

# Integrated Baccalaureate Degree in Economics (BB) and Master of Business Administration (MBA)



The Bachelor of Business in Economics (ECON)/Master of Business Administration (MBA) integrated degree program provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Economics majors to complete both a Bachelor of Business degree in Economics and an MBA in five years. The integrated degree allows a student to begin taking up to 6 semester hours of MBA courses during the senior year and to count these courses toward both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

## Admission Requirements

Admission into the integrated ECON/MBA degree program requires the following:

- A minimum of 90 semester hours (SH) completed
- A major in Economics (BB)
- A minimum 3.4 cumulative grade point average
- A minimum 3.0 GPA in MBA Foundation courses

## Benefits of an Integrated Degree

1. **Start graduate courses earlier.** Integrated degree students may take two graduate courses during their senior year that can count toward both undergraduate degree and MBA requirements (called “bridge” courses). As a result, integrated degree students get a “jump start” on their MBA degree.
2. **Saves money.** Integrated degree students have 6 SH fewer of tuition/fee expenses, and they can “lock in” the tuition rate in the *Graduate Catalog* from when they first continually enroll at WIU. The net savings in tuition and fees for an integrated degree student who started at WIU as a freshman is over \$4,000 compared to a student who did not pursue an integrated degree.
3. **Waiver of GMAT requirement.** Integrated degree students can be admitted into the WIU MBA program without a Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score that is typically required of other students (a savings of \$250).
4. **Enter the job market earlier.** Integrated degree students finish their MBA at least one semester earlier than they would if they did not participate in an integrated degree program.

## Integrated Degree Requirements

### Undergraduate Degree Requirements – Bachelor of Business in Economics

**University General Education Requirements** (43 SH)

**Business Core Courses** (33 SH)

**Department Core Courses** (9 SH)

CS 302 or DS 490; ECON 197, 330 or 332, 331, 497

**Directed Electives<sup>1</sup>** (18 SH)

Students must choose two of the following emphases with 9 SH in each chosen emphasis; a minimum of 12 SH total must be in ECON/DS. (See *Graduate Catalog* for listing of specific courses for each emphasis.)

- A. Monetary Economics
- B. Public Policy
- C. Quantitative Economics
- D. International Economics
- E. Business Economics
- F. Pre-Law
- G. General Economics

**Open Electives<sup>1</sup>** (17 SH)

**Other** (15 SH)

Natural Science/Mathematics: MATH 137 and STAT 171

Social Sciences: ECON 231, 232, and either PSY 100 or SOC 100

<sup>1</sup> Bridge courses would typically fit into Directed or Open Electives categories.

### Graduate Degree Requirements – Master of Business Administration (MBA)

**Core Courses** (18 SH)

ACCT 547, DS 533 or MGT 540, ECON 538, FIN 565, IS 524, MKTG 576, BAT 611

**Directed Elective<sup>2</sup>** (3 SH)

## Contact Information

**Questions about the program:**

College of Business and Technology  
William Polley, Interim Associate  
Dean and MBA Director  
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(309) 298-2442  
WJ-Polley@wiu.edu  
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**General admission questions:**

School of Graduate Studies  
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD  
Grad-Office@wiu.edu  
wiu.edu/grad

**Concentration Courses**<sup>2</sup> (One bridge course<sup>2</sup>, plus 6 SH chosen in consultation with the MBA advisor) (9 SH)

**Integrative Course** (MGT 590) (3 SH)

<sup>2</sup> One bridge course would typically be used as a Directed Elective, and one would be included as a Concentration Course.

## Available Bridge Courses

ACCT 457G/B; DS 435G/B, 490G/B; ECON 420G/B, 425G/B, 432G/B, 435G/B, 445G/B, 460G/B, 470G/B, 471G/B, 487G/B; MGT 474G/B, 481G/B, 483G/B

## An MBA Program Designed for You

Students in the MBA program experience many key benefits:

- Course content that prepares MBA students for careers around the world
- Daytime and evening course schedules that fit into busy lifestyles
- Affordable tuition rates that can put an MBA degree within reach
- Internship and assistantship opportunities allow students to combine work and education
- Small classes (less than 25 students per class) taught by full-time faculty provide opportunities for building personal relationships with professors and mentors for assistance and professional development

## Accreditation

Western's MBA has earned accreditation in both business and accounting by the AACSB International, designating Western Illinois University as among the best business schools in the world. Less than one-third of U.S. business schools and only 15% of business schools worldwide meet the rigorous standards of AACSB International accreditation. As a member institution, Western's MBA has confirmed a commitment to quality and continuous improvement through a rigorous and comprehensive peer review process. AACSB International accreditation ensures that Western's MBA degree program is committed to providing the highest-calibre education and experiences for our student professionals.

## Graduate Assistantships

Students can apply for tuition assistance via a graduate assistantship. The College of Business and Technology annually awards internal graduate assistantships to students desiring to work directly with business faculty. These assistantships are highly competitive and are awarded based on the student's GMAT score, GPA, and personal recommendations. Additional assistantships are available campuswide.

*Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.*

## Career Opportunities

After completion of the MBA, many exciting careers are available. The College of Business and Technology works with an active placement office. AT&T, BP Amoco, Caterpillar, Edward Jones, IBM, John Deere, Kraft Foods, and State Farm Insurance are just a few of the companies and corporations which employ Western's MBA graduates.

