Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Business Administration (Computer and Information Systems)

The Department of Information Systems offers a computer information systems concentration within the W. P. Carey PhD program in business administration. The objective of the full-time program is to prepare scholars for careers at leading research-focused educational institutions.

This program allows students to develop the capability to review, analyze, conduct and publish research through a series of seminars and additional supporting coursework. In addition, doctoral students participate in ongoing research projects in conjunction with faculty members in the department. W. P. Carey faculty and PhD students present their research at leading national and international conferences, and publish their research in academic journals. Research topics include business analytics/big data, health care IT, IT-enabled services and process innovation, information economics and strategy, security and privacy, and social media and e-commerce and mobile platforms. In addition to information systems, our PhD students are often published by leading journals in other disciplines, including accounting, economics, finance, health care management, marketing, managerial decision-making, operations management and strategic management.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** W. P. Carey School of Business
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Plan of Study

The doctoral program consists of a minimum of 84 credit hours of graduate-level coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. A minimum of 42 credit hours of doctoral coursework and 12 credit hours of dissertation credits are required to be taken at Arizona State University's Tempe campus. At the department's discretion,
students may apply up to 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree toward their doctoral plan of study.

Students work with their program committees to determine an appropriate plan of study. Common areas of specialization for doctoral studies include:

- business analytics and big data
- health care information technology
- information economics and strategy
- IT-enabled services and process innovation
- security and privacy
- social media, e-commerce and mobile platforms

**Comprehensive Examinations**
Upon completion of all necessary coursework on a student's approved plan of study, the academic unit may initiate the scheduling and administering of a student's comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examinations consist of a minimum of a written exam and, at the discretion of the academic unit, an oral exam may also be required.

**Candidacy**
Doctoral students are notified of achieving candidacy status by receipt of a letter from the Dean of the Graduate College upon passing the comprehensive examinations and successfully defending the dissertation prospectus.

**Dissertation Requirements**
Students are required to present a dissertation to satisfy the research requirement for the doctoral degree. The dissertation is defended in an oral examination commonly known as the dissertation defense.

Students must be enrolled for at least one credit hour that appears on the plan of study or one hour of appropriate graduate-level credit (such as 795 Continuing Registration) during the semester (including summer session) in which the student defends the dissertation.

Note: For detailed information regarding the university's doctoral degree requirements, students should refer to the Graduate College policies and procedures.

**Maximum Time Limit**
Doctoral students must complete all program requirements within 10 consecutive years.

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**Admission Requirements**
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the W. P. Carey School of Business.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GMAT score
4. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. International applicants whose native language is not English must submit scores from the TOEFL. For more information on requirements, students should review the program's website. They should also review the Graduate College website for specific ASU admission requirements.

A master's degree or MBA is recommended (30 credit hours may count toward the minimum total of 84 hours of coursework in the doctoral program). At least two years of full-time related work experience is recommended.

Doctoral students admitted to the W. P. Carey School of Business must have demonstrated competency in mathematics, strong quantitative ability, competency in the U.S. of computer technology for analytical purposes, and an undergraduate degree in a related field from an accredited university.

Applications are reviewed by the department's faculty committee using a portfolio approach. The committee will review each individual application and examine all parts equally.

**Contact Information**

Business Administration | BA 301P
wpcareyis@asu.edu | 480-965-3252
Admission Deadlines