Preparing for a Career in Business

Top business leaders are driven, analytic, and innovative. They make decisions that are more complex than ever before. And they understand the full scope of an enterprise and its potential in a global economy. The keys to leading a firm or organization to success hinge on your developing proficiency in several essential areas: analysis and decision making, information technology, effective communication, understanding economic trends and public policy, and knowledge of behavioral processes in organizations. Eventual mastery of these concepts can open doors to exciting career opportunities in business, such as managing a multinational corporation, consulting, marketing pharmaceutical products, starting your own business, offering profitable investment and financial guidance, or running a nonprofit organization.

Academic Preparation at UC Irvine

Six avenues of academic preparation in business are available at UC Irvine with major and/or minor courses of study in: business administration, business economics, business information management, accounting, management, and the 3-2 Program. These degree and minor programs are offered by The Paul Merage School of Business, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, and the School of Social Sciences.

In addition to academic preparation, the faculty encourages students to distinguish their undergraduate business study by creating an educational program composed of courses within and outside of each school, and participating in internships, research opportunities, study abroad opportunities, and special courses.

Majors Offered

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, B.A.
The Paul Merage School of Business

The Business Administration major offers a traditional curriculum similar to those at other top business schools. The program provides a broad learning experience in a multidisciplinary and global context, and focuses on the development of essential managerial skills, especially critical thinking, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and effective communication. Drawing on the social sciences, students study organizations, individual and group behavior, leadership, strategy, financial and accounting issues, ethics, marketing, information technology, and a variety of other topics from a macro perspective. Students select a minimum of one of three specializations in accounting, general management, or marketing.

While preparing students for a career in management, the Merage School, through academic advising, will help students fashion an undergraduate program tailored to their own unique career objectives. Examples of programs of study that enable business administration majors to blend management education with specific industry areas include (but are not limited to) bioscience business, business economics, international commerce, information management and technology, and many other combinations. Because much business is conducted on a global scale, students are required to either participate in the university’s Education Abroad Program or to take one of a number of designated courses that stresses the international dimension of a business area.
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Business administration majors can pursue careers in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Graduates can pursue law degrees, master’s degrees in a variety of areas, including business or economics, or doctoral programs in management or related disciplines.

ADMISSION
The business administration major is currently open to freshman applicants only, and space is limited.

Your path to success can be achieved via a variety of academic disciplines valued by business and industry. UC Irvine undergraduates have extensive opportunities to pursue excellent major and minor combinations to tailor their course of study for the expanding field of business — such as the business economics major and the minor in management — or other specialty concentrations.

Specific information regarding the business administration major is available at www.merage.uci.edu.

BUSINESS ECONOMICS, B.A.
School of Social Sciences

A major in business economics is offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences. Economics is about making decisions. It studies how individuals, businesses, and governments choose to allocate scarce resources to satisfy alternative goals. As a social science, it also analyzes the interactions among these decision-makers through various institutions such as markets or corporations. Economists consider how outcomes of these interactions meet people’s collective interests, and ask how public policy might improve upon these outcomes.

The business economics major is for students seeking a business orientation in their study of economics as a social science. It offers a tightly focused curriculum that is guided by the logic and integrative perspective of economics. The business economics major allows students to delve into areas of particular relevance to business, including such topics as forecasting, portfolio selection, industrial organization (the study of markets and competition) and corporate finance.

The School of Social Sciences economics faculty delivers a highly structured, rigorous program that covers traditional topics related to market interactions, such as monopolies and antitrust, labor markets, economic growth, and the business cycle. It also covers non-market interactions, such as those involved in politics, crime, families, and cultural traditions. In learning to think in terms of incentives and tradeoffs, economics majors develop analytical skills, quantitative tools, and clarity of thought that are useful for just about any occupation.

The UC Irvine business economics degree provides excellent preparation for graduate study in law, business administration, public policy, and social sciences.

ADMISSION
UC Irvine graduates majoring in business economics, economics, and quantitative economics have been very successful in finding jobs in business as well as gaining admission to top M.B.A. and other graduate programs.

Specific information for admission to the various economics majors at UC Irvine is available at www.socsci.uci.edu.

BUSINESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, B.S.
An interdisciplinary program of study offered jointly by the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences and The Paul Merage School of Business

As the business environment becomes increasingly information-centric, the need also increases for graduates who understand and can use technology that gathers and provides information, are able to distill and recognize patterns in that information, and can apply those analyses to achieve business objectives.

The program seeks to educate students to understand and then apply the theories and concepts of a broad, integrated curriculum covering computing, business fundamentals, and analytical decision-making. The curriculum is presented across three general academic areas: computing (computer science, and informatics), business fundamentals (accounting, finance, marketing, operations, and strategy), and analytical methods (economics, decision analysis, management science).

The information and computer science fundamentals, covering the functional areas in the Bren School, include the rudiments of software design and construction with an emphasis on data management, and the foundation for understanding, describing, and evaluating the technology through which most business information is gathered and presented.

The business fundamentals, provide a background and context in which information and its analysis will be applied.

Business information management majors can pursue careers in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors or can proceed to graduate school in several disciplines, including information systems, computing, economics, business, and law.

ADMISSION
Space is limited in the business information management major. If interest from qualified applicants exceeds the number of slots available, applicants will be subject to screening beyond the University of California admissions requirements. Specific information is available at www.ics.uci.edu.

Minors Offered

MANAGEMENT
The Paul Merage School of Business

Customize your own road to success, and learn from a graduate school faculty which is recognized — along with Harvard, Stanford, MIT, and UCLA — to be one of the best in the nation. Our world-class faculty understands the academic and professional requirements of ambitious students, and how the management minor can benefit their preparation. Who should consider a management minor? (1) students who wish to learn about the management of organizations as a way of preparing for a career in business, (2) students preparing for careers in other fields that require some knowledge of management, and (3) students who expect to go on to graduate work in management who desire early guidance and undergraduate work appropriate to this career objective.

ADMISSION
Admission to the minor is on a competitive basis; students must submit an application, transcripts, and a statement of purpose. Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis.

Specific application and prerequisite information is available on the Web at www.merage.uci.edu.

Note: Students may not receive both the minor in management and the minor in accounting. Open to non-Merage School majors only.

ACCOUNTING
The Paul Merage School of Business

A minor in accounting can augment your academic preparation for the workplace no matter what field you plan to enter. In establishing the curriculum for the minor in accounting at UC Irvine, the faculty anticipated students drawn to courses in accounting who are primarily inter-
ested in: (1) meeting the accounting coursework eligibility requirements to sit for the uniform CPA examination, (2) preparing for careers in private accounting or in other fields that require some knowledge of accounting, and (3) pursuing a graduate degree in accounting, and desiring early guidance and undergraduate coursework appropriate to this career objective.

ADMISSION
Admission is on a competitive basis; students must submit an application, transcripts, and a statement of purpose.

Application deadline dates and additional information are available on the Web at www.merage.uci.edu.

Note: Students may not receive both the minor in management, and the minor in accounting. The minor in accounting is not available for business administration majors as they already have an accounting specialization option in their major program.

Accelerated 3-2 Program

Dual Degree Program for Undergraduates
A very small number of exceptionally qualified UC Irvine undergraduates are accepted each year for an accelerated program leading to a bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. in five years of study. Acceptance into the 3-2 Program constitutes advanced admission to the graduate program. Students complete their undergraduate major requirements by the end of their junior year. During their senior year, they take graduate courses in the full-time M.B.A. program. These courses satisfy their undergraduate unit requirements and at the same time apply toward the graduate degree. Successful completion of the requirements in the program normally leads to the bachelor’s degree in the undergraduate major after the fourth year and an M.B.A. after the fifth year.

Although all undergraduate majors are eligible, it is difficult for students in some disciplines — such as engineering — to complete their major requirements within three years.

ADMISSION
Admission to this program is highly selective and requires exceptional academic performance at UC Irvine. Because of the importance of team projects in the M.B.A. program, personal maturity is a significant factor for admission to the program. Work experience is another important factor. While undergraduates are not expected to have as much full-time work experience as other M.B.A. candidates, significant summer or part-time jobs and internships are strongly preferred. Students who are admitted generally have an average GPA of 3.6 and score above the incoming class average on the GMAT.

Please visit the Merage School Web site for additional information at www.merage.uci.edu.

Advanced Degrees in Management

M.B.A. – Ph.D.
For students planning a career in management, The Paul Merage School of Business offers professional education leading to the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree. In addition, the Merage School offers a doctoral program leading to the Ph.D. degree in management for students who wish to pursue a career in scholarly research.

Additional Opportunities

Courses, Internships, Organizations
Management 6 - Introduction to Business - is a course designed to appeal to all students interested in business. The course provides an introduction to the modern business enterprise, and includes broad exposure to areas of study, vocabulary, and careers. The active participation of faculty and business leaders from the areas of marketing, information systems, economics, accounting, finance, and operations and decision technologies is an integral part of the course.

Work experience is an important way to learn about business and management. UC Irvine’s Internship Program, sponsored by the Career Center, can help you find opportunities to work in either voluntary or paid positions in business, nonprofit, or industrial settings. If you plan to enter business or apply to a graduate school of business or management in the future, you will find it necessary to supplement your academic work with a variety of practical experiences.

Another opportunity is UC Irvine’s Undergraduate Administrative Intern Program, which offers selected students the opportunity to assume one-year positions under the guidance of university administrators. You can choose from a range of offices in which you will be asked to undertake special projects specifically related to the management and administration of UCI, and higher education in general. These internships are supplemented by a two-quarter manage-
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