

Risk Management & Insurance

Risk management and insurance is the study of methods used by organizations and individuals to manage activities whose outcomes cannot be forecasted exactly, i.e., measures taken to reduce the risk of damage to physical assets, exposure to legal liability, or injury to employees or customers. In organizations, the purpose of risk management is to enable the organization to progress toward its goals and objectives on a direct, efficient, and effective path. As such, risk management is a central management function, devoted to the management of uncertainty and its effect on the organization's progress toward its mission. Risk management is an element of virtually any area of management specialization.

Risk management and insurance focuses on a special category of risks: risks that are controllable in the sense that managers' actions can affect the process giving rise to uncertainty. For example, safety procedures and damage control programs of an organization can have a dramatic effect on the injury rates for employees and on the amount of damage resulting from natural events and acts of humans. Management of employee benefit programs also can have significant effects on the cost of providing these programs.

Students wishing to pursue studies in risk management and insurance should have a firm grasp of business principles as well as an interest in applying principles from law, finance, and quantitative methods. Those planning to pursue careers related to marketing insurance and financial products should have an interest in working with the public as well.

Pursuing Risk Management and Insurance 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 freshmen with high ACT or SAT 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.

The risk management and insurance program at Ohio State is designed to provide students a firm foundation in general principles as well as familiarity with methods used by organizations and individuals to manage risks.

Courses in risk management and insurance also provide a solid foundation for continued study towards professional designations such as ARM, CPCU, LOMA and CFP. These designations often appear after the names of risk managers, employee benefits managers and executives in the insurance industry.

Risk Management and Insurance 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 Business Policy
- Required Major Courses
 - Principles of Insurance and Risk
 - Life and Health Risk Management
 - Property and Liability Risk Management
 - Selected Topics in Financial Analysis and Management

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 Risk Management and Insurance.
- 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.

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 Risk Management and Insurance. 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 Risk Management and Insurance. Consult the college web site, fisher.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

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)	10
GEC (social science)	5
Total hours	44

Sophomore Year:

Principles of Accounting	10
Principles of Economics	5
Elements of Statistics	10
Decision Theory	4
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
GEC (second writing course)	5
GEC (natural science)	10
Total hours	49

Junior Year:

Business Skills and Environment	4
Introduction to International Business	4
Legal Environment of Business	4
Principles of Finance	4
Principles of Marketing	4
Organizational Behavior	5
Operations Management	4
Economics option	5
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
GEC (natural science)	10
Total hours	49

Senior Year:

Insurance and Risk	4
Life and Health Risk Management	4
Property and Liability Risk Management	4
Risk Management and Insurance options	8
Seminar in Business Policy	4
GEC (social science)	5
Electives	15
Total hours	55

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.

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.

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.

Career Prospects in Risk Management and Insurance

Risk management and insurance is recognized as an important field by many corporations, hospitals, and government units. Many of these organizations employ college graduates in positions requiring an understanding of issues related to insurance and risk management (e.g., employee benefit management). In addition, the insurance industry is a large employer of individuals with university-level education, and knowledge of principles of risk management and insurance provides important background for understanding the insurance operations and the functions of insurance in society. The field of financial planning offers other opportunities for individuals with university-level training in risk management and insurance combined with a finance background. A familiarity with risk management and insurance should prove useful for students who pursue careers in related areas such as health care, law, engineering, and other fields in business.

A bachelor's degree is required for entry into many careers within the insurance industry. Specific career opportunities within the insurance industry include underwriters, claims administrators, information systems experts, investment managers, and sales agents. Outside the insurance industry, knowledge from the fields of risk management and insurance is needed by employee benefit managers, financial planners, and risk managers. Increasingly, continued education after leaving the university environment is essential for promotion in these careers. Professional designations such as ARM, CLU, CPCU, ChFc, LOMA, and CFP often appear after the names of risk managers, employee benefit managers, and executives in the insurance industry. Risk management and insurance courses provide a valuable background for continued study towards these designations. Graduating seniors in 2007–2008 averaged entry-level salaries of \$46,861 annually.

Revised September 2008. For the most up-to-date information on the risk management and insurance program, visit fisher.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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