

Full-time MBA Program
Elective Guidelines
Class of 2023

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Full-time MBA Degree Requirements

The full-time MBA degree is comprised of 46 required core credits, 44 elective credits, and 7 additional degree requirements for a total of 90 credits. Students generally complete 38 core credits and 8 elective credits in the first year and 8 credits of core and 36 credits of electives in their second year. The additional degree requirements are fulfilled throughout the two years.

Elective Requirements

As noted above, most students will complete 8 credits of electives in Spring quarter of their first year and then finish the balance in their second year. You may take elective courses earlier than Spring quarter of your first year as long as they don't conflict with your core classes, and you meet any required course prerequisites.

Additional Degree Requirements

The seven additional degree requirements include the Foster ProDev course and the Core Case Competition (which you will complete in your first quarter core curriculum), a Summer Internship/Project (or equivalent), two Practical Experience activities, and two International Perspective Activities. Details on how the two latter requirements can be satisfied are on page 6.

Students studying at the Foster MBA Program on an F-1, H-1 or H-4 visa are considered to have satisfied the international perspective requirements.

Guidelines to Consider in Selecting your Elective Classes:

Number of elective credits required to graduate: Students are required to complete a total of 44 elective credits. This credit total may consist of any combination 2-credit and 4-credit Foster classes and approved Non-MBA credits (see page 4 for more details about taking Non-MBA classes).

Standard elective course load: The normal *elective* quarter course load for your second year is 12 credits in Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarter. You may choose to take additional or fewer credits in any quarter.

To meet full-time student status, you need to take at least 10 credits each quarter. Taking fewer than 10 credits has implications about financial aid, scholarships, student housing, and, in the case of international students, student visas. If you choose to take less than 10 credits, check with your MBA Director of Student Affairs about your circumstances.

Degree completion timeline: The full-time MBA Program is designed to be completed within six quarters and must be completed within six years.

Minimum Passing Grade: A grade of 2.7 is the minimum numeric grade that is accepted for each course to count toward fulfillment of degree requirements. Additionally, you must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to remain in good academic standing and meet the minimum GPA for graduation.

Graduation enrollment requirement: You must be enrolled in and pay tuition for at least two credits for the quarter in which you plan to graduate.

Maximum number of electives in a subject area: You may apply no more than 24 *elective* credits in any single subject area toward your MBA degree elective requirements. Independent study courses are included in the total subject area total of 24 credits. For example, a maximum of six 4-credit elective courses in Finance (classes listed with FIN prefix) may count towards your degree. A Finance independent study (listed as FIN 600) would be included in that count and total limit.

**With the approval of the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Director of Student Affairs, students can take and apply a 7th course in marketing for a total of 28 credits in Marketing. This exception is only available to the marketing curriculum.*

Maximum number of independent study and/or MBA Consulting Project credits: You may participate in no more than 8 credits of independent study, MBA Consulting Project, or a combination of both.

MBA electives offered in the evening are available to Full-time MBA students as well.

Global Business Forum (IBUS 579): Global Business Forum classes are offered every quarter and feature a different theme. Each course is a 2-credit class. Students may apply a maximum of six Global Business Forum credits towards their MBA degree elective requirements. Successful completion of one Global Business Forum course will fulfill one International Business Activity.

CBDC Board Fellows Program (MGMT 555): Students enrolled in this year-long course (by application only) earn a total of 4 credits and are registered for these credits over the course of the year, as specified by the instructor. Successful completion of a Board Fellows required project (upon approval by the MBA Program Office) will fulfill one practical experience activity. Students should be aware that there are 2 credit hours awarded in Autumn and 2 credit hours awarded in Spring quarter.

Foster Research Partners (BECON 560): Students enrolled in this year-long course (by application only) earn a total of 4 credits and are registered for these credits over the course of the year, as specified by the instructor. Students who successfully complete

Foster Research Partners in their 2nd year as a Senior Analyst or Portfolio Manager will fulfill one practical experience activity.

Business Plan Competition (ENTRE 540): A maximum of four credits of ENTRE 540 may be counted toward your MBA degree requirements - two credits from the winter quarter Business Plan Practicum class, and an additional two credits are available to you if your business plan is accepted into the investment round of the Business Plan Competition (and you participate in this round) in spring quarter. Students who participate in the Investment Round of the competition will also fulfill one practical experience activity.

UW Graduate Courses Outside of Foster MBA Program

You may request to count up to 16 credits of electives from graduate schools (outside the Foster Business School at the University of Washington Seattle campus) toward your MBA elective requirements. The MBA Program Office must approve these credits before you register. For approval, complete the Non-MBA Class Request form available on the MBA web site or in the MBA Program Office. Use the form to document the relevance of this coursework to your degree. Non-MBA Class Request forms should be submitted at least two weeks before the start of the quarter in which you plan to take the non-business class.

- Classes must be offered for university credit (continuing education and non-credit certificate classes are not allowed).
- Language courses are approved only if they are advanced level (400-level or greater), non-introductory classes.
- Credits earned in business courses taken at an approved overseas exchange program do not count toward this limit.
- Some non-MBA classes are pre-approved and do not require additional approval. The Taking Non-MBA Courses page on the Foster web site details the preapproved courses.
- Classes must not have been used to satisfy course requirements for a degree that you were awarded previously. (This does not apply to students seeking concurrent degrees.)

Undergraduate courses: The majority of your courses are completed at the graduate level (courses numbered 500 or above). You may apply a total of 8 credits of 400-level undergraduate elective coursework toward your MBA degree. These courses would count as part of the 16 credits of non-MBA courses that you can apply towards your MBA. As with graduate courses outside the Foster School, undergraduate courses must be approved by the MBA Program Office before you register. Some undergraduate courses have been pre-approved and are listed on the MBA web site.

You may only take undergraduate business courses under the following conditions:

- An equivalent course is not offered at the graduate level for a full year.
- The equivalent graduate-level course conflicts with other desired courses.
- The undergraduate course is not elementary in nature.

Procedures for registering in undergraduate business courses:

Undergraduate courses have very limited extra capacity. If you wish to register for an undergraduate business course, follow these steps:

- Check to see whether your course is pre-approved by visiting the [MBA web site](#). If not pre-approved, you need to get permission from the MBA Program Office to apply the class toward your degree by completing the [Non-MBA Course Request](#) form.
- Contact the MBA Program Office for permission to contact instructor regarding enrollment.
- Upon receiving authorization, contact the instructor to obtain written permission to be registered for a specific course section.
- Attend the first class of the quarter *as if enrolled* to keep up on coursework. If a space is available, student will need to see the Undergraduate Liaison Adviser during “Drop-In Registration Hours” (during the first week of the quarter) to be registered in the course.

Independent Studies

The faculty of the Foster School of Business recognize that there may be occasions when Foster curricular offerings do not align fully with a given student’s academic, professional, and personal development goals. In those situations, students may be interested in pursuing independent work for academic credit with the permission and guidance of a Foster faculty member and the MBA Program Office.

Following the guidelines detailed on the [Foster Independent Study webpage](#), you may register for a maximum of four credits of 600-level independent study coursework during any one quarter. The MBA Program Office must approve independent study in excess of four credits. A maximum of eight independent study credits may be applied toward your MBA degree requirements. Independent study credits are included in the total credits counted towards your degree in any one subject area. Although 600-level courses count toward degree requirements, the grades are not included in your cumulative GPA. For detailed information about the types of independent study and required work products and the process for setting up an independent study, see the [Independent Study webpage](#).

MBA Consulting Projects

Another opportunity to add experiential learning to your MBA experience is participation in a MBA Consulting project with the MBA Strategic Consulting Program. MBA Consulting Project projects link MBA students and faculty to the local business community to work on delivering creative solutions to critical business challenges.

Students work on teams of 3-5 students and earn 4 credits for projects that are completed during Autumn and Spring quarter. First-year students are eligible beginning Spring quarter.

Additional Degree Requirements: Practical Experience & International Experience Activities

As noted earlier, you are required to complete two supplemental activities (beyond the Foster Professional Development course, Core Case Competition, and Summer Internship/Project that you will complete as part of your core curriculum):

- 2 Practical Experience Activities
- 2 International Perspective Activities

There are a variety of ways to satisfy these requirements, and the activity does not need to be completed for academic credit. Outlined below are some of the more common ways to meet these requirements. Keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list, and you may discuss alternative activities with the staff of the MBA Program Office.

Practical Experience Activities:

Activities which DO satisfy the MBA Practical Experience requirement include:

- Applied Strategy core course
- MBA Consulting Projects, as monitored by MBA Strategic Consulting staff
- Participation in the Buerk Center Business Plan Competition at the Investment Round (proposal must be submitted to business plan competition in the spring and accepted to the Investment Round)
- Participation in Entrepreneurial Law Clinic for a minimum of 2 quarters
- Completion of a UW Endowment Fund independent study
- Participation as a 2nd-year Senior Analyst or Portfolio Manager with the Foster Student Investment Fund
- Select MBA elective classes (specific classes which satisfy this requirement will be identified on the elective schedule)
- Application-based Independent Study Projects with company clients (must be pre-approved by the MBA Program Office)
- Other activities can be used to satisfy a Practical Experience activity with approval of the MBA Program Office. For an activity to satisfy a practical experience requirement, it must contain the following elements: 1) has significant interaction with an established or developing business; 2) provides either research, a service

or a deliverable for the company; and 3) has a formal written or oral report (which includes a set of managerially-oriented recommendations presented to the company at the completion of the project; and 4) includes a mechanism for critical, constructive feedback regarding your performance with one or more clients in the organization.

- Approved projects completed for the CBDC Board Fellows program.

Activities which DO NOT satisfy the practical experience requirement include:

- CBDC Board Fellows projects that have not been approved
- Participation in case competitions
- Projects completed for the UW or Foster School units
- MBAA or other student organization leadership roles
- Leadership Fellows Program

International Perspective Activities:

- Global Business Forum (IBUS 579) classes
- Select MBA elective classes (specific classes which satisfy this requirement will be identified on the elective schedule)
- International classes from UW programs outside of the MBA Program (classes must be pre-approved by the MBA Program Office)
- One quarter of upper division (400-level) business language (should be pre-approved by MBA Program Office)
- Participation in an MBA Study Tour (does not need to be completed for academic credit)
- Participation in one-quarter exchange program sponsored through the Global Business Center
- Internationally focused internship/project (either in U.S. or abroad) as validated by MBA Career Services
- Internationally focused MBA Consulting Projects. You need to provide documentation that these projects had an international element and have this verified by the Director of MBA Strategic Consulting.
- Independent Study with significant international focus comparable to select MBA elective classes. Requires approval of MBA Program Office.
- Other activities may be applicable towards satisfying an International Perspective activity, upon approval of the MBA Program Office. For an activity to satisfy your international perspective requirement it must include an academic element (such as a project for a class or company focused on an international aspect of business) and have significant contact with a culture outside the U.S.

Activities which DO NOT satisfy the international perspective requirement include:

- Participation in a case competition with an international focus
- Activities which consist primarily of interaction with international students on the UW campus
- Student organization roles
- Travel not related to study tours, exchange programs or internship/projects

Management Science Degree Option Electives

The Master of Business Administration – Management Science degree option (MBA-MSci) is open only to individuals who have been admitted to the Foster School of Business Full-time MBA program and have successfully completed the majority of the “core” courses in their MBA program. Students must complete a minimum of 16 credit hours of approved Management Science electives (please refer to MBA Program Office class-specific Canvas). Students must also submit an online application (found on Canvas) and meet with an academic advisor to formally graduate with this degree option.

Requirements for Certificate Programs

Certificate Programs are formal programs and requirements vary with each program. The Entrepreneurship Certificate has an application process, as well as a specific set of classes you need to complete to earn the certificate (some flexibility and substitution is available). The Global Business Center also has a set of criteria you must meet to complete their certificate. If you are interested in pursuing either of these certificates, contact the specific program office directly or review their web site.

Entrepreneurship Certificate

Global Business Certificate

Foster Marketing Specializations

The Full-time MBA does not include minors or tracks; however, students are able to focus their degree by taking electives. Several of these electives have been grouped together in specializations—one in Marketing Analytics and one in Product Marketing. Students who complete all courses within a specialization *will not* earn a certificate but can list the specialization on their resume to reflect acquired skills and confidence in these areas.

[Marketing Analytics Specialization](#): trains students how to use cutting edge analytics to better direct a wide variety of marketing decisions.

[Product Marketing Specialization](#): best prepares individuals for roles as product marketing managers.

Additional Certificates and Programs of Study Outside of Foster

International Development Certificate

Nonprofit Management Certificate

Real Estate Studies

Some completed graduate certificates are recorded on the student's UW transcript while others are not. The Foster Entrepreneurship and Global Business Certificate are NOT recorded on UW transcripts. Please check with the department offering the certificate to determine if their certificate is transcribed upon completion.

For non-transcribed graduate certificates: you may apply (upon approval) up to four (4-credit equivalent) non-MBA courses towards your MBA elective degree requirements. For transcribed graduate certificates: you may only apply (upon approval) a maximum of 6 credits towards your MBA elective requirements that also count towards fulfilling certificate requirements.

Elective Requirements for Students Pursuing Concurrent Degrees

The MBA Program has a number of formal and informal concurrent degree programs. To satisfy the MBA Program requirements for these degrees, students must complete the core curriculum, seven elective classes from the UW MBA Program, supplemental MBA degree requirements and four classes in the concurrent degree program.

You will need to work closely with your advisor for the other degree program to make sure that you satisfy all the core and elective requirements for that degree as well.

If you are pursuing an informal joint degree, you should discuss your plans with your academic advisor.

Information to Assist in Selecting Electives

There is no magic formula for choosing electives. Below are suggestions for gathering more information about elective course content and instructors. Keep in mind that some electives have prerequisite requirements.

Instructor Evaluations

Previous quarter evaluations are available in the University's Course On-line Evaluation Catalog, which you can search for instructor evaluations by course prefix.

Course Syllabi

The MBA Program Office has compiled a collection of syllabi from past quarters. These syllabi can give you a better picture of the topic coverage, style of instruction, type of assignments and exams, etc. The syllabi are on the MBA Web Site.

Your Fellow Student Colleagues and/or Program Alumni

Current and former MBA students (from the full-time or evening program) are your best resources as many of them have taken the courses taught by various instructors.

Core Instructors

Faculty are an excellent resource for giving insight and suggestions on additional courses to take in their field of expertise.

Career Contacts

If you are looking for suggestions on courses that would be good for working in a specific job function, alumni who are working in that role can be a great resource. Invite an alumnus to meet you for coffee and ask them what classes have been the most helpful to them in their work.

Registration Resources

MBA web site

Link: MBA elective bidding and registration process information

Academic Calendar & Final Exam Schedule

Link: Important University academic dates: start and end dates of each quarter, holidays, final exams, and registration deadlines.

Course Evaluation Catalog

Link: Searchable database of course and instructor evaluations.

MyUW Instructions

Link: Access to on-line schedule and other student records.

UW Course Catalog

Link: Comprehensive listing of UW courses and descriptions.

UW Registration information

Registrar Home Page for Students

Tuition and Fee Deadlines

Link: University Assessment of Fees Calendar

Withdrawal, Quarter-Off, and On-Leave Policies

Link: UW Registrar Official Policies