Business Administration

Degree Type
Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

Admission Requirements

Admission Criteria for the Doctor of Business Administration Program

Applications for the DBA program are accepted year-round. However, the Savannah campus DBA program only seats new students in spring quarter of each year.

- Completion of an MBA degree from an acceptable accredited institution.
  OR
- Completion of an undergraduate degree in business and a master's degree in a business field (such as organizational leadership, management, or human resources) from an acceptable accredited institution. The College Dean makes the final decision regarding accepted fields of study for admission to the program.
  AND
  A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0) on the earned master's degree. Additional coursework may be required to meet the Required Knowledge Base. Refer to section on Required Knowledge Base for further information.
- Completion of an application for admission.
- Submission (within 5 weeks of class start date) of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (refer to Conditional Acceptance).
- Personal interview with a representative from the College of Business as designated by the Dean of the College of Business (may be conducted by teleconference).

Submission of the following:

- A 1,000-word Statement of Purpose Essay that targets the applicant's academic and professional preparation for the South University DBA, along with future academic and professional goals. This statement must detail how the applicant's goals will be enhanced from earning a South University DBA and how the degree will be integrated into future career goals.
- Résumé or curriculum vitae that clearly outlines academic and professional preparation for a doctorate program.
- Three current academic/professional recommendations submitted directly to South University from the evaluator. References submitted to South University by an applicant will not be accepted. These recommendations must present the applicant's ability to successfully matriculate the program and how the applicant will contribute to the overall quality of the program. Additionally, the recommendation must include an assessment of the applicant's ability to be successful as a professional in teaching, service and research.

Once all required admissions documents and information are submitted, the candidate's admission packet will be reviewed and evaluated by the program director. Applications will be reviewed on a weekly basis and applicants will be notified immediately.

Transfer of Credit Guidelines for the DBA program

The majority of credits toward the DBA degree program must be earned at South University. Credit for transfer work will be given if the courses were taken at an acceptable accredited collegiate institution, the course is equivalent to courses offered at South University, and the course carries a grade of "B" or better.

All transfer credit will be reviewed and approved by the Dean, College of Business, or designee, and the Department Chair of the respective academic department and Program Director. The maximum number of classes to transfer is four courses or 16 quarter hours. NOTE: Dissertation courses may not be transferred from another institution.

Required Knowledge Base for the DBA Program

Applicants to the DBA degree program must demonstrate a master's level ability to integrate knowledge within critical knowledge areas with a grade of "B" or better. These knowledge areas must have been taken at an acceptable accredited institution and be equivalent to a 3 semester-hour, graduate level course.

Knowledge Areas:

- Organizational Behavior and Communication
- Statistics

Students meeting all other admission requirements except not having met the Required Knowledge Base areas will be admitted into the program; however, these graduate level knowledge areas must be successfully completed with a grade of "B" or better within the first two quarters of enrollment.

If a student does not complete the Required Knowledge Base areas within the required timeframe, the student will be dismissed from the program.

The Required Knowledge Base course credits do not count towards the total number of credits for graduation nor do they count in the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA); however, they do count in determining the maximum time frame (MTF) and the Incremental Completion Rate (ICR).

Virtual Residency Requirement for Online Students

The doctoral residencies are a requirement for online students in the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program. These are a time for faculty, staff, and students to meet in a collegial learning opportunity. Residencies are designed as a time for students and faculty to work together collaboratively and to support the creation of a community of scholars. Students will participate in faculty- and student-led presentations and will have the opportunity to network and share their experiences in the program. They will also be able to work collaboratively on their scholarship during the residencies, and opportunities to provide service to the academic community will be discussed.

The South University DBA has two residencies. All DBA students in the online program are required to participate in these two residencies; these residencies are part of the completion requirements for the program.

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section here.

Program Overview and Outcomes

Offered at Online Programs

Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree program at South University is designed to prepare students to seek employment teaching business courses in higher education or to practice their profession in business or consulting. The program is organized around three core areas: business emphasis, research methods/statistics, and quality teaching instruction.

The program focuses on the discipline of organizational behavior, which is the study of human behavior in organizations. The discipline draws from the areas of industrial, organizational, and social psychology.

The primary objective of the DBA degree program is to prepare graduates to seek employment in faculty positions in academic institutions. Another potential value of the degree program is that graduates may have the opportunity for advancement and for enhanced performance in their positions as senior executives and consultants. The DBA degree program is designed to help candidates develop skills in applied research by improving their methodological and analytical proficiency. These skills can help graduates advance in their academic careers or in their careers as senior managers or consultants.

Students have the opportunity to study the current research in the field, analyze and practice the research methods appropriate to the topics within the disciplines of organizational behavior and leadership, and develop appropriate methodologies to teach the topics to future students through the methods used in the discipline.

Online students are required to complete two residencies as part of the degree completion. One residency will take place early in the program and another will take place near the completion of their coursework prior to the start of their dissertation.

Program Distinctions

The South University DBA program is designed to be unique through the combination of the following items:

- Focuses on teaching, scholarship and service and as such mirrors the performance criteria for faculty within higher education.
- Includes instruction in quality methods of teaching in higher education through study and classroom observation.
- Includes a traditional preliminary exam and dissertation experience similar to PhD degree programs.
- Integrates management research paradigms as an organizing structure within content courses.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to analyze and apply contemporary theory of organizational behavior and leadership within their discipline and make contributions to the business administration knowledge base.
2. Comprehend and apply the concepts, principles, and methods of researching business topics, and develop research designs using scientific investigation and systematic inquiry in an area of management. Emphasis will be placed upon directing research for peer reviewed journals, business practices, and consulting assignments.
3. Demonstrate a thorough understanding and practice of teaching and managing courses in higher education.
4. Demonstrate excellent oral and written communication related to the academic and professional environment. Students will demonstrate these skills in their coursework, instructional activities, and the dissertation.

Doctor of Business Administration: 72 Credits

Foundation: 4 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
BUS7000	Introduction to the Professional Doctorate	4.0
BUS7001	Virtual Residency I	0
BUS7002	Virtual Residency II	0

**BUS7001, BUS7002: Residency Required for Fully Online Students Only. Refer to the DBA Progressions Policy

Major Courses: 24 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
BUS8000	Comprehensive Exam	0
MGT7100	Seminar in Organizational Behavior	4.0
MGT7105	Seminar in Group and Team Behavior	4.0
MGT7110	Seminar in Organizational Theory	4.0
MGT7115	Seminar in Leadership	4.0
MGT7200	Seminar in Organizational Development and Change	4.0
MGT7205	Seminar in Ethics and Social Responsibility	4.0

Research Methods/Statistics: 16 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
BUS7100	Research Methods I	4.0
BUS7105	Research Methods II	4.0
BUS7200	Statistics for Research Methods I	4.0
BUS7205	Statistics for Research Methods II	4.0

Teaching in Higher Education: 8 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
INS7115	College Teaching	4.0
INS7200	Instructional Design	4.0

Dissertation: 20+ Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
BUS8100	Doctoral Dissertation Research Development	4.0
BUS8105	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	4.0
BUS8110	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Defense	4.0
BUS8115	Doctoral Dissertation Preparation	4.0
BUS8120	Doctoral Dissertation Defense	4.0

Dissertation Extension

Course Code	Title	Credits
BUS8100EX	Doctoral Dissertation Research Development Extension	0.0
BUS8105EX	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Extension	0.0
BUS8110EX	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Defense Extension	0.0
BUS8115EX	Doctoral Dissertation Preparation Extension	0.0
BUS8120EX	Doctoral Dissertation Defense Extension	0.0

Note:

Dissertation courses may be repeated using course code with "EX" at the end.

Total Credits		**72**