## DBA Program Related FAQs

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### Target Audience

**Is this right program if I’m looking to make a change from industry to academia?**
Yes, this program is positioned to allow you to transition from industry to academia. It is also suitable for those who wish to adapt from industry experience into a consulting role and acquire the tools and perspective to conduct rigorous research & projects for clients.

The MitchellDBA is also perfect for instructors in business schools and colleges who want to upgrade their academic status with a doctoral degree and pursue careers in AACSB accredited institutions.

### Program Related

**Is the program accredited by the AACSB?**
The Mitchell College of Business is an AACSB accredited institution and therefore the programs offered by the School are accredited. The DBA program along with every other program (Bachelor’s and Master’s) we offer will be reviewed again by AACSB in 2018-2019 time frame for re-accreditation. We are also accredited by SACS as part of the University accreditation.

**How does a DBA compare to a Ph.D.**
A Ph.D. in business/management is the traditional doctoral degree whose format had been borrowed from the natural sciences. In most business Ph.D. programs, you take about the same number of courses (12 or 13) during the course of 2 to 3 years while working as a teaching or research assistant in the department. After course work, you complete the comprehensive exams and transition into the dissertation phase that could take another couple of years.

In a DBA program such as ours, you finish 12 courses in two years, complete the comprehensive exams during summer after year two, and utilize the third year to complete & submit the 3 research manuscripts/studies for publication. Ideally, students begin work on the research manuscripts/studies in the first year of the DBA. In other words, this is a highly structured program designed to help you earn the degree at the end of 3 years.

**Is the DBA a practical “hands on” degree or is it research based?**
Given the emphasis on academic careers, the degree is more research based rather than “practical project” oriented. Of course, research problems investigated are from the “real world” of business.

**What is the research requirement?**
Students are required to successfully complete 3 studies and have the resultant manuscripts approved by the Faculty Research Committee.

**Are there plans to offer concentrations other than business management and marketing?**
At present we have listed the DBA in Management and Marketing. To some extent, the marketplace might dictate introduction of other concentrations in the future.
Does the program offer assistantships? Can doctoral students get financial assistance as a TA or RA?
No. Unlike a traditional Ph.D. program, this program does not offer assistantships to students. The program format includes courses that meet 3 weekends during summer and 4 weekends during fall and spring semesters. Thus the program also allows those living outside the city to visit during 11 weekends a year.

However, students enrolled in the DBA program may be eligible for up to $20,500 per year in Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans. The maximum amount that graduate students may borrow under the Federal Direct Loan Program is $138,500. Federal Graduate PLUS loans are federally sponsored loans that may allow credit-worthy graduate students to borrow up to the full cost of the program, less other financial aid received including Federal Direct Loans. Both programs are administered by the USA Office of Financial Aid. Click here for more info: [http://www.southalabama.edu/finaid/](http://www.southalabama.edu/finaid/)

Is lodging covered by the fees? Are textbooks covered by the program fees?
No, lodging, travel, and meals are not covered by the fees. However, the cost of textbooks for the courses is included in the fees.

Can I pay in-state tuition?
According to the Admissions office, students enrolling at the University of South Alabama who come to the state of Alabama from another state [with the exception of the Service Area in Florida (Escambia and Santa Rosa counties) and Mississippi (George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Perry, and Stone counties)] for the purpose of attending school will be considered a "non-resident student" for tuition purposes. The Office of Admissions determines a student's residency status at the time of admission. For the complete residency policy, please click here: [http://www.southalabama.edu/registrar/residency.htm](http://www.southalabama.edu/registrar/residency.htm)

Program Format Related

When do the classes meet? Is it online?
This a lock step program for students in either of the concentrations. You will enroll in the same courses as those in your cohort group. Our DBA program is designed to meet during weekends - three weekends in the summer and four weekends in the fall and spring. This allows U.S. students to return to their place of work during the week. Each semester, you’ll be enrolled in two courses during the weekends (Friday - Sunday). Classes meet during mornings, afternoons, and late evenings. On Sundays, you’ll have classes until about noon. See table below.

There is no online component to the DBA program other than interactions with faculty between weekend classes and submissions.

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<th>Year 2 (Summer – Spring)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer – 2 courses + 1 research seminar – 3 meetings</td>
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<td>Summer – comp exams</td>
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<td>Spring – 2 courses + 1 research seminar – 4 meetings</td>
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What courses are offered in the program? What is the curriculum?
You can find information about the program contents including the schedule of courses at [http://mcob.southalabama.edu/dba.html](http://mcob.southalabama.edu/dba.html) and click on Detailed Program Information box.
How many hours should a student dedicate to the DBA program?
Beyond hours spent during weekend classes, a student can expect to devote a significant amount of time per week on assigned readings and analysis of materials provided. In other words, students are required to keep up with the work on a regular basis and cannot put off activities/assignments until the next meeting.

The FAQ document generally references that “a student can expect to devote a significant amount of time per week” on assignments and analysis. Is it possible to quantify the amount of time which I could expect to devote to each class?
It is difficult to quantify the time element because time needed depends on your background prep, learning style, etc. If you have a recent business degree (Bachelors or Masters), then you are likely to comprehend the basics of the concepts and in the program, you will be devoting time to new knowledge creation and understanding how theories are interpreted and studied. Thus, you'll need less prep time compared to those who might have completed the business courses a while ago and been working for 15 years or more. Prep time can also vary by course - more readings in organizational behavior compared to statistics.

How are the course exams?
The nature and format of the course exams, if any, vary by contents and by faculty. In each case, the faculty member will apprise students of the format, contents, and timing of the course exams.

Are there any comprehensive exams?
Yes, the program includes a comprehensive exam after successfully completing all the course work. It will be during the summer after the second academic year. The exam will be limited to the major field of study (Management or Marketing) and the topic/course areas. Current plans include scheduling the exam on Friday (3 hours in the morning + 3 hours in the afternoon) and Saturday (4 hours in the morning) for a total of 10 hours. The specific structure and criteria regarding the nature of the content, number of questions, time limits, grading, etc. will be provided in advance of the exam.

The maximum number of attempts to accomplish the comprehensive exam will be limited to two. If the 1\textsuperscript{st} attempt is not successful, then the 2\textsuperscript{nd} should be satisfactorily completed by the end of the following semester.

How much time do I have to complete the degree?
Three years. Under extraordinary circumstances, an extension might be granted at the discretion of the DBA committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. The extension is for a maximum of 2 years.

Admission Related

What are the admission standards?
Applicants need to have a Master’s degree in business from a nationally accredited school and five years of managerial or academic teaching experience. Applicants with degrees from foreign institutions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Final admission into the program is subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the DBA admissions committee.

Can a GRE be a substitute of GMAT?
We don't require either GMAT or GRE for admission to our program.

Is an interview part of the requirements for admission into the DBA Program?
Yes. After you have met the requirements for admission including submission of the application and other required documents, we’ll arrange for you to meet with the DBA selection committee comprised of the DBA faculty.

Are there plans to admit students in the fall?
Currently the program is structured to begin during May/summer of each year with the fall being the second semester for the new students. Each year, the cohort of students starts in May and not in the fall.

How many students will be accepted each year?
We limit the size of each cohort to about 10 or less in order to provide better interaction between students and faculty during the course work and more importantly during the research phase of the program.

I have achieved excellent academic and professional performances though I don’t have a Master’s degree. Although, I searched on your websites and found out that all the applicants should have a Master’s degree. Do you accept a student without Master’s degree in the PhD program?
Sorry, we don't accept students without an MBA, MS or other Master’s degrees in business or at least an undergraduate degree in business with a professional Master’s degree. One reason for this is that in the DBA program we expect a deeper level of understanding and comprehension, beyond the basics, in various management areas. Therefore, without a good background at the Master level, it would be difficult for students to complete the program.

Post DBA Related

Has there been success by former students finding jobs in academia as university professors? If so, where?
Our program began 2013 May and the first batch of students will graduate in about 3 years. The DBA program is designed for those seeking academic jobs in other AACSB accredited schools. In general, the academic career for a new doctorate degree holder begins at the Assistant Professor level and he/she progresses toward Associate Professor and finally to Full Professor status.

Miscellaneous
I am not that familiar with the area of Mobile in which the College of Business is located. Are overnight lodging and dining facilities located in close proximity to campus?
Yes, there are food and lodging facilities close to campus. We have arrangements with Homewood Suites to provide rooms at subsidized USA rates for DBA students. There are many casual eateries close (walking distance) to the business building. There are a few casual dining restaurants (Bonefish Grill, TGIF, etc.) close to the hotel.

Who qualifies for in-state tuition?