
College of Business

Graduate Degrees 2008-2009

Department/School	Major	Degree
	Business Administration	Master of Business Administration
	MBA/MPH Dual Degree MBA MSM Dual Degree	
School of Public Accountancy and Information Systems	Accounting	Master of Public Accountancy

College of Business

Lance Nail, Ph.D., Dean

Joseph Peyrefilte, Ph.D., Interim Associate Dean

Donna Davis, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Academic Services

Machell Haynes, Assistant to the Director

118 College Drive #5021

Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

(601) 266-4653

Mission

The College of Business at The University of Southern Mississippi is committed to preparing our students for careers in business and to assisting organizations in South Mississippi. Accordingly, our programs emphasize

- values conducive to personal and career development
- the functions and environment of business
- communication and critical thinking
- the global dimensions of business
- ethical decision-making

To fulfill our mission, the college seeks a balanced and synergistic agenda of instruction, scholarly activity, and professional service.

Graduate Degree Programs

The following graduate degree programs are available on the Hattiesburg campus: a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) and a Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.A.). The Master of Business Administration is also available on the Gulf Coast campus. These programs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The following dual degree programs are offered in collaboration with the College of Health: Masters of Public Health (MPH)/M.B.A. and M.B.A./Master of Science in Sport Management (MS).

Graduate assistantships are available for all College of Business graduate degrees. Students with good undergraduate records are encouraged to apply at the time they request admission.

Degree Requirements

Master of Business Administration

Donna Davis, Ph.D., Director

Machell Haynes, Assistant to the Director

Graduate Business Programs

118 College Drive #5096

Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

(601) 266-4653

Linda Jordan, Assistant to the Dean

College of Business, Gulf Coast

730 E. Beach Blvd

Long Beach, MS 39560

(228) 865-4505

Carr, Carter, Chen, Dakhila, Davis, Duhon, Green, Gunther, Haggard, Henderson, Hood, Hsieh, E. King, Klinedinst, Lambert, Lindley, Madris, Magruder, Malik, Marvasti, Mixon, Monchuk, Niroomand, Nissan, Peyrefitte, Salter, Sequeira, Shi, R. Smith, W. Smith, Topping, Vest, Yang, Zantow

Requests for application forms and other information may be addressed to the director of Graduate Business Programs, College of Business, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #5096, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001. Telephone inquiries may be made by calling (601) 266-4653. Students may also apply on-line at www.usm.edu/graduatestudies.

A Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) is also offered on the Gulf Coast. Requests for application forms and other information may be addressed as indicated above. Telephone inquiries can also be made by calling (228) 867-2628 at Gulf Park.

The M.B.A. program is available to students who have no previous coursework in business administration, as well as anyone whose background includes an undergraduate degree in a business discipline. Consequently, required M.B.A. coursework ranges from a minimum of 30 semester hours to a maximum of 48 semester hours. Specific degree requirements will be determined upon admission. Pre-program proficiency requirements include the ability to make use of word processing, spreadsheet, and database management software packages, as well as mathematical competence through managerial statistics and applied calculus.

The M.B.A. program is broad in nature and aimed at developing managerial competence from a general perspective. Specifically, the M.B.A. curriculum

- strengthens critical thinking skills that involve the ability to structure and analyze problems creatively and to process data to yield useful information
- fosters thinking that is global in scope and integrative of the economic, technical, political-legal, and social-cultural dimensions
- provides pragmatic managerial decision-making skills through instruction in the fundamentals of the functional areas of business (accounting, financial analysis, etc.)
- develops skills in dealing with behavioral issues including the ability to function effectively as a decision maker, motivator, and leader
- increases awareness of and appreciation for ethical values, human dignity, cultural diversity, social responsibilities, and the need for continuous self-development
- develops the ability to think strategically and to function effectively in an environment of rapid change
- enhances written and oral communication skills

Plan of Study. Students must submit their signed, official *Plan of Study Form* to the Graduate Studies Office by the end of the **first semester** they are enrolled. The *Plan of Study Forms* are available at www.edu/graduatestudies - click on "Current Students" and then the "Plans of Study" link.

Foundation course requirements are as follows:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>
MBA 500	3	MBA 530	3
MBA 511	3	MBA 550	3
MBA 520	3	MBA 570	3

(total foundation coursework: 18 hours)

NOTE: The foregoing foundation course requirements will normally be waived for students who have undergraduate degrees in business.

Advanced course requirements are as follows:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>
MBA 600	3	MBA 645	3
MBA 605	3	MBA 650	3
MBA 610	3	MBA 660	3
MBA 640	3	ELECTIVES	9

(total advanced coursework: 30 hours)

In some cases, pre-program courses should be taken prior to enrolling in M.B.A. classes.

Dual Degree Programs

The College of Business offers two dual degree programs in conjunction with the College of Health. The **Master of Public Health/Master of Business Administration** (MPH/MBA) degree program is designed for students interested in pursuing top-level administrative positions in health care organizations and/or consulting. The **Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Sport Management** (MBA/MS) is ideal for those interested in careers at the executive level of the sports industry, offering industry experience as well as business expertise. Both dual degree programs are a minimum 60 semester hours. Candidates must meet requirements and

prerequisites of BOTH the MBA program and the partner program (MPH or MSM) in order to qualify for admission. More detailed information on these exciting programs is available online at www.usm.edu/mba.

5-Year MBA Plan

The 5-Year MBA Plan is designed with the exceptional non-business student in mind. The goal of the plan is to increase the marketability of these outstanding students by supplementing their major area academic preparation with the opportunity to earn an MBA with just one additional year of course work after graduation.

With the approval of the Dean of the College of Business and the Dean of the student's college, students take up to 18 hours of 500-level graduate business courses during the last two years of their undergraduate career. These 500-level courses constitute an undergraduate minor in Business Administration. Participating students would then be prepared to enter the full-time one-year MBA program upon graduation {4+1}, provided they meet all other requirements for acceptance into the MBA program.

Admission requirements for this plan include Junior standing, a non-business major, a minimum 3.0 (on 4.0 scale) overall grade point average, and approval of the Dean of the College of Business and the Dean of the student's college.

**Classes taken under this plan are considered undergraduate hours and cannot be used to satisfy other graduate degree requirements. In addition, students participating in the 5-Year MBA plan are required to take all 500-level MBA courses in a lecture setting (no online courses).

Admission Standards

Admission to The University of Southern Mississippi's M.B.A. and M.P.A. programs is selective. Regular admission is contingent on having graduated from a college or university accredited by a recognized regional accrediting agency. In addition, the Graduate Admissions committee of the College of Business recommends admittance only for those applicants whose academic background, work experience, demonstrated leadership, and communication skills meet the challenging demands of graduate programs in management and accounting.

In evaluating applications, the admission committee utilizes the following criteria:

Undergraduate record—The cumulative grade point average (GPA) from all institutions, the area(s) of concentration, the balance of verbal/communication and quantitative/analytical courses, and the trend of grades are considered.

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)—The GMAT is sponsored and directed by the Graduate Management Admission Council, consisting of representatives from graduate schools of management. A candidate should strive to achieve a good balance of verbal- and quantitative-area scores.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)—Students whose native language is not English must achieve a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the written exam, 213 on the computer exam.

Work Experience—While work experience is not required for admission, two or more years of relevant managerial responsibility strengthen the likelihood of admission to the program. Applicants are encouraged to submit resumes showing job responsibilities and accomplishments.

Letters of Recommendation—The admission committee reviews letters of recommendation to gain a more personal understanding of the applicant's leadership ability in terms of communication and interpersonal skills. Each applicant should request three recommendation letters, at least one of which addresses the applicant's academic preparation. Letters of recommendation should be from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study and should be sent to the department or school.

Essay—The essay requirement provides the applicant an opportunity to demonstrate writing competency and communication skills. It also enables the applicant to provide specific examples of demonstrated leadership, to discuss career plans, and to supply additional information that will assist in selecting those individuals who can most benefit from and contribute to the graduate management or accounting programs.

Students may enroll in College of Business courses reserved exclusively for graduate students if they have regular admission to specific Southern Miss graduate programs and have taken the necessary prerequisites. In rare cases, students may be admitted conditionally. To remove conditional admission status, master's students must earn a B in each class on the first nine (9) semester hours of coursework numbered 500 or above or on all courses taken while completing this nine (9) hour requirement. Students with an undergraduate degree in business who have been accepted into the M.B.A. program may start on a full-time basis in the summer and fall semesters. Only part-time students will be allowed to start in the spring semester. Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in business but have been accepted into the M.B.A. program may start in the fall semester only as a full-time student.

Students transferring from other graduate schools must meet the admission requirements stated above. At the time of admission, transfer students may request that up to six (6) semester hours of approved credit be applied toward degree requirements. Once enrolled, transfer of credit for courses taken at other institutions must be approved in advance.

More detailed information on the admissions process is available online at www.usm.edu/mba.

Academic Policies

Application of credits and dismissal—Students who receive a grade of “C” in more than nine (9) hours of coursework will be dismissed from the program. Students may not apply hours toward a degree for courses in which there is a grade of “D”; students who receive grades of “D” in more than six (6) hours of coursework will be dismissed from the program. Students who receive grades of “F” in more than three hours of coursework will be dismissed from the program. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to be in good standing.

Upon approval by the program director, students may repeat only one course to improve a cumulative grade point average. Students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) or whose program GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on probation. Students must attain a cumulative 3.0 GPA by the end of the following (probationary) semester or they may be dismissed from the program subject to review by a faculty committee and the program director.

Graduation requirements—Students must complete course requirements with at least a 3.0 GPA for all graduate courses taken. In addition, all general requirements of The Graduate Studies Office must be met; this includes a comprehensive examination.

Continuous Enrollment Requirement: Students must meet the requirement specified in the front section of this *Bulletin*.

School of Accountancy and Information Systems

Stephen Jackson, Ph.D., Director
118 College Drive #5178
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(601) 266-4641

Albin, Anderson, Clark, Depree, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Pate, Posey, Smith

Mission

The School of Accountancy and Information Systems (SAIS) is an academic unit within the College of Business (COB) at The University of Southern Mississippi and is committed to the mission of the COB. Within this framework, the SAIS has its own unique mission.

The primary mission of the accounting program is to (1) provide quality undergraduate business education to South Mississippi students with an entryway to the accounting community and (2) to provide quality graduate accounting education to prepare South Mississippi students for professional employment.

To accomplish this mission, the accounting faculty strives to produce BSBA graduates who are competent in entry-level business and accounting positions and have the educational background necessary for advancement. MPA graduates are expected to be competent in professional accounting positions and have to have the educational background that will enable them to advance in the

accounting profession. The program will also provide quality accounting education to other students whose chosen curriculum includes accounting. Therefore, as its first priority, the SAIS emphasizes excellent teaching in an environment of continuous curriculum development. The SAIS also encourages scholarly, professionally, and pedagogical research as well as professional service to maintain the currency of its faculty and curriculum.

The objective of the graduate curriculum is to provide more depth and breadth in accounting and related subjects than can be accomplished in a four-year program. Enrollment in the school's graduate program is limited to those students who show a high probability of success.

The school offers one degree—the Master of Professional Accountancy. The program leading to the M.P.A. is essentially the culmination of a five-year program. A student who earns the bachelor's degree with a major in accounting may normally complete the M.P.A. program with one year's additional work. A minimum of thirty (30) hours of graduate work is required.

Plan of Study. Students must submit their signed, official *Plan of Study Form* to the Graduate Studies Office by the end of the **first semester** they are enrolled. The *Plan of Study Forms* are available at www.edu/graduatestudies - click on "**Current Students**" and then the "**Plans of Study**" link.

Students with a variety of educational backgrounds may enter the program. Students who have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university must either transfer or take the following business environment and tool courses:

Applied Calculus for Business	(3 hours)	Advanced Business Law	(3 hours)
Principles of Economics	(6 hours)	Principles of Finance	(3 hours)
Managerial Statistics I	(3 hours)	Global Managerial Policy and	
Managerial Statistics II	(3 hours)	Strategy	(3 hours)
Management for Organizations.....	(3 hours)	Management Information Systems	(3 hours)
Legal Environment of Business.....	(3 hours)	Principles of Marketing	(3 hours)

The following lower-division accounting courses are also required:

Principles of Accounting	(3 hours)	Cost Accounting	(3 hours)
Accounting Processes and Systems	(3 hours)	Income Tax Accounting	(3 hours)
Intermediate Accounting	(6 hours)	Government and Not-for-Profit	
Advanced Accounting	(3 hours)	Accounting	(3 hours)
Auditing	(3 hours)		

Professional-level courses for M.P.A.:

ACC 605 - Current Accounting Theory and Research
 ACC 610 - Advanced Auditing
 ACC 620 - Advanced Cost/Managerial Accounting
 ACC 630 - Tax Seminar I
 ACC 631 - Tax Seminar II
 ACC 660 - Controllership

MBA 640 - Problems in Corporate Finance
 MBA 645 - Communication Skills for Managers
 MBA 6XX - Any 600-level MBA course
 MBA 6XX - Any 600-level MBA course

A minimum of ten (10) courses must be taken at the graduate level with at least seven (7) courses numbered over 600 and at least three (3) MBA courses.

Admission to the Program

Admission requirements for the M.P.A. program are the same as those listed for the M.B.A. program. Admission forms are available in the Graduate Business Programs Office, JGH Room 307. Members of all underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Graduation and Retention Standards

Graduation and retention standards for the M.P.A. program are the same as those listed above for the M.B.A. program.

Continuous Enrollment Requirement: Students must meet the requirement specified in the front section of this *Bulletin*.