

RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE

PhD Program in Business Administration

DeGroot School of Business





DEGROOTE'S PHD IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFERS OUTSTANDING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND CONDUCT LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH WITH SOME OF THE TOP RESEARCHERS IN THEIR FIELDS.

During DeGroote's four year full-time program¹, you work directly with award-winning professors and world renowned researchers through thought-provoking seminar classes, one-on-one advising and hands-on research projects.

You will work closely with your supervisor to develop a tailored program that prepares you for the rigorous demands of an academia or industry focused career.

APPLICANTS CAN CHOOSE ONE OF EIGHT SPECIALIZATIONS:

- Accounting
- Finance
- Health Management
- Information Systems
- Management of Organizational Behaviour & Human Resources
- Management Science
- Marketing
- Strategic Management (New specialization starting September 2024)

The first two years of the program focus on the necessary course work to expand your knowledge in your chosen specialization, as well as strengthening skills in research methodology, data collection and analysis. After the completion of the comprehensive exam at the end of the second year, you will delve into your dissertation and research with the guiding support and advisement of your supervisor and corresponding committee. The diverse backgrounds of DeGroote School of Business faculty allow students to use multidisciplinary approaches to develop unique and innovative theory and research.

Years 1 & 2

6 - 12 COURSES

Years 3 & 4

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

ORAL DEFENCE

DISSERTATION & RESEARCH

¹ Part-time option available for the Health Management specialty.

ACCOUNTING

Adopting a strong emphasis on mathematics and economics, students studying in this field will be well suited to become future leaders in the rapidly mathematized discipline of accounting.

Students will be supported by top researchers in the fields of accounting and economics. Faculty members are highly cited and publish in top tier journals including:

- The Accounting Review
- Contemporary Accounting Research
- The Journal of Banking & Finance
- Accounting, Organizations and Society



FINANCE

The Finance stream is designed to provide students with the theoretical and empirical training required to conduct significant academic research in the field.

This field is particularly suitable for people who plan to pursue either a teaching and research career at a university, or a research-based career in the financial services sector (such as fund management or investment banking). The Michael Lee-Chin Institute for Strategic Business Studies, along with research chairs and professorships housed in the finance area, enable our professors and students to pursue critically important areas of study. Topics include pricing of securities, investment and risk management, corporate finance, as well as other financial decisions of individuals and firms.

“ I chose DeGroot for three reasons: the quality of their faculty, the quality of the PhD students they attract, and their commitment to running an excellent PhD program. Gaining a tenure track position with a well-respected school before completing my PhD is probably the best testament to the value of a DeGroot PhD. ”

Bruce Martin

BA, MA, PhD, Associate Professor
Thompson Rivers University

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Health Management stream covers a broad range of business administration topics within the health care sector. Examples include: leadership, change management, strategic resources allocation, as well as economic and policy analyses.

Students are exposed to a blend of theoretical and applied content that will support them to advance their careers in academia, research and senior leadership positions within the health sector.

There are full and part-time options for this program¹.

MANAGEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR & HUMAN RESOURCES

This specialization is broad and concerns all aspects of employment relationships.

The Management of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources field has a strong emphasis on research. The program is designed to prepare highly motivated individuals for academic careers in organizational behaviour and human resource management. Successful applicants in this stream typically possess a master's degree in the following disciplines: Business administration, Psychology, Economics, Sociology and Industrial relations/Labour studies.

¹ For the Health Management part-time option, students take courses in Years 1-3 and complete the comprehensive exam in the summer before year 4. Students have a maximum of 8 years to complete the full program.

“ DeGroot offered a supportive and enriching environment where professors genuinely cared for my success and inspired and encouraged me in many different ways. ”

Akanksha Bedi

BComm, MComm, MA, PhD, Assistant Professor
Western Washington University

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Students in the Information Systems field study the management, use and impact of information technologies in organizations.

This is a multidisciplinary stream that draws on theory and research from a wide variety of disciplines such as organizational behaviour, strategy, marketing, psychology, computer science and information studies. The program is broad and students are free to adopt either qualitative or quantitative approaches to their research.

Students in the Information Systems stream should have an avid interest in the managerial and behavioural aspects of the field, as opposed to the technical aspects.



MANAGEMENT SCIENCE

The Management Science specialization is focused on the development and application of quantitative modeling and creating systematic approaches to the solution of management problems.

These techniques are used in operations management, logistics, and supply chain management applications. This field is supported by the faculty in DeGroot's operations management area who use statistical analysis, computer simulation, mathematical modeling and optimization methods to analyze problems in operations, supply chains and other areas of business.



MARKETING

The Marketing field of study is designed to prepare students with a solid foundation in marketing theory and quantitative methods. As a student, you will work closely with your supervisor, conducting leading edge research in the field of marketing and exploring the processes and mechanisms by which value is created and delivered to the customer.

Members of the marketing faculty publish in top rated journals such as: *Marketing Science*, *Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Journal of Retailing*, *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Industrial Marketing Management*.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

This specialization is a rigorous interdisciplinary program that prepares doctoral candidates for careers in academia, research, or management consulting, where they can contribute to our understanding of strategic management's impact on organizations and society.

It focuses on providing students with a comprehensive understanding of strategic decision-making dynamics. The curriculum covers topics such as:

- advanced strategy theory
- organizational theory
- research methods, and statistics

Students will specialize in a specific area of strategic management aligned with faculty expertise. This program is designed for motivated individuals interested in advancing knowledge in business strategy. Successful completion requires rigorous coursework, strong communication skills, independent research, and analytical thinking.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The DeGroot School of Business guarantees each student a **minimum of \$34,000 of funding per year** in scholarships, teaching assistantship and research assistantship positions for **four years** in the program. Many PhD students from DeGroot have also secured generous government scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) as well as earning Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To ensure that graduates of the DeGroot PhD Program are competitive in the job market, students are supported through a variety of ways including:

- workshops and events hosted by the DeGroot Doctoral Students Association featuring students and faculty on topics of interest
- courses like “Principles and Practices of University Teaching” that focus on honing essential pedagogical and practical teaching skills
- a funding allowance from the Dean’s Office to cover the cost of conference travel
- online profiles for each student to feature accomplishments in the program as well as highlighting experience and publications

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Admission into DeGroot’s PhD program is competitive, with applications far exceeding the number of spaces available. Applicants who meet the following minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission.

- 1 Successful completion of a master’s degree in Business Administration** or other related field with a **minimum B+ grade point average** or the equivalent. Applicants in the final stages of completing a master’s degree will be considered and if selected, may be granted admission conditional on the completion of the degree prior to registration.
- 2 A valid Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)** total score of **at least 600**. A comparable Graduate Records Exam (GRE) score is also acceptable including a quantitative score of above the **80th percentile**.
- 3 English Language Proficiency:** For details please visit: <https://phd.degroot.mcmaster.ca/apply/application-requirements/>

APPLY NOW



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