COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Business Honors Program

The Business Honors Program prepares our most capable students to become highly-qualified business professionals.
advancing business education to new heights

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Business Honors Program

The Business Honors Program at Sacramento State lays the foundation for the next generation of business leaders.

Our rigorous integrated curriculum exposes students to new ideas and innovations, preparing them to respond creatively to managerial problems. The intimate cohort and dedicated faculty support a deeply engaging learning experience. Our graduates emerge with knowledge of business best practices and a honed sense of their personal leadership style.

Business Honors students are ambitious and motivated. Each one has an amazing story. I am gratified that we are able to provide them with the skills to thrive as dynamic, agile managers in today’s global economy.

—Dr. Pierre A. Balthazard, Dean
The Business Honors Program is geared for students who aspire to become entrepreneurs or executive leaders.

**Mission**

*The Business Honors Program prepares our most capable students to become highly-qualified managers through a cross-functional and integrated program.*

**Objectives**

- To provide an integrative learning environment that challenges students in enterprise planning, problem solving, and decision making.
- To equip students with managerial skills and knowledge sets that embody the best of business practices.
- To build camaraderie and promote lifetime networks among students and faculty.

**Integrated Learning**

**Full-time students:** All students enrolled in the honors program must be full-time.

**Student admission:** Admission to the Business Honors Program is based on academic achievement. Eligible students will need to have completed all their pre-business major requirements, achieved junior class standing, and met all other admission requirements.

**Cohort groups:** The program immerses students into an exceptional learning experience through cohort groups. Together, they will learn to plan, propose, and present effective solutions and to provide thorough analyses in problem-solving scenarios while building team and leadership skills.
Curriculum Structure

The basis of the Business Honors experience is a three-tier curriculum structure that includes business foundation courses, integration courses, and a practicum seminar.

Foundation

Foundation courses provide students with the basic tools of business knowledge. The foundation is composed of 7 eight-week classes, including business data analysis, business communication, finance, human resources and organizational behavior, marketing, management information systems, and operations management (14 units).

Integration (Core)

Integration courses focus on critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, integration of business resources, and understanding business as an enterprise.

The six full-semester courses include (18 units):

- **Business Intelligence**
- **Value Chain and Supply Chain Management**
- **Enterprise Resource Planning and Infrastructure**
- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**
- **Project Management**
- **Strategy and Leadership (capstone)**

Practicum

The practicum seminar brings executive managers from businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and the government sector into the classroom for discussions that focus on practice (1 unit).

Course Summary

The courses are categorized into 3 groups:

1. **Foundation courses (14 units)**
2. **Integration courses (18 units)**
3. **Practicum seminar (1 unit)**

Concentration

Students will declare a concentration in accountancy, entrepreneurship, finance, general management, human resources management, international business, management information systems, or marketing.

### Business Honors Course Sequence

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<th>1st Semester</th>
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<td>Business Foundation Classes (14 units)</td>
<td>1st and 2nd Integration Classes (6 units)</td>
<td>3rd and 4th Integration Classes (6 units)</td>
<td>5th and 6th Integration Classes (6 units)</td>
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<td>Business Concentration Classes (18–27 units)</td>
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<td>Practicum Seminar (1 unit)</td>
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BUSINESS HONORS PROGRAM

Foundation Courses

Foundation Course Descriptions, Learning Goals, and Objectives:

**BHON 102–Business Communication**
Provides basic concepts for the understanding and practice of communication for managers and professionals. It examines the use of language and conversations in business settings and their role in coordinating actions, resolving breakdowns in work performance, and providing customer satisfaction. Topics include professional styles and formats of business writing and the development of competence in business conversation skills (written, electronic, and oral).
Units: 2.0.
**LEARNING GOAL:** To apply the basic knowledge and skills required to communicate effectively in business.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- Apply professional writing, editing, and oral presentation skills.
- Research, organize, and present critical business information both orally and in writing consistent with the needs of the target audience.
- Apply communication technology to enhance individual communication skills.

**BHON 104–Fundamentals of Human Resources and Organizational Behavior**
Provides a fundamental framework to give students knowledge of dealing and working with members of an organization. The course further discusses the dynamic nature and functions of organizational environments. Major topics include human resource management, cognitive processes, organizational psychologies, and dynamics of individual and small groups within an organization.
Units: 2.0.
**LEARNING GOAL:** To explain the rationales of human resources and the behavioral aspects of organizational environments.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- Explain the existing theories of personality, motivation, leadership, and group behavior.
- Integrate theoretical frameworks and practical applications for understanding and appreciating the role of human resources.
- Apply theories and current research in human resources and organizational behaviors to workplace related issues.

**BHON 105–Introduction to Management Information Systems**
Explores the application of information technology in the organizational environment to assist in managerial decision making.
Examines the alignment of IT and business strategies.
Units: 2.0.
**LEARNING GOAL:** To propose IT applications that support business.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- Present arguments for the appropriateness of IT for business applications.
- Propose IT solutions for the support of business processes.
- Apply IT for the generation of information to assess alternatives for effective problem solving and decision making.
BHON 106–Business Data Analysis
Applies statistical methods to solve business problems and make informed managerial decisions. Topics include data analysis, statistical reasoning, model building, and communication of statistical results. A statistical computer package is used in the course. Units: 2.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To recommend solutions for business problems using statistical analyses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Plan statistical studies to assist managerial decision making.

Explain statistical results.

Analyze data using appropriate statistical methods to draw conclusions and make recommendations.

BHON 107–Business Finance
Studies the principles of finance and their application to typical financial problems of business enterprises. Topics include financial analysis, management of working capital, cost of capital, capital budgeting, long-term financing, dividend policy, internal financing, and time value of money. Units: 2.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To propose financial alternatives for the evaluation of financial decision making.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Demonstrate the fundamentals of financial management.

Evaluate financial statements and cash flows.

Assess the financial decisions of managers.
BHON 108–Fundamentals in Marketing
Introduces marketing concepts and principles. Examines the marketing function, its relationships with other business functions and its role in the US and global economies. Units: 2.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To recommend marketing initiatives that support marketing strategies.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Explain the value of marketing and its relationship to strategic planning. Develop customer profiles and product branding. Analyze and assess market conditions.

BHON 109–Operations Management
Introduces the basic concepts and methods used to analyze and improve operation performance in manufacturing and service organizations. Topics include operations strategy, process design and capacity management, inventory management, supply chain management, and operations planning and control. Units: 2.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To recommend strategies for improving operations using appropriate techniques.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Explain the relationship between operations management and business performance. Formulate solutions to specific problems using quantitative methods. Recommend process improvements by applying appropriate analytical techniques.

“The Sac State business honors program is helping me achieve my goal of earning a Business Administration degree in a challenging and rewarding environment where students’ skills and experiences are readily shared with each other.”

—Sac State student, CBA Business Honors Program
BHON 120–Business Intelligence
Focuses on enterprise problem solving and decision making using information technology and data and financial analyses for mission-critical and integral applications in planning and control. Alternative solutions are examined and evaluated for their effectiveness in achieving results. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To critically think about and solve business problems to generate business opportunities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Evaluate alternative solutions using statistical analyses.
- Determine the feasibility of alternative solutions using financial analyses.
- Apply information technology to aid in problem solving.

BHON 130–Value Chain and Supply Chain Management
Explores methods used for developing a logistics system that integrates production, warehousing, and distribution to support a business strategy. Includes critical decisions surrounding customer and supplier management and the movement of goods and information throughout a supply chain network. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To compare and contrast different logistics systems in order to achieve business goals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Explain the role of a logistics system in supporting business strategy.
- Explain the impact of alternative systems designs on business opportunities.
- Propose continuous improvements to existing systems to satisfy changing business environments.

BHON 140–Enterprise Resource Planning and Infrastructure
Examines the design, planning, implementation, and impact of enterprise-wide systems on the organization and infrastructure. Focuses on the integration and coordination of all facets of business including production, accounting, finance, human resources, and marketing to improve the organization’s resource planning and management and operational control. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To propose solutions to enterprise-wide planning problems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Explain the enterprise and business concepts within it.
- Analyze and assess business processes, identify deficiencies, and recommend corrective solutions (i.e., process re-engineering).
- Design and present an integrated (cross-functional) enterprise process model that involves tracking the flow of transactional data through various business processes such as accounting, finance, production, and marketing.
BHON 150–Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Provides a broad application-based understanding of the new venture creation processes. Discusses fundamental tools and skills necessary to create, run, and grow a successful new venture. Offers a multidisciplinary framework for studying and developing the innovative and creative capabilities of entrepreneurs. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To create and develop innovative and creative solutions for new ventures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Apply entrepreneurial processes to discover, create, and capitalize on business opportunities.
Integrate functional area knowledge as it applies to new venture creation and growth.
Connect market needs, environmental changes, and internal processes.

“BHON program highlights highly-motivated students, interactive learning experience, and cross-functional view of business, and we had so much fun together!”
—Dr. Ping Tong
BHON 160–Project Management
Examines methods and processes used for planning, controlling, and managing projects. Includes project selection and scope, scheduling methodologies, economic analysis, the use of software, and life-cycle costing for managing different phases of projects. Emphasis on effective management of projects to achieve operational, managerial, and strategic goals of organizations. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To effectively manage business projects to achieve organizational goals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Explain how project selection affects business strategy.
- Prepare schedules and conduct economic analyses using project management tools.
- Support managerial decisions using appropriate project management methodologies.

BHON 170–Strategy and Leadership
Introduces traditional and contemporary theories of business strategy, corporate strategy, and strategic leadership. Compares and contrasts theories in strategy and styles of strategic leadership through case studies, current research, and conversations with business leaders. Prerequisite: Completion of all business honors foundation requirements. Units: 3.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To be an effective business leader.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Analyze the business environment, core competencies, and roles of strategic leaders.
- Compare and contrast major theories of strategy and leadership and their applications.
- Implement formulated strategies along several dimensions including vision creation, decision making, change management, and strategic control and leadership.
- Assess societal leadership and the ethical conduct of business.
BHON 190–Practicum in Business

Exposes students to practical business issues that have significant impact on the enterprise through a series of forums. Discussions are scheduled with managers who have effectively led planning and operations. Students compare and contrast business concepts and principles to their practical applications. Prerequisite: Completion of three of the six integration courses. Graded: Credit/No credit. Units: 1.0.

LEARNING GOAL:
To gain insight into the problems and issues that challenge managers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Discriminate between business concepts and principles and their applications in practice.
Judge and assess the application of business concepts and principles.
Demonstrate an understanding of personal leadership style.

“The Business Honors Program is a challenging and rewarding heuristic cohort where I am able to share my skills and experiences with others. It is especially rewarding to know that my input is appreciated and utilized by others as we work toward Business Administration degrees together.”

—Geoffrey D. Wilson, CBA Business Honors Program student
For more information about the Business Honors Program, contact the Office of the Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Program at (916) 278-6463.

www.cba.csus.edu