

International Business Administration

International business is the study of business transactions that cross national boundaries. It includes the study of international trade in tangible and intangible goods and commodities; the study of banking, insurance, marketing, and other international service transactions; and the analysis of direct and portfolio investments made outside the domestic market. Ancillary topics such as economic growth and development and ethics in international business are also generally covered. Transactions of both private and public entities are studied with a special focus on the operations of multinational corporations.

International business involves all functional business areas and explores how these functions are impacted by expanding beyond the national arena. Particular emphasis is placed on the challenges presented by different sociocultural, political, and economic environments.

International business studies are interdisciplinary in nature and are frequently combined with functional business studies or geographical area studies. A knowledge of, or interest in, history, political science, economics, law, geography, sociology, psychology, or anthropology is also useful. Knowledge of one or more foreign languages is also encouraged above the minimum requirements.

Pursuing International Business Administration at Ohio State

Students interested in business administration as a degree should have a good high school background in mathematics and written and oral communication. Experience with computers is helpful.

Students who come to Ohio State to study business will be directly enrolled as pre-business students in the Fisher College of Business if they meet one of the following criteria: a minimum ACT composite score of 25, SAT combined Critical Reading and Math scores of 1150, or a rank in the top 20% of their high school class. As a pre-major, students will enter the pre-major advising program within the Fisher College of Business. Those students not eligible to directly enroll in business may enroll in the Management and Industry Exploration Program. To learn more, visit exploration.osu.edu.

Acceptance into the major and degree candidacy within the college is by application. Students may apply to a major program after completing a specified set of courses. Admission of students with an overall cumulative point-hour ratio (CPHR) of 3.00 or above is guaranteed. College academic counselors can provide CPHR information for the most recently admitted class.

New freshman with high ACT or SAT composite test scores and a high school rank in the upper 10% or acceptance into the University Honors Program may be eligible for direct enrollment into business majors.

Acceptance in the student's major area of interest within the College of Business is competitive on a space available basis. More information may be found at fisher.osu.edu.

International Business Administration Requirements

- Principles Courses
 - Accounting Principles
 - Economics Principles
 - Statistics
- Core Courses
 - Business Skills and Environment
 - Legal Environment of Business
 - International Business
 - Finance
 - Management Sciences
 - Management and Human Resources
 - Marketing
 - Economics
 - Senior Seminar in International Business Policy
 - Modern, Spoken Foreign Language
- Required Major Courses
 - Comparative Management
 - International Finance
 - International Marketing
 - Selected International Topics in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

A minimum of 186 credit hours is needed for graduation. Oral and written communications courses and computer and information sciences are recommended.

Program Educational Objectives

At graduation, Fisher College of Business graduates:

- will possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills to identify and critically assess problems facing contemporary businesses.
- will demonstrate in-depth knowledge of International Business Administration.
- will possess a global perspective and can critically evaluate the international context a contemporary business operates in.
- can identify and assess ethical issues surrounding business decisions.
- are able to work effectively in a team-based environment.
- can demonstrate professional deportment and effective oral and written communication skills.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

There are many opportunities for students in the Fisher College of Business to enrich and broaden their academic experience. Though internship and co-ops are not required for business students, 85% of students registered with Career Management have some kind of internship experience before they graduate. Many students receive an offer of full-time employment from their internship employer.

For more information, check these web sites:

Fisher College of Business: fisher.osu.edu

Ohio State: www.osu.edu

Career Management: fisher.osu.edu/career

Majors: fisher.osu.edu/career/ungrad/explore.htm

Rankings: fisher.osu.edu/news/about/rankings.htm

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in International Business. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in International Business. Consult the college web site, fisher.osu.edu, for details.

Freshman Year:	
College Algebra	4
Calculus	9
Principles of Economics	5
Business Survey	1
Computer Problem Solving	5
English Composition	5
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
GEC (social science)	5
Total hours	44

Sophomore Year:	
Principles of Accounting	10
Principles of Economics	5
Elements of Statistics	10
Decision Theory	4
Foreign Language	15
GEC (second writing course)	5
Total hours	49

Junior Year:	
Business Skills and Environment	4
Introduction to International Business	4
Comparative Management	4
Legal Environment of Business	4
Principles of Finance	4
Principles of Marketing	4
Operations Management	4
Organizational Behavior	5
Foreign Language	5
GEC (natural science)	10
Total hours	48

Senior Year:	
International Finance	4
International Marketing	4
International Business options	9
International Policy	4
Economics option	5
GEC (arts and humanities)	10
GEC (social science)	5
GEC (natural science)	10
Total hours	51

In addition students are encouraged to explore other opportunities such as studying abroad. In coordination with the Fisher College of Business, the Office of International Affairs offers several undergraduate exchanges throughout the world.

The International Business Association (IBA) is an organization that helps students learn about international business by providing contact with those involved with multinational operations. Students can also explore and identify potential career options.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Fisher College of Business honors students will enrich their academic experience by participating in the Mitte Honors Program, which includes the Accounting Honors Program, the Business Administration Honors Cohort Program, and the Business Administration Honors Contract Program. Honors students who are selected for these programs and who successfully complete the program requirements will graduate with honors.

The Accounting Honors Program consists of a sequence of accounting courses that students complete, beginning in their sophomore year and continuing into the senior year. The Honors Business Administration Cohort Program consists of a set of sequenced business honors courses that students follow in a lockstep manner beginning in the junior year. The Honors Contract Program consists of an enriched academic plan that is designed by the student and detailed in an honors contract. Honors students with strong research interests have the opportunity to pursue the Degree with Distinction, a program of research during the senior year culminating in a thesis and oral defense. Beta Gamma Sigma is a national business administration honorary society that encourages and rewards scholarship and accomplishment in the field of business practice.

Career Prospects in International Business Administration

International business studies should be undertaken in conjunction with a strong functional program. While international business specialists are increasingly attractive to many firms, most entry-level positions are in the functional business areas.

International business specialists have traditionally been employed by larger, multinational firms, but there are growing opportunities in smaller firms moving into international markets, in banks and financial institutions, and in companies providing assistance to importers and exporters. International business specialists are also employed by the Department of Commerce; the U.S. Import Export Bank; U.S. AID; and other federal, state, local and international agencies specializing in the areas of trade and economic development. Positions frequently include the opportunity to work on assignment overseas.

Many students graduating from international business programs also continue their training in graduate programs in law and business. International law is a growing field. For those students willing to complete Ph.D. programs, there are colleges and universities in need of professors to teach the various international business courses. Beginning salaries for business graduates in 2007–2008 averaged \$40,130, depending on the candidate's skills, previous work experience gained from co-op or intern work, and type of employment.

Revised September 2008. For the most up-to-date information on the international business administration program, visit fisher.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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