

**Auburn University Ph.D. in Management, Organization Studies,  
Strategy & Change (OSSC) Concentration *Note: In Fall 2013, the  
Program will be renamed the  
“Ph.D. in Business with a Management Concentration”***

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

Questions about the Application Process and Selection

Q: When are applications due?

A: February first. We begin evaluating applications on Feb. 1 for the Fall entering class. We will consider applications received after this deadline only until our selections have been made.

Q: How many applicants do you admit a year?

A: Our goal each year is to admit three new Ph.D. students each year.

Q: What criteria do you look at when making selection choices?

A: We consider multiple criteria in our selection process including test scores, grades, almas, reference letters, previous experience, and personal statements.

Q: Do you have a minimum GMAT/GRE score?

A: We do not seriously consider candidates with GMAT scores below 600 (or below 1200 on the old GRE or 308 on the new GRE) except in extremely rare circumstances. In addition to preferring GMAT scores higher than 600, we also want to see subscale scores at the 50<sup>th</sup> or higher percentile.

Q: Do all international students have to take the TOEFEL?

A: Only international students who have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree in the United States are exempt from the TOEFEL. The Graduate School minimum TOEFEL requirements are as follows: iBT TOEFEL  $\geq 79$ ; Computer TOEFEL  $\geq 213$ ; Paper TOEFEL  $\geq 550$ .

Q: Do you require a Master's degree for admission?

A: While we do not require that applicants have a Masters degree, the competitive nature of the program and the nature of our teaching-oriented graduate funding leads us to strongly favor candidates with a Master's degree of some kind.

Q: Do you require a U.S. degree for admission?

A: No, but the competitive nature of the program and the nature of our teaching-oriented graduate funding leads us to strongly favor candidates with a U.S. degree or degree from a non-U.S. school based on English language instruction.

Q: Do you require applicants to have a business degree?

A: No. We encourage applicants with a diversity of academic backgrounds to apply.

Q: I am interested in applying. Can I come for a visit before I apply?

A: Certainly. If you feel your application meets our minimum criteria with regards to test scores, please contact the Program Coordinator to arrange a visit.

Q: Are visits required?

A: We ask our short list of favored applicants to visit us or participate in a video conference before we make final selection decisions.

Q: How do I apply?

A: You must complete both a Graduate School and Departmental Application. Both can be found on the Auburn University Graduate School website: [www.grad.auburn.edu](http://www.grad.auburn.edu). You must complete the Graduate School application on line, make arrangements for your test scores and transcripts be sent to the Graduate School, and pay your application fee. You must also complete and return the Departmental application to the Management Department and also arrange for three letters of reference be sent to the Department.

### Ph.D. Student Funding

Q: Do you offer graduate student funding?

A: Yes, if requested. Incoming students are generally offered a four-year Graduate Assistantship (GA) position that includes a tuition fellowship that covers tuition. Students are responsible for paying some University fees.

Q: Are any health benefits available to incoming Ph.D. students?

A: New students are automatically enrolled in the Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan. Graduate student assistants currently receive a \$500 supplement toward the total annual cost of approximately \$1,300 (in 2012). You can read more about the plan at: [www.grad.auburn.edu](http://www.grad.auburn.edu) under "Graduate Student Health Insurance Program." If you already have health insurance, you may opt out of the Graduate Student Health Insurance plan by completing the "Waiver Request" found at the above website and providing proof of current insurance.

Q: Do Ph.D. students get assigned an office or have access to other resources?

A: All Ph.D. students are assigned an office in the Lowder Business Building. Typically, 2-3 students share an office with each having a personal desk and computer. Printing and copying is available in a central location.

Q: Do Ph.D. students get support for travel to conferences and academic meetings?

A: Yes, support for such travel is available if the student is presenting a paper. Other funding is periodically available to those not submitting papers.

### General Questions about the Program

Q: What kind of academic focus does the program provide? Is the program micro or macro in orientation?

A: Our coursework is designed to expose students to micro (e.g., organizational behavior) and

macro (e.g., strategy) topics. Generally students choose to emphasize one or the other in their research efforts.

Q: I want to be a consultant. Is this a good program for me?

A: Our program is primarily devoted to training future academicians. While some of our past graduates have chosen to pursue consulting, their educational experience was focused on learning to contribute to Management theory and knowledge through high quality research. Don't choose Auburn unless you are interested in and motivated to do research in the area.

Q: Can I do the program part-time or in the evenings?

A: No. The program is a traditional residency based program.

Q: How important is statistics?

A: Very. We have four courses devoted to the key statistical methods used in Management research.

Q: What kind of academic position can I get after completing my Ph.D.?

A: Your ultimate field of specialization largely depends on the nature of your research and dissertation foci. Most of our graduates position themselves for Assistant Professor positions in Management, Business Administration, Organizational Behavior, Strategy, or Entrepreneurship.

Q: Where do your graduates find jobs?

A: Our placements range from small regional schools to large state Universities. Placement is largely dependent on the amount and quality of graduates' published research. We currently have alumni in faculty positions at large universities including LSU, Auburn, Idaho State, Mississippi State University, Texas Christian University, California State University Fullerton, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Q: What makes Auburn special?

A: Many things:

1. Our people and collegial atmosphere. Just check out our publication record. You will find our faculty and students work together in teams to do great work.
2. To facilitate Ph.D. student publications and in lieu of taking a comprehensive exam in their third year, we require students, with the guidance of a faculty committee, write two publishable quality manuscripts.
3. Our research productivity. We have a high ranking for our output in high-quality journals.
4. We have a strong, dedicated faculty, many of whom are leading experts in their fields.
5. We have strong interests in areas including organizational change, ethics, board governance and entrepreneurship that augment the traditional focus on organizational behavior, theory, and strategy.
6. Auburn is a great small college town with easy access to Atlanta and the beaches of the gulf.

Q: Do you have a website?

A: Yes. <http://business.auburn.edu/academics/graduate/ph.d-in-management-oss>

Q: I have more questions, who can I contact?

A: Garry Adams, Ph.D.

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