Preparing for a Career in Business

Top business leaders are driven, analytic, and innovative. They make decisions that are more complex than ever before. And they understand the full scope of an enterprise and its potential in a global economy. The keys to leading a firm or organization to success hinge on the development of proficiency in several essential areas: analysis and decision making, information technology, effective communication, understanding economic trends and public policy, and knowledge of behavioral processes in organizations. Eventual mastery of these concepts can open doors to exciting career opportunities in business, such as managing a multinational corporation, consulting, marketing pharmaceutical products, starting a business, offering profitable investment and financial guidance, or running a nonprofit organization.

Academic Preparation at UC Irvine

Six avenues of academic preparation in business are available at UC Irvine with major and/or minor courses of study in: Business Administration, Business Economics, Business Information Management, Accounting, Economics, and Management. These degree and minor programs are offered by The Paul Merage School of Business, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, and the School of Social Sciences. In addition to academic preparation, the faculty encourages students to distinguish their undergraduate business study by creating an educational program composed of courses within and outside of each school, and participating in internships, research opportunities, study abroad opportunities, and special courses.

Majors Offered

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, B.A.
The Paul Merage School of Business

The Business Administration major offers a traditional curriculum similar to those at other top business schools. The program provides a broad learning experience in a multidisciplinary and global context, and focuses on the development of essential managerial skills, especially critical thinking, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and effective communication. Drawing on the social sciences, students study organizations, individual and group behavior, leadership, strategy, financial and accounting issues, ethics, marketing, information technology, and a variety of other topics from a macro perspective. Students select a minimum of one of three specializations in accounting, general management, or marketing.

While preparing students for a career in management, the Merage School, through academic advising, will help students fashion an undergraduate program tailored to their own unique career objectives. Examples of programs of study that enable Business Administration majors to blend management education with specific industry areas include (but are not limited to) bioscience business, business economics, international commerce, information management and technology, and many other combinations. Because much business is conducted on a global scale, students are required to either participate in the university’s Education Abroad Program or take one of a number of designated courses that stresses the international dimension of a business area. Business Administration majors can pursue careers in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Graduates can pursue law degrees, master’s degrees in a variety of areas, including business and economics, and doctoral programs in management or related disciplines.
BUSINESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, B.S.

The Business Information Management (BIM) degree is an interdisciplinary degree offered by The Paul Merage School of Business and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences (Bren.ICS). Academic advising is handled by the Bren School’s Student Affairs Office.

The global business environment has created a need for professionals who understand business concepts and practices, and know how to use information technology for strategic business analysis and decision-making. Coursework in both the theory and applied methods of business principles, computing, mathematics, and analytical decision-making prepares students to: understand the role of information technology in management and business; effectively use information technology and analytical tools to assist in decision-making across business disciplines; develop effective business communication skills; define, describe and design information systems; and manipulate and analyze large datasets to improve business decisions. Business Information Management majors can pursue careers in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors or can proceed to graduate school in several disciplines, including information systems, computing, economics, business and law.

ADMISSION

This is a major for which there is an enrollment cap. If interest from qualified applicants exceeds the number of slots available, applicants will be subject to screening beyond the University of California admissions requirements.

Specific information is available at www.ics.uci.edu/prospective.

BUSINESS ECONOMICS, B.A.

School of Social Sciences

A major in Business Economics is offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences. Through a challenging economics-focused course of study, students learn about complex factors that influence market booms and busts, and how business size can play an important factor in determining how communities will weather tough economic times. Business economists study how individuals, businesses, and governments choose to allocate scarce resources to satisfy alternative goals, and they analyze the interactions among these decision-makers through various institutions such as markets or corporations. They consider how outcomes of these interactions meet people’s collective interests, and ask how public policy might improve upon these outcomes. The School of Social Sciences economics faculty delivers a highly structured, rigorous program that covers traditional topics related to market interactions, such as monopolies and antitrust, labor markets, economic growth, and the business cycle. It offers a tightly focused curriculum guided by the logic and integrative perspective of economics which allows students to delve into areas of particular relevance to business, including forecasting, portfolio selection, industrial organization (the study of markets and competition), and corporate finance. It also covers non-market interactions, such as those involved in politics, crime, families, and cultural traditions. In learning to think in terms of incentives and tradeoffs, business economics majors develop analytical skills, quantitative tools, and clarity of thought that are useful for just about any occupation and the degree provides excellent preparation for graduate study in law, business administration, public policy, and social sciences.

ADMISSION

UC Irvine Business Economics, Economics, and Quantitative Economics alumni have been very successful in finding jobs in business as well as gaining admission to top MBA and other graduate programs.

Specific information for admission to the various economics majors at UC Irvine is available at www.socsci.uci.edu
Minors Offered

MANAGEMENT
The Paul Merage School of Business

Our world-class faculty understands the academic and professional requirements of ambitious students, and how the management minor can benefit their preparation. Who should consider a management minor? (1) students who wish to learn about the management of organizations as a way of preparing for a career in business, (2) students preparing for careers in other fields that require some knowledge of management, and (3) students who expect to go on to graduate work in management who desire early guidance and undergraduate work appropriate to this career objective.

ADMISSION
Admission to the minor is on a competitive basis; students must submit an application, transcripts, and a statement of purpose. Specific application and prerequisite information is available at www.merage.uci.edu. Note: Students may not receive both the minor in management and the minor in accounting. Open to non-Merage School majors only.

ACCOUNTING
The Paul Merage School of Business

A minor in accounting can augment your academic preparation for the workplace no matter what field you plan to enter. In establishing the curriculum for the minor in accounting at UC Irvine, the faculty anticipated students drawn to courses in accounting who are primarily interested in: (1) meeting the accounting coursework eligibility requirements to sit for the uniform CPA examination, (2) preparing for careers in private accounting or in other fields that require some knowledge of accounting, and (3) pursuing a graduate degree in accounting, and desiring early guidance and undergraduate coursework appropriate to this career objective.

ADMISSION
Admission is on a competitive basis; students must submit an application, transcripts, and a statement of purpose.

Specific application and prerequisite information is available at www.merage.uci.edu. Note: Students may not receive both the minor in management and the minor in accounting. Open to non-Merage School majors only.

Advanced Degrees in Management

MBA – Ph.D.
For students planning a career in management, The Paul Merage School of Business offers professional education leading to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. In addition, the Merage School offers a doctoral program leading to the Ph.D. degree in management for students who wish to pursue a career in scholarly research.

Additional Opportunities

Courses, Internships, Organizations
Management 1 - Introduction to Business and Management - is a course designed to appeal to all students interested in business. The course provides a rigorous overview of major business functions and management topics. The course also addresses the global and fast-changing environment in which modern business enterprises operate as well as the challenges posed by and concerns about sustainable growth, ethics, and social responsibility. The course provides an introduction to the modern business enterprise, and includes broad exposure to areas of study, vocabulary, and careers.

Work experience is an important way to learn about business and management. UC Irvine’s Internship Program, sponsored by the Career Center, can help you find opportunities to work in either voluntary or paid positions in business, nonprofit, or industrial settings. If you plan to enter business or apply to a graduate school of business or management in the future, you will find it necessary to supplement your academic work with a variety of practical experiences.

Another opportunity is UC Irvine’s Undergraduate Administrative Intern Program, which offers selected students the opportunity to assume one-year positions under the guidance of university administrators. You can choose from a range of offices in which you will be asked to undertake special projects specifically related to the management and administration of UCI, and higher education in general. These internships are supplemented by a two-quarter management seminar and by field trips to administrative conferences such as meetings of The Regents of the University of California. UC Irvine students interested in business and management are strongly encouraged to become involved with the student organizations representing a variety of areas. Examples include Merage Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA) for Business Administration majors; Alliance of Business Students, Accounting Association; American Advertising Federation; American Marketing Association; Latino Business Students Association, Filipino Americans in Social Sciences, Delta Sigma Pi, Undergraduate Business Association, Undergraduate Finance Association, and the Entrepreneur Society. These high-profile student organizations promote interaction between students and the surrounding business community through their Corporate Speaker Series, social activities, and student/employer relationships.

The Don Beall Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Merage School of Business offers one of the nation’s premier business plan competitions providing all UC Irvine students the opportunity to form a team, create a business plan and potentially fund their business idea all within seven months. Between the kick-off and finals, four workshops are offered that cover a broad area of business plan development skills led by leading practitioners from Orange County. The Competition also provides individual team coaches to all teams that qualify for the semi-finals.
Majors Offered

Top business leaders are driven, analytic, and innovative. They make decisions based on the outcomes of their decision-making processes. Majors in business include:

- Business Administration: Majors Offered
- Business Economics: Majors Offered
- Information Technology: Majors Offered
- Finance: Majors Offered
- Accounting: Majors Offered
- Economics: Majors Offered
- Management: Majors Offered

Six avenues of academic preparation in business are available at UC Irvine with dedicated programs in management or related disciplines.

### Majors Offered

**Business Administration**

- Offered by the Department of Business Administration
- Provides a broad exposure to areas of study, vocabulary, and careers.
- Designed to appeal to all students interested in business.
- The course provides a rigorous overview of major business functions and management topics.
- First course introduces the student to a broad set of business functions.
- Future courses focus on individual functions, such as accounting, marketing, and finance.
- Most courses are offered in the evening to accommodate working students.
- The program offers a professional certification option.

**Business Economics**

- Offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences.
- Majors can choose from the Business Economics major and the minor in management — or other disciplines.
- Students can combine business economics with other disciplines, such as finance, accounting, economics, or computer science.
- The major in Business Economics is offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences.

**Management**

- Offered by the Department of Management in the School of Social Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Information Technology**

- Offered by the Department of Information Technology in the School of Information and Computer Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Accounting**

- Offered by the Department of Accounting in the School of Information and Computer Sciences (Bren:ICS).
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Economics**

- Offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Management**

- Offered by the Department of Management in the School of Social Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Information Technology**

- Offered by the Department of Information Technology in the School of Information and Computer Sciences (Bren:ICS).
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Accounting**

- Offered by the Department of Accounting in the School of Information and Computer Sciences (Bren:ICS).
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Economics**

- Offered by the Department of Economics in the School of Social Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management

**Management**

- Offered by the Department of Management in the School of Social Sciences.
- Provides a business education with specific industry areas.
- Programs in Management or related disciplines.
- Includes courses in accounting who are primarily interested in:
  1. Meeting the incentives and tradeoffs of a given situation
  2. Developing strategies to address these incentives
  3. Students who expect to go on to graduate programs in business or management