

# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, PHD

**Department Website:** <https://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/phd-in-business-administration.html>

The Ph.D. Business Administration Program includes three specializations:

- Accounting
- Finance
- Management

The program is designed to be completed in 48 months. Coursework and comprehensive exams must be undertaken within 28 months of enrolment. The length of time spent on the dissertation phase will vary according to the nature of the research involved, but should not exceed 48 months following completion of the comprehensive exams.

## Admissions

The Ph.D. program follows the general admission requirements and procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as outlined in Section 2 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) of the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar with the following additional requirements and procedures.

Decisions regarding admission to the doctoral program will be made on the basis of the applicant's academic qualifications and achievements, fit with the program's areas of specialization, demonstrated interests and capacity in a scholarly and/or applied research within the chosen specialization, and the availability of an appropriate supervisor. To that end, all of the following will be taken into account:

## Qualifications

Students entering the doctoral program must have a Master's degree from a recognized university in the field intended for specialization or related field (e.g., accounting, finance, economics, management, or industrial organizational psychology), or an [E]MBA. For Accounting specialization, a corresponding professional accounting designation (e.g., CPA) and 3(+) years of professional experience can be used in lieu of a graduate degree. Normal minimum requirements for admission are a grade point average of 3.6 on a 4.0 scale (high B+ to A-) and GMAT score of 620, or an equivalent GRE score.

## Business Studies

At least a minimum breadth in business studies (or other cognate discipline) is expected. Ideally, applicants should have an undergraduate and/or Master's degree, which includes a substantial business studies element (e.g., a Bachelor of Commerce, Masters of Business Administration). Students without previous degrees in business studies may be admitted as "qualifying" students but could be required to undertake selected specialization courses in Accounting, Finance, or Management, in addition to the normal requirements of the Ph.D. program.

## Personal Statement

At the time of application, prospective students should submit a personal statement (Maximum 4 pages), including:

- Potential research interests
- Relevant research, volunteer, and work experience
- Career objectives and long-range goals
- Academic honours, awards, and/or scholarships
- A list of publications, conference papers, and/or technical reports
- University committee work, and any other information that is relevant to the application.

Any other information that is relevant to your application.

## Recommendation Forms

All applicants are required to solicit three recommendations forms from persons capable of assessing the candidate's academic ability and research potential.

### English Language Proficiency

Applicants to this program whose first language is not English, must demonstrate their English language proficiency as outlined in Graduate Academic Calendar Regulation 1e with the following additional requirement:

- a TOEFL (iBT) score of at least 100, with at least
  - 22 in Writing
  - 21 in Reading
  - 27 in Speaking
  - 20 in Listening

The minimum score on the paper-based TOEFL is 600.

## Supervisor

In admitting students to the program, the Ph.D. Program Council will take into account the availability of potential dissertation supervisors. During the first two years in the program, students in consultation with the Ph.D. Program Coordinator will be designated a supervisor who will assist in the development of the student's dissertation topic. The assignment of a supervisor will occur no later than two months following the successful completion of the student's comprehensive examination. The supervisor will be appointed on the basis of his or her expertise in relation to the student's dissertation. Where a student in the program has identified an appropriate supervisor, every effort will be made to ensure that he or she is appointed as the supervisor.

**Note:** The Ph.D. Advisor/Supervisor should normally be a tenured faculty member at Saint Mary's University. If no such faculty member is available, a tenured faculty member at another post-secondary institution in Canada may be appointed. Such faculty must be recommended by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as Adjunct Professors at Saint Mary's University.

These are the normal minimum requirements, but each case will be evaluated on its own merits. However, applicants will not be evaluated for admittance where any of the required elements have not been submitted at the time when the application is being considered.

The deadline for applications is February 15<sup>th</sup> for admission on September 1st of the following calendar year. Successful applicants will normally be notified on or before May 1st.

## Financial Support

Full-time students admitted to the program may be eligible for funding administered by Saint Mary's University. Funding recommendations are made by the program. All successful applicants are automatically considered for graduate funding. Students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships. A limited number of fellowships are available to students who are not in full-time paid employment. Request for a fellowship should be made at the time of application.

## Program Requirements

The program comprises three inter-related elements:

1. coursework,
2. comprehensive examinations, and
3. dissertation.

**Note: Students not registered in any course work but working on their Program/Thesis must register in Program Continuation (Prog Registration/Continuation (FGSR 9000)) for every semester (including summer) in which they are in their graduate program.**

## Courses

The courses are divided into the foundation courses and the functional core. Students in all specializations must take all Foundation courses. Students take Functional Core courses according to their specialization, as listed below.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Foundation Courses</b>		
SPHD 7701	Management Thought and the Management Environment	3
SPHD 7702	Introduction to Research Methods	3
SPHD 7704	Quantitative Research Methods	3
SPHD 7705	Multivariate Statistics for Management Research	3
SPHD 7730	Directed Readings	3
<b>Functional Core- Accounting Specialization</b>		
SPHD 7703 or SPHD 7706	Qualitative Research Methods Advanced Empirical Methods	3
SPHD 7750	Doctoral Seminar in Accounting Research and Theory I	3
SPHD 7751	Doctoral Seminar in Accounting Research and Theory II	3
Two (2) graduate-level electives, subject to approval by Program Coordinator		6
<b>Functional Core- Finance Specialization</b>		
SPHD 7706	Advanced Empirical Methods	3
SPHD 7760	Doctoral Seminar in Finance Research and Theory I	3
SPHD 7761	Doctoral Seminar in Finance Research and Theory II	3
Two (2) graduate-level electives, subject to approval by Program Coordinator		6

### Functional Core- Management Specialization

SPHD 7703 or SPHD 7706	Qualitative Research Methods Advanced Empirical Methods	3
SPHD 7710	Doctoral Seminar in Organizational Behaviour	3
SPHD 7720	Doctoral Seminar in Organizational Theory and Design	3
Two (2) graduate-level electives, subject to approval by Program Coordinator		6

Most courses comprising the Ph.D. program (excluding the comprehensive exams and the dissertation) are offered in the first two years of enrolment.

Normally, the standard pattern of course offerings is:

#### First Year

Fall		Credit Hours
SPHD 7701	Management Thought and the Management Environment	3
SPHD 7702	Introduction to Research Methods	3
<b>Winter</b>		
SPHD 7730	Directed Readings	3
SPHD 7704	Quantitative Research Methods	3
Select one of the following:		3
SPHD 7710	Doctoral Seminar in Organizational Behaviour	
SPHD 7750	Doctoral Seminar in Accounting Research and Theory I	
SPHD 7760	Doctoral Seminar in Finance Research and Theory I	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Summer

SPHD 7730	Directed Readings (if not taken in Winter)	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>0</b>

#### Second Year

Fall		
SPHD 7703 or SPHD 7706	Qualitative Research Methods or Advanced Empirical Methods	3
SPHD 7705	Multivariate Statistics for Management Research	3
Select one of the following:		3
SPHD 7720	Doctoral Seminar in Organizational Theory and Design	
SPHD 7751	Doctoral Seminar in Accounting Research and Theory II	
SPHD 7761	Doctoral Seminar in Finance Research and Theory II	
<b>Winter and Summer</b>		<b>6</b>
Two electives		
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

The scheduling of the distance courses may vary.

## Comprehensive Examinations

On completion of Foundation and Functional Core coursework requirements, and normally no later than 28 months after admittance to the program, each student will undertake a set of comprehensive examinations. Both examinations must be completed in the same semester. Students normally undertake the comprehensive examinations in any semester following the completion of all Foundation and Functional Core courses. The purpose of the comprehensive examinations is to verify that the student possesses both breadth and depth of knowledge in the areas defined by the Foundation and Functional Core courses in the chosen specialization.

These comprehensive examinations will take the form of a set of written examinations, set by the Comprehensive Examining Committee. The Examining Committee reserves the right to require an oral examination subsequent to the written portion of the exam. Normally, students will be permitted two attempts at the comprehensives. Successful completion of the comprehensives will move the student to the status of "Ph.D. Candidate".

The purpose of the two comprehensive examinations is to verify that the student possesses both breadth and depth of knowledge in the areas defined by the Functional and Foundation courses described above.

## Dissertation

The dissertation requirement is for the successful defense of an original doctoral thesis worthy of publication in reputable academic journals, defended orally before authorities in the discipline, appointed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

The oral defense will be public. The thesis defense must take place within 48 months of successful completion of the comprehensive examinations.

## Residency and Method of Delivery

With exception of SPHD 7730 and 7740, coursework in the program requires full time residency.