

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATION

The PhD in the field of business administration with a concentration in strategic management and public policy prepares students to contribute as scholars to their chosen field of research. The curriculum is designed to help students develop an advanced understanding of research methodologies and competence in the fields of strategic management and public policy, as well as a deep foundation of knowledge in the student's chosen field of study. The program is a coordinated effort between the GWSB departments of Management (<https://business.gwu.edu/academics/departments/management/>) and Strategic Management and Public Policy (<https://business.gwu.edu/academics/departments/strategic-management-public-policy/>), therefore, the coursework consists of core courses as well as courses that are specific to either of those two fields.

Visit the program website (<https://business.gwu.edu/academics/programs/doctoral/phd-in-management-and-strategy/>) for additional information.

REQUIREMENTS

The PhD in business administration involves two years of formal courses established by each Department and approved by the doctoral committee. Students take a minimum of 45 credits during their program, including 27 credits in core courses, a 3-credit summer paper, and 15 credits in elective courses. Students should consult their faculty advisory group about the required courses and electives for which they should register.

Students should complete at least 39 credits within the first two years from matriculation. The remaining 6 credits should be completed during the third year.

Requirements for the strategic management and public policy concentration

Code	Title	Credits
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The following 30 credits constitute the core requirements for the strategic management and public policy concentration*:

Four courses (12 credits) in research methods and quantitative analysis.

Required

MGT 8385	Special Topics in Research Methods	
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and 3 courses from other subject areas' research methods courses, for example:

EDUC 8122	Qualitative Research Methods
PSYC 8205	Multiple Regression Analysis in Psychological and Social Sciences
Four doctoral seminars (12 credits) covering important studies in the student's area of interest.	
MGT 8382	Foundations of Organizational Behavior and Development
MGT 8385	Special Topics in Research Methods (Workgroups and Teams)
SMPP 8321	Seminar in Strategic Management
SMPP 8331	Doctoral Seminar (Organizational Theory)

One additional doctoral-level seminar (3 credits) from outside the student's area of interest

Completion of a 3-credit summer research paper during the first or first and second summer, as required by the student's area of interest.

Electives

The remaining 15 credits required are taken in elective courses, selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisory group.

*Policies for core courses

In general, all core courses should be doctoral courses, i.e., those at the 8000 level. All courses must be taken for letter grades. Required courses cannot be waived without substitution except in unusual circumstances as determined on a case-by-case basis. Examples of unusual circumstances include students holding a specialized master's or doctoral degree where equivalent core courses were taken in a particular area (such as statistics or mathematics). Students may petition the associate dean of research and doctoral programs to substitute up to 12 credits of required courses with alternative courses approved by the faculty advisory group.

Code	Title	Credits
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Comprehensive examination

After the student completes the coursework and the summer paper requirements, the faculty advisory group and department faculty administer a comprehensive examination. The format of the comprehensive examination is at the discretion of the advisory committee, subject to approval by the doctoral committee when evaluating the study plan. The comprehensive examination establishes the student's mastery of the current and classic literature. The comprehensive exam can be written, in-class, or take-home, and may include an oral component. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination in two attempts leads to termination from the program.

Dissertation

Following successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student is considered a doctoral candidate, and may form a dissertation committee, and develop a dissertation proposal. During this stage, students prepare, submit, and defend a dissertation.

Other policies

All course work and required comprehensive examination must be completed within five years of matriculation. All program requirements must be completed within seven years of the date of matriculation.

The doctoral program is administered and supervised by the associate dean and the committee on doctoral studies. For more detailed information about this program, contact the GWSB Doctoral Program Office.