

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

About the Doctor of Business Administration

Established in 1998, the mission of the St. Ambrose University Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program is to enable experienced professionals with an advanced degree to develop a deeper understanding of management theory for the advancement of knowledge and professional practice. St. Ambrose University is a member of the North Central Association and is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission to offer the DBA degree. The program is also accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The DBA program teaches students a fresh approach to critically thinking about complex managerial issues. The DBA program:

- > Enhances students' abilities in their current jobs and prepares them for advancement by building their understanding of organization strategy and firm performance, advancing their comprehension of human behavior in organizations, and improving their analytical and questioning skills.
- > Increases students' marketability in industry by developing their management expertise and business knowledge.
- > Equips students with the needed knowledge, skills and credentials to pursue an academic career or consulting opportunities.
- > Fulfills the desire for those seeking a new challenge and sense of accomplishment from earning a doctorate degree.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

We offer high value for your investment. Compare us with our competitors!

- > St. Ambrose University ranked #5 in the U.S. in 2019 for best DBA Programs by CollegeChoice.net based on our quality, reputation, affordability, value and satisfaction.
- > Many DBA students and graduates have been promoted to senior management positions.
- > 95% of students reaching the dissertation stage have successfully completed the program.
- > Our students and alumni have authored more than 150 conference papers and publications. Topics are wide-ranging, including employee engagement, new venture



startups, corporate social responsibility, top management teams, IFRS accounting standards, technology adoption, leadership, mentoring, selection processes and training programs.

- > Students and graduates have received many awards, such as Best Paper, Outstanding Reviewer and Outstanding Educator.

DESIGNED FOR THE WORKING PROFESSIONAL

The DBA Program helps professionals address current challenges in their organizations in an interactive environment. DBA classes are offered online over Zoom from 6-9 p.m. (CST) during the workweek.

Students come from diverse backgrounds, providing meaningful and inspiring discussion while also giving you a network of executives, managers, analysts, engineers, faculty, and other professionals. Students are taught by faculty holding the highest degrees in their fields and who have industry experience.

Each fall and spring semester, students complete a one-day residency on a Saturday while in the coursework stage.

The SAU Difference

CURRICULUM

Through a 48 credit hour curriculum, the DBA program provides students with a broad range of understanding in the management field, specifically encompassing the areas of organizational behavior, human resource management and strategic management. Each course is 3 credit hours. Coursework is followed by comprehensive exams, and the dissertation (15 credit hours)

Required Core Management Courses

- DBA 910 Analyzing Behavior in Organizations
- DBA 911 Managing Human Resources in a Global Environment
- DBA 913 Developing Strategy for Competitiveness

Special Topics Courses

Students take 4 of any of the following electives (other special topics courses are also offered)

- DBA 930 Enhancing Employee Engagement
- DBA 931 Training and Development
- DBA 940 Leadership
- DBA 941 Teamwork in Organizations
- DBA 950 Leading Organizational Change
- DBA 951 Organizational Culture
- DBA 960 Entrepreneurship
- DBA 961 Corporate Social Responsibility
- DBA 970 Collegiate Teaching

Required Core Research Courses

- DBA 901 Research Methodology
- DBA 902 Statistical Techniques I
- DBA 903 Statistical Techniques II
- DBA 904 Dissertation Design and Development

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

These exams assess the student's knowledge of and ability to apply management concepts and research. Students complete the written portion of their comprehensive exams during a two-day residency on the SAU campus. The oral portion of comprehensive exams is conducted online via Zoom.

DISSERTATION

After successful completion of comprehensive exams, students begin their dissertation, a culminating major research project that represents an original contribution to the field of management.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must possess a master's degree from an accredited educational institution. If the master's is in an area other than Business Administration, it may be necessary to complete relevant business coursework. Admission to the program is selective. A personal interview is required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Required documents:

- > Completed online application form at www.sau.edu/apply
- > Written statement of career goals
- > Current resume
- > Two letters of recommendation (preferably one from an employer and one from a professor) sent from the references to the DBA Director
- > A minimum of one and up to three sole-authored papers completed in master's coursework (e.g., thesis, case analyses). If papers are unavailable, please contact the DBA Director to discuss options to fulfill this requirement
- > Official transcripts sent from all colleges and universities previously attended
- > For candidates whose primary language is not English, the IELTS or TOEFL score will be required

Admissions decisions are generally made within two weeks of receiving a candidate's completed application and accompanying materials. Decisions are made on a rolling basis. Candidates accepted into the DBA Program can begin coursework at the start of each term.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The St. Ambrose University Financial Aid Office provides information on loans for graduate studies. Interested DBA candidates should also confer with their human resource department for policies regarding educational reimbursement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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