

Part-Time EXECUTIVE PhD IN BUSINESS

Today's business executives face unprecedented challenges that require uncommon leadership and the ability to gain deep insight into the issues that define the global economy. The Part-Time PhD in Business at Bentley University is an innovative doctoral program that uses an interdisciplinary approach to deliver the data-driven research skills that experienced business professionals need to succeed in the next phase of their careers.

Why a PhD?

- Unlike a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA), a PhD in Business, with its rigorous and research-focused approach, will distinguish you from your peers
- Gain valuable research skills that will enable you to solve today's complex business challenges
- Expand your professional network by collaborating closely with other successful business leaders

Why Bentley University?

- World-class faculty in fields such as management, accounting, entrepreneurship and more
- Access to an unmatched collection of technology labs where you will leverage the latest data, research and modeling tools
- A proven reputation of educating and elevating business leaders who make an immediate and lasting impact across all industries

Why a Bentley PhD?

- Earn your PhD in a part-time format that allows a manageable work-life balance
- Support from a dedicated faculty adviser to help develop and enhance your research skills
- Choose from focus areas of research that reflect today's relevant workplace needs like leadership, business analytics or experience design

FACULTY ADVISERS AND THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS



Executive PhD Program Director

Jill Brown, PhD
Corporate Governance;
Strategic Leadership;
Social Entrepreneurship



Leadership

Tatiana Manolova, PhD
Competitive Strategies of
New and Small Companies;
International Entrepreneurship



Business Analytics

Mingfei Li, PhD
Applied Game Theory;
Health Analytics;
General Business Analysis;
Machine Learning



Experience Design

Pierre Berthon, PhD
Mindfulness;
Digital Addiction;
Technology; Virtue Signaling

PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES



Part-Time

Earn your PhD on a schedule that allows you to maintain your career and life



Accelerated

Graduate in three years, far faster than traditional five-year PhD programs



Flexible

Virtual classes can be taken from any location convenient for you



Cohort-Based

Grow your network by studying with the same group of professionals throughout your program

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Years 1 and 2



On-Campus Residency Weekends

Meet face-to-face with your cohort and faculty on the Bentley campus (eight times per year)



Online Classes

Between residency sessions, online classes meet in real time with faculty and classmates



Remote Learning

Use online collaboration tools to connect with classmates to discuss course materials and share experiences



Dissertation

Work directly with your faculty adviser to research and write your dissertation (six in-person meetings on campus)

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

| | Fall Semester | Spring Semester | Summer Semester (May and June) |
|--------|---|--|---|
| Year 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Two-Day Orientation (0 credits)Quantitative Analysis I (3 credits)Organizational Theory (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar I (1 credit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quantitative Research Methods (3 credits)Focus Area Course I (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar II (1 credit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)Focus Area Course II (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar III (1 credit) |
| Year 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quantitative Analysis II (3 credits)Focus Area Course III (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar IV (1 credit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Research Methods Course (3 credits)Focus Area Course IV (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar V (1 credit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Research Methods Course (3 credits)Strategic Management (3 credits)Applied Research Seminar VI (1 credit) |
| Year 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation Course (9 credits) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation Course (9 credits) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation Course (9 credits) |

FOCUS AREAS

Chose from three areas of focus to specialize your research interests. See the list of courses below for each track.

Leadership

Inclusive Leadership
Organizational Behavior
Business and Society
HR Management and Methods

Advanced Business Analytics

Advanced Business Analytics
Quantitative Analysis 3
Applied Time Series
Computational Methods for Business Analytics

Experience Design

Perception in Action
Advanced Topics in Cognition
Design Ethics
Emerging Technologies

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 7, 2026

FINAL DEADLINE
MARCH 16, 2026

FOR GENERAL AND ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS

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For more information visit
bentley.edu/executive-phd