

Curriculum and Syllabus

DBA — Doctor of Business Administration

Degree awarded	Doctoral degree (DBA)
Program length	6 semesters plus defence
Credits	180 ECTS-equivalent credits
Language	English
Mode of study	Fully online, supervised research with structured research colloquia
Document	Full course-by-course syllabus

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS

- Every semester with its credit load and thematic focus
- Course-by-course syllabus with code, credits and workload hours
- Course summaries and the learning outcomes of each module
- The assessment formula applied to each individual course
- Credit distribution table across the whole degree

A professional doctorate for senior practitioners producing original, publishable research at the intersection of management and health care regulation.

Credit distribution

Semester	Thematic focus	Credits
Semester 1 — Research foundations	Philosophy, design and the literature	30
Semester 2 — Analysis	Quantitative and qualitative technique	30
Semester 3 — Proposal and colloquium	Locking the research design	30
Semesters 4-5 — Fieldwork and analysis	Executing the study	60
Semester 6 — Dissertation and defence	Completion and examination	30
Total		180

Semester 1 — Research foundations

Philosophy, design and the literature · 30 credits

DBA-101 — Applied Research Methodology

12 credits · 300 hours total workload

Philosophy of science for applied fields, research paradigms, design typologies, validity and reliability, and the logic of contribution.

Course learning outcomes

- Position a research project within an explicit paradigm
- Select a design that matches the question rather than the researcher's habit
- State a contribution claim and the evidence that would falsify it

Assessment: Design paper (100%)

DBA-102 — Systematic Literature Review

10 credits · 250 hours total workload

Protocol-driven searching, inclusion criteria, quality appraisal, synthesis techniques and the identification of genuine gaps.

Course learning outcomes

- Register and execute a review protocol
- Appraise study quality with a recognised instrument
- Synthesise findings into a defensible gap statement

Assessment: Systematic review manuscript (100%)

DBA-103 — Academic Writing and Publication Ethics

8 credits · 200 hours total workload

Structure of the research article, authorship rules, conflicts of interest, data availability, peer review and responses to reviewers.

Course learning outcomes

- Draft an article to the structure expected by target journals

- Apply authorship and disclosure rules correctly
- Write a persuasive response to reviewer criticism

Assessment: Manuscript and reviewer response exercise (100%)

Semester 2 — Analysis

Quantitative and qualitative technique · 30 credits

DBA-201 — Quantitative Data Analysis

12 credits · 300 hours total workload

Regression, panel and longitudinal methods, causal inference designs, measurement models and reproducible analysis workflows.

Course learning outcomes

- Specify and diagnose a regression model appropriate to the data
- Apply a credible identification strategy for a causal claim
- Produce a fully reproducible analysis script and output

Assessment: Analysis report with reproducible code (100%)

DBA-202 — Qualitative Data Analysis

10 credits · 250 hours total workload

Interviewing, case study method, coding strategies, thematic and framework analysis, trustworthiness criteria and reflexivity.

Course learning outcomes

- Design and conduct rigorous research interviews
- Build and audit a coding framework
- Demonstrate trustworthiness through an explicit audit trail

Assessment: Coded dataset and analytical memo (100%)

DBA-203 — Seminar: Law and Regulation in Health Care

8 credits · 200 hours total workload

Regulation as an object of management research: enforcement data, compliance behaviour, liability regimes and their measurable effects.

Course learning outcomes

- Operationalise a legal or regulatory construct for empirical study
- Locate and clean enforcement or claims data
- Critique published law-and-management research

Assessment: Seminar paper (100%)

Semester 3 — Proposal and colloquium

Locking the research design · 30 credits

DBA-301 — Dissertation Proposal

18 credits · 450 hours total workload

Full proposal: problem, literature, theoretical framing, method, ethics, feasibility and timeline, defended before the doctoral committee.

Course learning outcomes

- Defend the originality and feasibility of the project
- Obtain ethics clearance for the intended data collection
- Publish a realistic milestone plan for the remaining semesters

Assessment: Written proposal (70%) and committee defence (30%)

DBA-302 — Research Colloquium I

12 credits · 300 hours total workload

Structured peer review of work in progress, with rotating discussant duties and faculty commentary.

Course learning outcomes

- Present work in progress to a critical academic audience
- Act as a competent discussant for peers' research
- Incorporate structured criticism into revised work

Assessment: Presentations and discussant reports (100%)

Semesters 4-5 — Fieldwork and analysis

Executing the study · 60 credits

DBA-401 — Dissertation Research I and II

48 credits · 1,200 hours total workload

Data collection, analysis and drafting of the substantive chapters under continuous supervision.

Course learning outcomes

- Execute the approved design and document deviations
- Analyse data to publication standard
- Draft results and discussion chapters

Assessment: Chapter submissions with supervisor sign-off (100%)

DBA-402 — Research Colloquium II

12 credits · 300 hours total workload

Continued peer review with an explicit focus on preparing a manuscript for journal submission.

Course learning outcomes

- Prepare a manuscript for a named target journal
- Complete an internal pre-submission review
- Submit to a peer-reviewed venue

Assessment: Submitted manuscript and review record (100%)

Semester 6 — Dissertation and defence

Completion and examination · 30 credits

DBA-500 — Dissertation and Public Defence

30 credits · 750 hours total workload

Completion of a 60,000–80,000 word dissertation, similarity screening, examiner review and public oral defence.

Course learning outcomes

- Submit a coherent, original dissertation
- Answer examiner criticism substantively
- State the contribution, limitations and future research agenda

Assessment: Dissertation (80%) and public defence (20%)