

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SMEAL - PH.D., M.S.)

Dual-Titles

Dual-Title M.S. and Ph.D. in Business Administration and Operations Research

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

M.S. and Ph.D. students in Smeal College of Business can elect to participate in the Operations Research dual-title graduate program. Operations Research is the use of scientific methodology in the formulation, analysis, and solution of problems of decision making.

Admissions Requirements

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Business Administration and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Operations Research dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Operations Research Bulletin page (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/operations-research/>). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Operations Research prior to taking the qualifying exam in their home department.

Degree Requirements

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Business Administration, listed on the Degree Requirements tab. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Operations Research, listed on the Operations Research Bulletin page (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/operations-research/>).

For the dual-title M.S. degree in Business Administration and Operations Management, the thesis or scholarly paper must reflect the student's education and interest in both Business Administration and Operations Research. The master's committee must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from Operations Research. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role.

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from Business Administration and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Operations Research program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both Business Administration and Operations Management. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/>), the Ph.D. committee of a Business Administration and Operations Research dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the

Operations Research Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Operations Research, the member of the committee representing Operations Research must be appointed as co-chair. The Operations Research representative on the student's Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and education in Business Administration and Operations Research. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.