ☐ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☒ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to deliver clear, effective class lectures as university business teachers.

**How students show it**

An in-class lecture delivered in the seminar on university business education.

**Where it is assessed**

Seminar in University Business Education

## B. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

**Areas this program addresses (check at least two)**

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to evaluate and compare the major theories in their field of business.
Graduates will be able to explain the research procedures used in business scholarship.

**How students show it**

Comprehensive exam; job placement

**Where it is assessed**

Comprehensive exam; student survey☒ ☒ ☐ ☐

## C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

**Areas this program addresses (check at least one)**

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to design and carry out independent research on a business question.

**How students show it**

The dissertation proposal defense.

**Where it is assessed**

Dissertation proposal defense

# Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Faculty review each student's comprehensive exam to judge command of theory and research procedures. A faculty committee evaluates the dissertation proposal defense for independent research skill. Faculty also observe a teaching lecture in the university business education seminar. Faculty use these results to improve doctoral courses and mentoring.

*Assessment methods may change over time.*