

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

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

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

1. Understand advanced Strategic Management concepts, theories, principles, and quantitative methods including how to analyze an organization's environment regarding social, political, technological, economic, and global factors and its strength, weaknesses, efficiencies, decision-making frameworks, and resource management.
2. Identify and explain questions and problems existing within the field of Strategic Management and propose research to address them.
3. Execute original research in the field of Strategic Management.
4. Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, research conducted in the field of Strategic Management.

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

### 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 Strategic Management		90

## Major Concentration: Strategic Management

Students pursuing the major concentration in Strategic Management must:

- Complete a minimum of 90 credit hours as listed below to satisfy the PhD degree and the major concentration requirements.
- Complete coursework approved by the area faculty advisor; these courses will be a combination of Core Requirements and Elective Requirements.
- Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of approved graduate level courses per semester, in the first two years in the program.
- Attend all research seminars organized in the strategic management area.
- Complete summer research paper requirements during the first two years in the program.
- Successfully pass a comprehensive exam.
- Write one major paper (sole-authored or co-authored) and present in a faculty workshop.
- Teach at least one semester as the primary instructor (during the third year in the program).
- 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 540	STRATEGY I	3
BUSI 541	STRATEGY II	3
BUSI 549	STRATEGY PRO-SEMINAR	3
BUSI 800	PHD RESEARCH	9-12
ECON 501	MICROECONOMICS I	3
POLI 504	INTRODUCTION TO MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION	3
POLI 505	ADVANCED MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION	3
PSYC 507	RESEARCH METHODS	3
PSYC 601	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	3
<b>Elective Requirements <sup>2</sup></b>		
Advanced Strategy Electives		
Select 4 courses (6 credit hours) from the following:		6
BUSI 515	MICRO FOUNDATIONS OF ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT	
BUSI 542	ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE	
BUSI 543	EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	

BUSI 544	CONTEMPORARY MANAGEMENT THOUGHT	
BUSI 547	SEMINAR ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
BUSI 550	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	
BUSI 551	STRATEGY RESEARCH IN CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT: STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AND ACQUISITIONS	
BUSI 552	DESIGN OF BUSINESS RESEARCH	
Approved Electives		
Select coursework with the approval of the area advisor to total a minimum of 90 credit hours (see course list below)		48-51
<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.

## Course List to Satisfy Requirements

With advisor approval, select 48-51 credit hours of additional coursework as Elective Requirements to total a minimum of 90 credit hours. The following are typically approved courses that may be chosen to fulfill Elective Requirements.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BUSI 503	SEMINAR IN JUDGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING	3
BUSI 504	GAME THEORY	3
BUSI 522	CORPORATE FINANCE	3
BUSI 523	EMPIRICAL METHODS IN FINANCE	3
BUSI 530	INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING RESEARCH	3
BUSI 531	EMPIRICAL METHODS IN ACCOUNTING	3
ECON 504 / STAT 604	COMPUTATIONAL ECONOMICS	3
ECON 510 / STAT 610	ECONOMETRICS I	3
ECON 514	EMPIRICAL INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION	3
ECON 523	DYNAMIC OPTIMIZATION	3
POLI 503 / STAT 503	TOPICS IN METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS	3
POLI 504	INTRODUCTION TO MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION	3
POLI 505	ADVANCED MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION	3
POLI 511	MEASUREMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN	3
POLI 527	INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS	3
POLI 575	GAME THEORY	3

POLI 576	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
PSYC 502 / STAT 509	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS I	4
PSYC 503 / STAT 510	ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS II	3
PSYC 507	RESEARCH METHODS	3
PSYC 550	FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 601	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	3
PSYC 636	ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 637	META-ANALYSIS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH	3
PSYC 639	INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP	1-9
STAT 541	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS	3
STAT 606	SAS STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING	3
STAT 611 / ECON 511	ECONOMETRICS II	3
STAT 621	APPLIED TIME SERIES AND FORECASTING	3

## Other

The major concentration in strategic management provides coursework in the base theories in strategic management. The field of strategic management studies big picture issues facing managers of firms, such as deciding what markets and industries to enter, how to enter and exit various markets, how to position the firm in the market in order to gain competitive advantage, and the timing, sequencing, and orchestration of competitive initiatives. Topics in strategic management include: Competitive strategy, resource allocation and corporate strategy, strategic decision processes, international and emerging market strategies, knowledge and innovation management, strategic entrepreneurship, corporate governance, and environment and non-market strategies. The main goal of the strategic management doctoral program is to train students to do high-quality research in any of these areas and to prepare them for careers as mainstream professors of strategic management at top academic research institutions. To achieve this goal, PhD students are required to take courses in strategic management, research methods and statistics, as well as possible disciplinary elective courses in economics, psychology and political science, and to write research papers examining important and relevant issues in strategic management. The program also has a teaching requirement to the extent that teaching opportunities are available.

## 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 \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer\)](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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