The W. Edwards Deming School of Business

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) Program
with a concentration in Health Care Administration

REV. 01-2017

CATALOG SUPPLEMENT

(A Non-Resident Independent Study Degree Program)

The University’s School of Business is dedicated to the memory of W. Edwards Deming (1900-93), a consultant and academic scholar recognized as the father of the total quality management movement and a proponent of life-long learning.

This catalog supplement should be carefully reviewed in conjunction with the University’s General Catalog by individuals considering application to the M.B.A. program. Additional catalog supplements are available for other University degree programs.

Any questions on the information contained in this catalog supplement should be directed to the Admissions Office at the address or telephone numbers below:

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Message from the Dean

Welcome to the W. Edwards Deming School of Business at William Howard Taft University. The School's namesake, Dr. Deming (1900 – 1993), was a statistician, research scholar and international business consultant who contributed significantly to the disciplines of quality control and quality management.

Dr. Deming’s work has resulted in many well-known quality initiatives, including Total Quality Management (TQM) and the Four Steps of the Deming Cycle, also known as the "Plan-Do-Check-Act-Cycle" (aka Plan-Do-Study-Act), and Quality Circles. The implementation of his research and ideas has left a monumental impact on world-wide management endeavors, leading to efficiencies which are still experienced by major industries, academia, and governments, today.

As you engage in the study of Business at William Howard Taft University, I urge you to keep in mind the following quote from Dr. Deming: "Long-term commitment to new learning and new philosophy is required of any management that seeks transformation. The timid and the fainthearted, and the people that expect quick results, are doomed to disappointment."

Likewise, the pursuit of your education within the W. Edward Deming School of Business is an expression of your commitment to improve and transform yourself, in preparation for the many opportunities that lie ahead in your life. Your business studies are the beginning of your life-long learning journey. My goal is to guide you through the joys of lifelong learning and the acquisition of knowledge that is foundational and essential to your success in the future.

Dr. Laura Pogue  
Dean  
William Howard Taft University, W. Edwards Deming School of Business

Dr. Pogue has been a dedicated business educator for over 15 years, providing business education in the corporate, online, and traditional classrooms. She has served in many leadership roles for accredited academic institutions, in addition to mentoring doctoral and graduate business students. Dr. Pogue has remained at the forefront of online education policies and initiatives and presently serves as a distance education specialist for several accrediting commissions, recognized by the Department of Education.
OVERVIEW

The Master of Business Administration Program (with a concentration in Health Care Administration), hereinafter the Program, is a directed independent study graduate degree program. The Program emphasizes economic, regulatory and legal, accounting, finance, management and leadership issues specific to healthcare industries. It will be of particular interest to nurses or individuals employed or seeking employment in hospitals and health maintenance organizations and individuals providing consulting services to such organizations.

The objectives of the Program are:

1. To develop the business skills necessary to operate or consult to hospitals and healthcare organizations.
2. To offer a program of coursework and practical exercises designed to improve the operational effectiveness or administration of a healthcare organization.
3. To explore the intricacies of effective management, finance and marketing of a healthcare organization.
4. To allow for a number of electives, focused on various healthcare administrative and management issues and procedures.
5. To employ faculty who are accomplished in their respective fields from both an academic and practical perspective.

Successful graduates of the Program will demonstrate:

- Application of knowledge in the legal, theoretical, ethical and practical aspects of operating or consulting to healthcare organizations.
- The ability to evaluate common business and related legal issues and make appropriate decisions and recommendations based on sound reasoning and analysis.
- Appreciation for making socially responsible and environmentally sustainable choices when designing and implementing business strategy.
- How to author a properly formatted and presented Business Plan or Capstone project that represents substantive original work, tying together the learning objectives of the coursework, and directly related to management of hospitals or health maintenance organizations.

PRESENTATION

The Program is presented on a Semester basis. Students are generally enrolled in 12 units per Semester. Each Semester consists of a minimum time period of 16 weeks from the date study commences. Students not completing all Semester coursework in the 16-week period will be granted an automatic two month extension of time to complete the Semester. Students may take a leave-of-absence between Semesters however, except in special circumstances, the entire degree program (three Semesters) must be completed within five years.

Coursework is submitted and graded via the University's online learning platform. The online platform gives students and faculty one central place to log on and interact through discussion forums, submit and retrieve feedback on lesson assignments, and access any ancillary electronically available course materials.

The Program is available to enrolled students from anywhere there is an Internet connection.

Each course in the Program contains a series of lesson assignments generally consisting of reading assignments supplemented occasionally by various multimedia. Students are evaluated through examinations and/or research assignments which are submitted for faculty evaluation.

Students conclude the Program with the preparation of a comprehensive business plan or capstone project.
DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Program utilizes a directed independent study modality and requires no classroom attendance.

Distance education is designed for students who live at a distance from the University facilities. It is a process that provides organized, formal learning opportunities for its students. Independent self-study recognizes that education is an individual process where students with different learning needs and study schedules can be accommodated. It emphasizes learning that is meaningful, where individuals enjoy the learning process, and acquire knowledge to better understand and manage their own careers.

The Program's Faculty Members support the student's independent-study learning role by guiding and stimulating the learning process through meaningful feedback on assignments and one-on-one interaction. Our faculty members recognize individual learning styles and needs, and emphasize the relevance of the material to the individual's situation.

Each course in the Program contains a series of lesson assignments generally consisting of reading requirements and written research assignments. Students are evaluated through examinations and/or assignments which are electronically submitted for faculty evaluation.

The University believes evidence of computer literacy is required to earn a credible graduate degree in any discipline. Internet access and minimum computer skills are required as a condition of admittance. Technology also plays an important part in a student's ability to communicate with administration, faculty, and fellow students. Accordingly, all students must have access to a computer with the minimum specifications set forth in the University’s General Catalog.

Students are not expected to be computer experts. However, all students must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Windows®, Microsoft Word®, access to the Internet, and e-mail.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Master of Business Administration degree, a student must complete the courses described in this Catalog Supplement (36 units total) with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00. The requirements may be completed in as little as twelve months, and must be completed within five years from the date of initial enrollment.

ADMISSION POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who have earned a Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education are considered regular applicants to the Program. The majority of applicants to this Program are adults working in a variety of professional settings. Consequently, prior class rank and/or grade point average are not significant factors in the admission process.

An individual not qualifying as a regular applicant may apply as a special applicant. Special applicants are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but must have an academic background equivalent to a bachelor’s degree earned in the United States. (This could be a degree earned outside the United States or a combination of academic units earned and professional employment experience.)

Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not earned a degree from an appropriately accredited institution where English is the principal language of instruction and must receive a minimum score of 530 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or 71 on the TOEFL Internet-based test (iBT®), or its equivalent.

Applicants wishing to transfer in credits or degrees earned at institutions located outside the United States must have their academic transcripts evaluated and certified by a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. (NACES) member organization.
TRANSFER CREDIT AND PORTFOLIO CREDIT

Students may apply to have prior coursework and/or college-level learning reviewed by the University for academic credit.

Transfer Credit: Transfer credit toward a degree may be awarded for postsecondary courses completed by the student at other appropriately accredited institutions if such courses are found to be academically comparable and meet the standards and requirements of the specific program.

Portfolio Credit: Academic credit may be given for adequately documented and validated experiential equivalent learning of a postsecondary nature. Examples include credit for learning acquired through achievement of select certifications, college level equivalent tests, or other postsecondary level equivalent experience. Students with prior military experience may also apply to have military coursework evaluated for possible equivalent college credit.

Notwithstanding the above, the awarding of transfer credit or portfolio credit is considered on a case-by-case basis and awarded at the sole discretion of the University.

HOW TO ENROLL

To apply for admission to the Program, an applicant must first complete the University’s Application for Admission form along with the required application fee (An additional fee is assessed for applicants seeking transfer credit). It is not necessary to submit official transcripts at the time of application. However, official transcripts will be required within 60 days of enrollment. If the applicant is accepted for admission to the Program, enrollment materials will be prepared and sent to the applicant for review and signature. All payments submitted for tuition and fees must be payable in U.S. dollars.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The tuition for the Program is $225.00 per unit. Current information on financial aid is set forth on the University’s website. Enrollment in the Program will generally qualify students for payment deferrals on existing federally insured student loans. Applicants seeking deferrals on existing student loans should check with their lenders prior to enrollment.

INCOME TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS

Many University students may qualify for the Lifetime Learning Credit (equal to 20% of their qualified education expenses) on their federal income tax return. Additional information on the Lifetime Learning Credit can be found on the University’s website.

Some education expenses may also qualify as a business deduction for work-related education pursuant to Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is recommended that applicants consult with their tax advisor or read IRS Publication 970 (Tax Benefits for Education) to determine how these credits or deductions might benefit them individually.

FACULTY

The University employs faculty qualified to undertake the level of instruction or course development that they are assigned. They possess degrees or credentials appropriate to the degree program and level they teach. A complete listing of faculty and their qualifications is set forth in a separate Catalog Supplement.
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CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FIRST SEMESTER

MGT513 - Management Principles for Health Care Professionals (4 Units)  
This course is an introduction to the management concepts essential to the understanding of the organizational environment within which the functions of the manager are performed. It includes challenges to assumptions about such concepts as power, authority, influence, and leadership. The course is presented in sufficient detail to enable the practitioner to apply the concepts in day-to-day situations.  
Prerequisites: None.

BUS508 – Economics of Health and Medical Care  
(4 Units)  
This course provides the student with the elements necessary to apply basic economic principles to the health care field. Emphasis is placed on economic tools of particular relevance to health care, pertinent and systematic insights into the workings of the health care system and the evaluation of health care policies.  
Prerequisites: None.

MKT511 – Marketing Management (4 Units)  
This course focuses on formulating and implementing marketing management strategies and policies. The marketing management process is important at all levels of the organization, regardless of the title applied to the activity. Typically, it is called corporate marketing, strategic marketing, or marketing management. For our purposes they all involve essentially the same process, even though the actors and activities may differ. The course will provide you with a systematic framework for understanding marketing management and strategy.  
Prerequisites: None.

SECOND SEMESTER

FIN513 – Health Care Finance (4 Units)  
This course addresses financial information and the decision-making process, financial environment of health care organizations, strategic financial planning, cost concepts and decision making, and working capital and cash management.  
Prerequisites: First Semester courses.

BLW512 - Legal Aspects of Health Care Administration (4 Units)  
This course provides the student with the necessary background on a wide variety of health care topics, enabling professionals to deal with the common legal and practical problems facing the health care industry.  
Prerequisites: First Semester courses.

ACC513 – Managerial Accounting (4 Units)  
This course offers a balanced coverage of concepts, methods, and uses of managerial accounting with a strong emphasis on management issues. The principal course objective is to help the MBA student focus on concepts and managerial uses of accounting information, rather than the techniques of cost accounting.  
Prerequisites: First Semester courses.

THIRD SEMESTER  
Choose 2 courses (8 units) from the following Elective Courses

MKT514 – Taxes and the Health Care Professional (4 Units)  
This course focuses on Federal and state taxes of special concern to health professionals including income and business related taxes. The objective of the course is not to make the student a tax expert but rather to establish a basic foundation of knowledge which will allow for better communications with CPA’s or other tax professionals.  
Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

BLW513 - The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business (4 Units)  
This course highlights the legal and regulatory environment in which people and companies conduct business activities. It emphasizes public rather than private law.  
Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.
CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELECTIVE COURSES - Concluded:

BUS503 - Valuing a Small Business or Professional Practice (4 Units)
This course explores the most commonly accepted valuation methods for closely-held businesses and professional practices. It also covers defining value for different purposes, the impact on value of cash versus financing options, as well as how to work with professional business appraisers and business brokers.

Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

BUS516 – Commercial Leasing (4 Units)
Often the largest financial commitment of the small or developmental stage business, this course covers lease negotiations, the lease document, and tenant improvements for both office and retail leases.

Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

BUS 602 – Business Research (4 Units)
This course will focus on practical theory and processes that managers can use to assist in the decision making matrix. It will also provide the foundation for developing the practical projects of each course and the program. The process will include analyzing the information, evaluating the results, and developing a strategy that leadership can implement.

Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

FIN 514 Financial Planning Principles (4 Units)
This course is intended to provide an in-depth understanding of the basic principles underlying financial planning. Theoretical concepts needed to understand and practice financial planning are discussed in detail. The understanding of the theoretical principles is then strengthened through real world examples.

Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

MKT513 – Public Relations (4 Units)
This course presents the basic information about public relations practice, presents a brief summary of its development, and addresses trends that might predict the future.

Prerequisites: Second Semester courses.

Choose one course from the 2 options below (BUS596 or BUS597):

BUS596 – Business Plan (4 Units)
In this course students develop and present a comprehensive business plan for a real or fictitious business that includes the traditional major topics including the executive summary, market and industry analysis, financing, marketing, management, and staffing.

Prerequisites: All Core and Elective courses.

BUS597 – Capstone (4 Units)
The capstone course allows students to apply the knowledge gained throughout the program to a work-related project. Students work with a faculty member to select an appropriate project and outline the course scope and deliverables. It is expected that the completed project will deliver some business process improvement or other benefit to the student's work environment if possible.

Prerequisites: All Core and Elective courses.
ANSWERS TO THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q. How long does it take to complete the Program?
   A. The University’s commitment to the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (www.deac.org) precludes any student graduating from a University degree program in less than one year. Students may take as long as five years to complete the Program. Experience has shown the typical student will complete the Program in two to three years.

2. Q. Will you accept transfer credits from other MBA Programs?
   A. Yes, students may apply to transfer up to a total of 18 semester units from comparable coursework completed at approved institutions. Applicants seeking transfer credit should include complete information on prior graduate studies at the time of application.

3. Q. I don’t have a lot of computer knowledge. Will I have difficulty completing the assignments?
   A. Computer requirements are detailed in the General Catalog. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Windows® and Word® is necessary to complete the assignments. Internet access is necessary to utilize the online platform and electronic library. An e-mail address is necessary to effectively communicate with University faculty, personnel and fellow students. If students have no computer experience, enrollment in one-day courses in Windows®, Word®, and the Internet, will provide the necessary computer skills to complete the assignments.

4. Q. I’m not sure I want to complete the entire Program; can I take just one course rather than enroll in the entire Program?
   A. No. Students are enrolled in an average of 12 units each Semester. However, a student who elects not to complete the Program or enroll in additional Semesters has no financial obligation to the University beyond the current Semester.

5. Q. How soon can I get started?
   A. The University maintains open enrollment throughout the year. Applications are reviewed weekly and most students commence study within four weeks from the date of application. Semesters start on the 15th of every month.

6. Q. Is there ever a need to attend a physical class?
   A. No. Academic and administrative procedures are carefully designed so that students can complete all requirements for graduation entirely online without unreasonably disrupting their professional or family lives.

7. Q. What financial aid and tuition financing alternatives are available?
   A. Many students are eligible for financial aid through employer tuition reimbursement programs and/or the University’s Partners in Professional Education® (PIPE®) Program. Additionally, the University offers a no-interest financing alternative which permits students to pay approximately 30% of the tuition for the Semester at the time of enrollment and the balance over a five month period. Other financing sources or scholarship opportunities may also be available. Refer to the website for the most current offerings. William Howard Taft University does not participate in Federal Title IV Financial Aid programs.

8. Q. Will I need to complete courses pursuant to a rigid timetable?
   A. No. Each Semester consists of a minimum time period of 16 weeks from the date study commences. Students not completing all Semester coursework in the 16-week period will be granted an automatic two month extension of time to complete the Semester. There are no assignments that must be submitted on a weekly or monthly schedule and students may take time off between Semesters. However, except in special circumstances, the entire Program must be completed within five years from the date of matriculation.

9. Q. How are examinations handled?
   A. Students are required to pass one proctored examination each Semester (i.e. three examinations for the entire Program). The exams can be proctored online under the supervision of a web camera and microphone or students can select a member of the Consortium of College Testing Centers (CCTC). CCTC offers proctoring services at over 250 locations throughout the United States.
10. Q. Why is your tuition so low in relation to other graduate business programs? How can you offer a quality program at such low rates?
A. We obviously don’t know how other institutions set tuition levels. However, you will find that most graduate business programs are classroom based or are offered both online and in a classroom. All of our programs are offered online and hence we do not have the infrastructure costs of most institutions. We are a teaching institution, not a research institution. Therefore we do not incur the costs associated with research. And we don’t incur the costs of supporting athletic programs. As such, these types of costs do not need to be passed along to students.

But it should be noted that our accrediting body has reviewed this program in comparison with more traditional graduate business programs and has concluded that our program is comparable in terms of curriculum and rigor.

11. Q. What research tools are available to students?
A. The University provides all students in the School of Business with independent online research tools to assist in performing coursework through the Library & Information Resources Network (LIRN) Virtual Library Collection. LIRN is an extensive collection of full text articles, journals, television and radio transcripts, photographs, video and audio clips, encyclopedias, books and reference titles from a number of databases including ProQuest, Gale InfoTrac, Credo Reference, eLibrary, Bowker, and Ebsco Host. Students pay only the $45.00 Computer Library Fee. (There are no hourly charges.)