

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS AND A MAJOR CONCENTRATION IN ACCOUNTING

## Program Learning Outcomes for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Business and a Major Concentration in Accounting

Upon completing the MA and PhD degrees in the field of Business and a major concentration in Accounting, students will be able to:

1. Understand advanced Accounting concepts, theories, principles, and quantitative methods including strategic role of accounting in business organizations and society.
2. Identify and explain questions and problems existing within the field of Accounting and propose research to address them.
3. Execute original research in the field of Accounting.
4. Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, research conducted in the field of Accounting.

## Requirements for the MA and PhD Degrees in the field of Business and a Major Concentration in Accounting

### MA Degree Program

The MA degree is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Non-Thesis Master's Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/).

Although students are not normally admitted to study for an MA, graduate students may earn the MA along the way to the PhD. Students pursuing the MA degree in the field of Business must complete:

- A minimum of 36 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 9 credit hours of doctoral seminars in the student's specified discipline or PhD major concentration.
- A minimum residency enrollment of four fall and/or spring semesters of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.00 or higher in all Rice coursework.

Students must also successfully complete the research workshop participation requirements and the first-year summer research requirements (if applicable) in the PhD major concentration. Additionally, the Jones Graduate School of Business (JGSB) requires that not more than 3 years elapse between the time the student is admitted to the PhD program in Business and the completion of the MA degree, unless an extension is approved by the PhD Program Committee. The MA degree

may only be conferred either concurrently with or prior to the conferral of the PhD degree.

The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies \(https://graduate.rice.edu/\)](https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Credit Hours Required for the MA Degree in the field of Business	36

### PhD Degree Program

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). For program details, see the PhD Program Guidebook distributed by the Jones Graduate School of Business. Admissions applications should include scores on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Full financial support will be provided to admitted doctoral students. Candidates for the PhD degree spend at least two years in full-time coursework and at least two years writing the thesis. Four to five years is a reasonable goal for completing the program. Students pursuing the PhD degree in Business must:

- Complete a program of doctoral-level courses that is approved by the area (or major concentration) faculty advisor. Students take courses from departments such as economics, psychology, statistics, and political science in addition to courses from Jones Graduate School of Business.
- Complete all Rice coursework with a minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher.
- Complete all program coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.00 and a minimum grade of B (3.00 grade points) in each required course.
- Complete all of the course requirements in their selected major concentration.
- Complete and defend orally a doctoral thesis, setting forth in publishable form, the results of original research.

The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies \(https://graduate.rice.edu/\)](https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

## Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the PhD Degree in the field of Business and a Major Concentration in Accounting		90

## Major Concentration: Accounting

Students pursuing the major concentration in Accounting must:

- Complete a minimum of 90 credit hours as listed below to satisfy the PhD degree and the major concentration requirements.
- Complete a minimum of three doctoral-level courses (preferably four courses) per semester as approved by the area faculty advisor.
- Attend four doctoral seminars organized in the accounting area during the student's first two years in the PhD program and additional accounting doctoral seminars as required by the student's advisor.
- Attend all research workshops organized in the accounting area during the student's tenure in the PhD program. Student must lead a discussion preceding the workshop with the other PhD students each semester.
- Complete a summer research/study paper in the first two years of student in the program.
- Successfully pass a comprehensive exam administered by the accounting faculty at the end of the second year. Student must not be on probation and must have a satisfactory annual evaluation.
- Successfully defend a thesis proposal by the end of the fourth year.
- Complete and defend thesis within a maximum of 7 years from the time of matriculation.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Requirements <sup>1</sup></b>		
BUSI 523	EMPIRICAL METHODS IN FINANCE	3
BUSI 530	INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING RESEARCH	3
BUSI 531	EMPIRICAL METHODS IN ACCOUNTING	3
BUSI 532	ANALYTICAL RESEARCH IN ACCOUNTING	3
BUSI 533	CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTING RESEARCH TOPICS	3
BUSI 800	PHD RESEARCH	9-12
ECON 501	MICROECONOMICS I	3
ECON 510 / STAT 610	ECONOMETRICS I	3
<b>Elective Requirements <sup>2</sup></b>		
BUSI 510	ANALYTICAL MODELS IN MARKETING	3
BUSI 511	SELECTED TOPICS IN MARKETING	3
BUSI 522	CORPORATE FINANCE	3
BUSI 524	FINANCE: SPECIAL TOPICS I	1.5
BUSI 527	FINANCE: SPECIAL TOPICS IV	1.5
ECON 502	MACROECONOMICS	3
ECON 505 / BUSI 521	FINANCIAL ECONOMICS I	3
ECON 508	MICROECONOMICS II	5
ECON 509	TOPICS IN MICROECONOMICS	3
ECON 511 / STAT 611	ECONOMETRICS II	3

ECON 514	EMPIRICAL INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION	3
ECON 517	EMPIRICAL INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION II	3
ECON 575	TOPICS IN MACROECONOMICS I	3
ECON 578	TOPICS IN ECONOMETRICS I	3
ECON 579	TOPICS IN ECONOMETRICS II	3
MATH 515	INTEGRATION THEORY	3
STAT 519	STATISTICAL INFERENCE	3
STAT 541	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS	3
STAT 552	APPLIED STOCHASTIC PROCESSES	3
STAT 581 / CAAM 581	MATHEMATICAL PROBABILITY I	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>Minimum of 90</b>

## Footnotes and Additional Information

- <sup>1</sup> The summer prior to the student's first fall semester, a review Quantitative Methods course (an "Intensive Math and Statistics Camp", hosted by the Economics department and Rice Online Learning) must be successfully completed as a required prerequisite to Core Requirements.
- <sup>2</sup> Students may select other elective courses if approved by an advisor in consultation with the faculty under the Major Concentration.

## Other

The major concentration in Accounting involves the systematic and scientific study of accounting systems, institutions, standards and regulations for the purpose of understanding and characterizing their decision-facilitating and decision-influencing roles within organizations, in product and capital markets, and across economies. For instance, financial reporting systems play many roles in publicly held organizations characterized by separation of ownership from control. They help investors in valuing their claims to firms in financial markets (valuation role), are essential for corporate control and managerial performance evaluation (auditing, governance and stewardship roles), and impact how firms allocate their resources and make financial decisions (real effects). In a similar vein, management accounting systems facilitate planning and control within organizations. Often, these many roles of accounting information interact, posing challenges for system designers, policy makers, and standard setters.

The main goal of the accounting doctoral program is to train students to do high-quality research, and become influential scholars in top academic institutions. The accounting group has world-class senior faculty and young, talented scholars with considerable expertise in the above topics and a vibrant research environment. In addition, the program leverages the resources and excellence of Rice University in related fields such as finance, economics and statistics. Students will be required to take courses in economics, statistics, econometrics, finance, and a rigorous set of cutting-edge research seminars covering the essentials in theory, research methods, and contemporary accounting issues.

## Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Business

### Jones Graduate School of Business Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum.

As an additional resource for students, the Jones Graduate School of Business publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2024\\_25/Business\\_PhD\\_Graduate\\_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2024_25/Business_PhD_Graduate_Handbook.pdf).

### Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

### Withdrawal Policy

A Jones Graduate School of Business student, participating in any offered program, may voluntarily withdraw from school at any time. Upon withdrawal, Rice University applies a sliding scale to tuition, which is noted in the university's Academic Calendar posted on the Rice [Office of the Registrar website](https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/calendars/>).

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Jones Graduate School of Business website: <https://business.rice.edu/>.

## Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Business

### Financial Aid

Jones Graduate School of Business scholarships are awarded at the point of admission and are based on the merit of the application. Financial assistance is generally awarded one academic year at a time. Continuation of assistance depends on Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in accordance with Academic and Professional Standards of performance, professional behavior, and is subject to the availability of funds. Academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or general failure to maintain academic pace will result in the removal of all forms of financial assistance (i.e. scholarship, employment, Federal/State student loans, etc.). Students have the right to appeal the suspension. All appeals will be reviewed by a committee.

### Additional Information

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