The M.S. degree in the School of Business is currently designed for students who wish to pursue very specialized studies within one of two specific fields: global real estate (in the business: real estate and urban land economics M.S.) and finance (within the business: finance, investment and banking M.S.). With previous undergraduate exposure to the functional areas of business, students are able to gain a more extensive focus in one of these two specific areas of business.

Graduates of the School of Business possess highly sought-after technical and specialized expertise in a functional area of business as well as general leadership, problem-solving, analytical, and decision-making skills. Utilizing these skills, many of the school’s 30,000 alumni have achieved remarkable success in business, government, service, and academic arenas worldwide.

The high scholarly productivity and leadership of the school’s 84 faculty are regularly noted in national rankings. Recent studies of U.S. and worldwide scholarly research productivity rated UW–Madison School of Business faculty among the top graduate business schools in the country. In addition to world-renowned recognition for research, the School of Business faculty bring a variety of real-world experience to the program.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS**

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements) in addition to the requirements of the program.

**MASTER’S DEGREES**

M.S.

**MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT**

30 credits

**MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT**

16 credits

**MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT**

Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed in: courses numbered 700 or higher.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: GRADUATE WORK FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNDERGRADUATE**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNIVERSITY SPECIAL**

With program approval and payment of the difference in tuition (between special and graduate tuition), students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 700 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to the Master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED**

Contact the program for information on any additional required courses.

**OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT**

3.00

**OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

**PROBATION POLICY**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

**ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS**

Contact the program for information on required assessments and examinations.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

ADMISSIONS

Admission consideration requires a four-year undergraduate degree or the equivalent, in any discipline, from an accredited institution. Work experience is not required. Applicants should have an undergraduate minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. In addition to academic credentials, test scores, personal achievements, motivation, communication skills (written and oral) and recommendation letters are considered in the admission process at both the master’s and doctoral levels.

Note: The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), taken within five years of the starting term, is required of all applicants to the Ph.D. and M.S. Programs. Also, all domestic (including Puerto Rico) and international applicants whose native language is not English must submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A recommended minimum TOEFL score of 106 (New iBT), obtained within two years of the intended starting term, is needed for admission consideration. International applicants who have completed a four-year bachelor’s degree in a country where the official language is English may request a waiver of the TOEFL requirement. A master’s degree from an English-speaking institution does not qualify for a waiver of the TOEFL. The school accepts IELTS and Pearson Test of English as substitutes for TOEFL.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

• Students will be able to clearly articulate a business recommendation based on a discovered consumer insight (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)
• Students will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of or ability to grow business profitably through marketing research efforts (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)
• Students will be able to articulate a business problem and translate it into a marketing research question (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)
• Students will be able to evaluate a business problem and apply an appropriate marketing research technique to address the problem (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)
• Graduates will be able to develop key elements of a brand’s business plan that drive growth (Brand Specialization)
• Graduates will be able to perform business analytics used to improve a brand’s business results (Brand Specialization)

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

• Students will articulate a plan for achieving their industry professional aspirations (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)
• Graduates will be able to demonstrate professional protocols for succeeding in the corporate environment (Brand Specialization)

ADDITIONAL LEARNING GOALS

• Students will summarize current challenges faced by the marketing research industry and know potential solutions or how the industry is approaching the challenge (A.C. Nielsen Specialization)

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Thompson (chair), Arora, Heide, Moreau, O’Guinn, Thompson; Associate Professors Epp, Hoban, Lim, Peck, Tanner; Assistant Professors Chung, Liu, Mallucci, Polman, Weiss