MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS

College of Business

Interim Dean: Dr. Yim-Yu Wong

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General Information

Business Analytics encompasses the techniques, technologies, systems, practices, methodologies, and applications that analyze critical business data to help an enterprise better understand its business and market and make timely business decisions. This 30-unit ten-course program will prepare graduates for positions such as business analysts, data scientists, and marketing analysts in business, government, and non-profit organizations.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students completing the program will:

1. Illustrate knowledge and application of programming languages.
2. Appropriately apply data management tools and methods.
3. Apply appropriate statistical techniques.
4. Be able to extract business intelligence from data and apply it for strategic decision-making in different functional areas of business.
5. Synthesize knowledge and evaluation of outcomes by managing a complex data analytics project from start to finish.

Admission

U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international students may apply for fall or spring admission according to the following schedule:

• Fall semester filing period: October 1 through May 15.
• Spring semester filing period: August 1 through October 15.

There are three rounds of application deadlines in each filing period. The above dates are subject to change. Check the Graduate Business Programs website for the latest dates.

Application Process

Applicants are expected to have a quantitative undergraduate background. The ideal student will have a baccalaureate degree in economics, engineering, mathematics, statistics, natural sciences or quantitative areas of business discipline, e.g., management science, finance, accounting, etc. However, the program will also accept applicants who do not have a quantitative baccalaureate degree but have acquired substantial quantitative skills during their academic or professional careers. Applicants’ work experience based on their submitted resumes will be used to decide whether their quantitative skills are substantive or not. The number of years of full-time work experience, the type of organization they worked for, and the type of work they did (e.g., programmer/ analyst/ researcher) would all be considered in making this decision.

Each applicant to the MSBA program must submit the following documents:

• California State University Application for Graduate or International Admission plus an application fee of $55
• One official transcript from every college or university attended
• The score on the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). The deadline to take the GRE is May 15 for Fall admission and October 15 of the prior year for Spring admission.
• A statement of purpose showing how the desired graduate business program is related to the applicant’s career and future goals. Please refer to the College of Business website for a list of questions that should be addressed in the statement of purpose.
• TOEFL, IELTS, or Pearson Test of English is required for admission from all applicants who have completed their undergraduate degree in a non-English speaking country.
• Résumé or curriculum vitae
• Two letters of recommendation
• International applicants will need to file the Financial Affidavit form to obtain an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility

The California State University Application for Admission may be submitted before other documents are submitted, but the admission decision is not made until all required materials are received.

Admission Criteria

The College of Business admissions committee reviews an applicant’s file using a holistic approach and takes the following requirements into consideration:

• Completion of a degree equivalent to a four-year U.S. bachelor’s degree from a recognized university.
• A minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average overall, or in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of university coursework completed.
• GRE total score, verbal, quantitative, and writing scores. A GRE AWA score of 4.0 or higher is required for classified admission. A lower AWA score may be accepted. However, a student will be conditionally admitted and must complete an approved College of Business writing course.
• Quality of statement of purpose using guidelines stated on the College of Business website
• Two supportive letters of recommendation from workplace supervisors or faculty members
• Qualifications on résumé
• TOEFL score of at least 88 (or 570 PBT), IELTS score of at least 7.0 or PTE score of at least 65. The TOEFL, IELTS or PTE must have been taken within the past two years and is a requirement of all applicants who have earned their undergraduate degree from a country where the official language is not English.

Program Requirements

Orientation and Professional Development Workshops

The College of Business Graduate Programs orientation helps students prepare for the academic program and provides professional development opportunities. The workshops included during orientation are designed to enhance career prospects, professional communication style, leadership skills, and teamwork. Students are expected to attend the required full-day orientation.

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Prerequisite Courses
Admitted students must have computing skills (equivalent to ISYS 363 at SF State, or one semester of college programming) and completed college-level courses in Statistics (equivalent to DS 212/ MATH 124/ ISED 160 at SF State).

Business Analytics (MS) – 30 units

Core Requirements (18 units)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS 853</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS 861</td>
<td>Data Mining and Advanced Statistical Methods for Business Analysts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS 862</td>
<td>Machine Learning for Business Analysts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISYS 812</td>
<td>Programming and Applications for Data Analytics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISYS 850</td>
<td>Seminar in Business Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISYS 864</td>
<td>Data Management for Analytics</td>
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Culminating Experience (3 units)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUS 895</td>
<td>Research Project in Business</td>
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Electives (9 units)

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSC 849</td>
<td>Search Engines</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC 867</td>
<td>Internet Application Design and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSC 869</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
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<td>CSC 872</td>
<td>Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence</td>
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<td>CSC 890</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>DS 852</td>
<td>Managerial Decision Making</td>
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<td>DS 855</td>
<td>Supply Chain Management</td>
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<td>ECON 825</td>
<td>Applied Time Series Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 830</td>
<td>Advanced Econometric Methods and Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISYS 814</td>
<td>Information Systems for Strategic Advantage</td>
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<td>ISYS 856</td>
<td>Enterprise Mobile Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISYS 869</td>
<td>Business Process Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 850</td>
<td>Ethics and Compliance in Business</td>
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<td>MKTG 864</td>
<td>Seminar in Marketing Research</td>
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<td>MKTG 820</td>
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<td>MKTG 886</td>
<td>Seminar in Marketing Analytics</td>
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