Graduate MBA Core (MBA)

Courses

**MBA 401 Introduction to the Organization and its Environment 2 Credits**

An MBA core course designed to provide a thorough understanding of business organizations by examining strategies middle and senior managers use to create and sustain organizational competitive advantage. The course examines the organization from an overall perspective within the context of the firm's internal and external environment. The second aspect of this course deals with the ability to communicate effectively in today's business and professional environment. Students will examine and practice the written and verbal communications strategies and skills that are essential to their success in business.

**MBA 402 Managing Financial and Physical Resources 4 Credits**

An MBA core course designed to integrate financial and managerial concepts into operations decisions. Disciplines of accounting, finance and economics are combined to provide substantive foundations for discussing and analyzing data. Implications of analysis are applied to facilitate decision-making in other areas such as marketing, operations (manufacturing, logistics and engineering), human resources, information technology and general management. The major learning objectives will be applied through a series of "living" cases that are centered on analyzing historical financial performance, preparing a business plan, and valuing a business.

**MBA 403 Managing Information 4 Credits**

An MBA core course dealing with concepts and methods involved in the collection, organization and dissemination of information that helps managers make operational and strategic decisions. The course also deals with attributes of information and examines enterprise-wide impacts of local decisions. Revenue, cost, time and quality-based information are accorded equal emphasis, while students are exposed to alternative evaluation methods for decisions related to different parts of the value chain. Topics include: activity-based costing; activity-based management; transaction analysis; operational and strategic decisions such as outsourcing, design partnerships, etc; investment analysis for short lifecycle investments; evaluation of uncertainty, risk and ambiguity; metrics development; compensation policies; segment evaluation methods; target costing and functional analysis; quality function deployment; total cost of ownership; and transfer pricing. In addition, the course deals with: information technology enablers which allow firms to improve value delivered to customers; and evaluation and management of emerging forms of Cooperation, such as joint ventures and project based strategic alliances.

**MBA 404 Managing Products and Services 4 Credits**

An MBA core course focusing on the management of products and services within a firm’s value chain. The course addresses exceeding customer expectations, establishing total quality as the core foundation, developing a strong customer focus, creating value through supply chain management, developing new products for competitive advantage, matching aggregate supply with customer demand, and designing market channels and influencing customers.

**MBA 405 Managing People 4 Credits**

An MBA core course that examines how effective organizations are created, maintained, and improved. The course will focus on how good people are attracted to an organization and how to make them productive. Topics include: organizational design, job design, staffing, training and development, performance, teams, influence, diversity, change, ethical decision-making and current people issues facing today's organizations.

**MBA 406 Integrative Experience 3 Credits**

An MBA course where students apply the body of knowledge acquired in MBA 401 through 405 through a simulation, case presentations and the cross core project. This course places an emphasis on strategic management and takes the point of view of the general manager to view the organization from an overall perspective in the context of the firm's internal and external environment. In doing so, students examine historical perspectives, contemporary theories, and practical applications all in the spirit of helping them develop a broad understanding of strategic management issues and solutions. By combining high-level class discussions, case analyses, a computer simulation competition and the crosscore project this course exposes students to rigorous theoretical analysis while providing hands-on, simulated real world business experiences.

Prerequisites:

- MBA 401
- MBA 402
- MBA 403
- MBA 404
- MBA 405

Can be taken Concurrently:

- MBA 402
- MBA 403
- MBA 404
- MBA 405