

# Master of Business Administration, MBA

For additional information about graduate programs within the College of Business, please contact graduate advisor Jennifer Pettitt at GradBiz@uah.edu ( gradbiz@uah.edu). Information about the application process may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the catalog.

## Purpose

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is designed as a general management graduate degree, offering a unique *management of technology* theme. The educational emphasis of the program builds upon knowledge and skills in all of the business disciplines to prepare students for careers in organizations that face opportunities and challenges afforded by technological change.

The MBA program was fashioned to be an interdisciplinary program in business for practicing administrators, primarily for early- and mid-career managers. The typical student aspires to managerial positions. The curriculum is designed to accommodate students from engineering, science, the liberal arts and other non-business backgrounds. Students in this program typically have five to fifteen years of full-time work experience. They aspire to upward career mobility or are seeking to change career paths.

The MBA program emphasizes the development of integrative systems thinking skills in order to build capable, creative managers able to face successfully both external challenges such as rapid technological change and increasing environmental complexities, and internal issues such as changing employee expectations and methods of increasing productivity.

The program orients students to the rigors of holistic thinking about technology-driven problems and opportunities, introduces students to concepts and tools from all the business disciplines to operate in a technological environment, and instills a commitment to teamwork. The curriculum provides instruction in financial reporting, analysis and markets; domestic and global economic environments of organizations; creation and distribution of goods and services; and human behavior in organizations. It provides advanced study in decision science and human aspects of organizational problem-solving. It provides education in managing technological innovations and processes, and integrating technology into the organization's strategic objectives. It addresses such issues as analyzing problems through economic and financial frameworks, developing and using information systems, providing information on accounting costs, marketing, managing the development of technology, reducing new product development time, managing technical professionals, and integrating technology into the overall strategic objectives of the organization.

The MBA program is recognized internationally through accreditation by AACSB International-The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

## Degree Requirements

### Program Prerequisites

- (1) written and oral English communications
- (2) quantitative analysis/statistics
- (3) computer proficiency achieved either through prior experience and education or as part of the student's MBA program of study

### Program Foundation Courses

The MBA curriculum includes a group of six courses (18 credit hours) that serves as the program foundation.

ACC 600	FOUNDATIONS ACC MANAGERS & ENG	3
ECN 600	FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMICS	3
IS 600	INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT	3
MGT 600	ORGAN THRY, BEHAV & ENVIRONMEN	3
MKT 600	SURVEY OF MARKETING MGMT	3
MSC 600	QUANTITATIVE METHODS	3

**Total Semester Hours**

**18**

### Program Core Courses

The program core courses focus on the management of technology, and consist of the following:

MGT 601	TECH & INNOVATION MGMT	3
MSC 605	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT	3
ACC 602	MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING	3
ECN 626	MANAGERIAL ECON & TECH	3
FIN 601	FIN DECIS UNDER UNCERTAINTY	3

MKT 604	NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	3
MGT 631	HRM & ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR	3
MGT 698	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT <sup>1</sup>	3
Select 9 semester hours of graduate electives		9
Select one of the following plans:		
Plan I:		
Thesis: 6 Semester Hours		
Select 3 semester hours of graduate electives		
Plan II:		
Select 9 semester hours of graduate electives		
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>33</b>

<sup>1</sup>MGT 698, Strategic Management, is the capstone course and should be taken toward the end of the student's program. A student must earn a grade of B or better in MGT 698.

### Potential Emphasis Areas

MBA students take nine semester hours of graduate electives consistent with their professional development aspirations. Students may choose to focus the nine semester hours in one area to create an "emphasis area." MBA students should seek the advice of the Director of Graduate Programs before selecting an emphasis area. Through careful selection of courses, students may pursue an emphasis in accounting, acquisitions management, cybersecurity, information systems, finance, human resource management, marketing, project management, or supply chain & logistics management.

### MBA Thesis Option

Some MBA students are interested in pursuing a research project and may choose a thesis option. Students who choose to pursue a thesis option substitute six semester hours of elective coursework with six hours of thesis research coursework.