

Program Handbook

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	Official program handbook

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS

- Full program description, mode of study and admission requirements
- Learning outcomes and graduate profile
- Teaching faculty and student support units
- Tuition, instalment plan and what the fee covers
- Academic calendar, deadlines and integrity rules
- Frequently asked questions with official answers

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

1. Program overview

The DBA is a research degree for people who already lead. Its purpose is not to teach management again but to develop the methodological rigour required to produce original knowledge about management problems and to defend that knowledge before an examining panel.

The first three semesters are taught research training: methodology, quantitative and qualitative analysis, academic writing and publication ethics, plus a specialised seminar on law and regulation in health care. The remaining semesters are dedicated to the dissertation, supported by a continuous research colloquium.

Candidates are expected to submit at least one paper to a peer-reviewed venue before the final defence. The colloquium exists to make that expectation achievable.

2. Admission requirements

Master's degree, research proposal, professional experience

3. Mode of study

Fully online, supervised research with structured research colloquia

4. Who the program is for

- Executives and directors of health care, insurance and life-sciences organisations
- Senior consultants who wish to publish and teach
- Master's graduates intending to move into academic or policy roles
- Regulators and policy professionals building evidence for reform

5. Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- Formulate an original research question that makes a defensible contribution to knowledge
- Select, justify and correctly execute quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods
- Write to peer-review standard and navigate the publication process
- Apply research ethics and integrity rules to sensitive organisational and clinical data
- Defend an original dissertation before an examining panel

6. Structure of the degree

Semester	Focus	Courses	Credits
Semester 1 — Research foundations	Philosophy, design and the literature	3	30
Semester 2 — Analysis	Quantitative and qualitative technique	3	30

Semester	Focus	Courses	Credits
Semester 3 — Proposal and colloquium	Locking the research design	2	30
Semesters 4-5 — Fieldwork and analysis	Executing the study	2	60
Semester 6 — Dissertation and defence	Completion and examination	1	30

Total: 180 credits.

7. Tuition and payment

Total tuition: USD 8,999

Total tuition for the complete Doctor of Business Administration, including supervision, research support, publication guidance and the dissertation defence.

- Deposit on enrolment: USD 1,799
- Six semester instalments of USD 1,200
- No separate examination, material or graduation fees

Tuition is quoted in United States dollars and is payable to Middle West University LLC. Payment schedules are agreed in writing with the Student Affairs Office before enrolment.

8. Teaching faculty and support

Unit	Role	Field
Doctoral Programme Office	Governing unit	Supervision allocation, progression, examinations
Quantitative Methods Faculty	Methods unit	Econometrics, causal inference, measurement
Qualitative Methods Faculty	Methods unit	Case study, interviewing, thematic analysis
Faculty of Medical Law	Specialisation unit	Regulation, liability, compliance research

9. Assessment and academic integrity

Methodological coursework — Semesters 1-2

Design papers, reproducible analysis reports and coded datasets.

Proposal defence — Gateway

Progression to fieldwork requires a passed committee defence.

Colloquium participation — Continuous

Presentations, discussant duties and manuscript preparation.

Dissertation and public defence — Final

Examiner review followed by a public oral defence.

All submitted work passes an automated similarity check. Plagiarism, undisclosed collaboration and the undeclared use of generative tools are academic offences and are handled under the university's academic integrity procedure.

10. Frequently asked questions

Must I already have a research topic?

Yes. A research proposal is part of the admission file, though it is expected to evolve substantially during the first three semesters.

Can I work full time during the DBA?

Yes, and most candidates do. Plan for 20–25 hours per week; the fieldwork semesters are the most demanding.

Is publication compulsory?

At least one submission to a peer-reviewed venue is expected before the final defence. Acceptance is not required for graduation.

Can the dissertation be paper-based?

Yes, with committee approval: three linked papers plus a framing introduction and conclusion.

11. Contact

Student Affairs Office, Middle West University LLC, 2800 E. Enterprise Ave, Ste 333, Appleton, WI 54913, United States of America. Email: info@middlewestuniversity.com. Office hours Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (CST).