DOCTORAL DEGREES WITH A DIFFERENCE

BENTLEY UNIVERSITY WELCOMES APPLICATIONS

All students take a range of methodology courses, core courses in either business or accountancy, and specialized electives. Students pursue research throughout the program, regularly presenting at conferences and submitting to journals. PhD candidates also attend teacher-training workshops and, after comprehensive exams in year two of their program, teach independently in graduate and undergraduate programs at Bentley.

Doctoral students are accepted based on their academic qualifications and the potential match between their interests and those of a faculty member who will be a mentor throughout the program. Visit the Web for more information and to start the application process: bentley.edu/offices/phd/applying.

LEARN MORE

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BENTLEY UNIVERSITY is one of the nation’s leading business schools, dedicated to preparing a new kind of business leader — one with the deep technical skills, broad global perspective, and high ethical standards required to make a difference in an ever-changing world.
DEGREES WITH A DIFFERENCE

We take a personalized approach to doctoral education. Before accepting a student, we work to create a match between their research interests and the interests of a faculty member who is willing and able to mentor the student through the program. While there are a range of core classes that each student must take, we also customize the PhD to the unique interests of the student. We fit the curriculum to what best benefits the students rather than making the students fit into the curriculum. This gives students more relevant course work and allows them to pursue the research topics that interest them.

PhD IN ACCOUNTANCY

This program's wide-ranging core courses include Financial Accounting, Auditing and Assurance, Managerial Control Systems, Judgment and Decision-Making, Microeconomic Theory, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Ethics and CSR, as well as the methodology courses required of all PhD candidates at Bentley. From this broad base, students then specialize in a particular topic.

Potential Research Areas

This program seeks students interested in a variety of accounting topics, including audit quality, management control, investor decision-making, accounting information systems, IT controls, tax, and corporate governance. Ideally, candidates will have completed a master's degree in accounting, but practice experience or equivalent education may be substituted in some circumstances.

PhD IN BUSINESS

In this program, methodology courses are complemented by four core courses: Microeconomic Theory, Organizational Theory, Ethics and CSR, and Information Systems. From this broad base, students move to specialize in a particular topic, taking electives in their chosen area of study. Ideally, candidates will have a master's degree in an area of business (or a related degree) as well as some work experience in the corporate, government or nonprofit sector.

Potential Research Areas

Faculty advisers work with Bentley PhD candidates in specific areas of business research. Students are often able to compile a portfolio of publication credits before graduation. Some examples of research specializations appear at right.

BUSINESS ANALYTICS

Students' research interests may include analysis of social network data, global analytics and international living standards, statistical analyses of the global digital divide, statistical and ethical aspects of mutual fund market timing, and innovative applications of data science to areas such as database marketing.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

Through the campus-based Harold S. Geneen Institute, PhD students in either accountancy or business can pursue research on corporate governance. The focus of study is organizational mechanisms and procedures that uphold the rights and responsibilities of firms and key constituents. Candidates will explore strategies for promoting integrity within and across the organization.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS: ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Information Systems (IS) covers diverse topics such as digital government, public safety networks, business intelligence systems, enterprise systems, business processes, and information systems strategy. IS connects to a range of organizational and management issues. “Strategy as practice” is an example of such an intersection. Students in this intersection would pursue research looking at how people engage in doing “real work,” focusing on strategy praxis, strategy practitioners and strategy practices.

MANAGEMENT

Management covers a wide range of topics. Some of the commonly pursued research areas include corporate governance, strategy, organizational studies, organizational behavior, women and leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Management research can use either qualitative or quantitative methods and can be either domestic or international in nature. Management also intersects with many other research areas.

MARKETING

Some of the areas of study include neuromarketing (use of fMRI, ECC, SST, biometrics and other means for integrating and interpreting the objective correlates of subjective experience in marketing and consumer behavior); rhetoric (the use of irony, metaphor and other tropes in consumer behavior and marketing); technology and society (posthumanism, technological emergence, and the singularity); and embodied, enacted philosophy (which questions the entire consumption, goal-driven, economic paradigm of marketing and business).

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Under the Center for Integration of Science and Industry, candidates work in areas such as examining the translation of scientific discoveries for public benefit. This type of research might focus on any part of the process that translates scientific discoveries into products and value to the public. Applicants with a background in science and business are encouraged to apply.

THE BENTLEY PHILOSOPHY

Intensive research in a supportive environment might seem like an oil-and-water combination. But they are the distinctive, complementary ingredients of doctoral study at Bentley. This is the secret to Bentley’s success. PhD students are supported by faculty advisers from day one. At Bentley University, you will benefit from world-class faculty and facilities while studying in an environment where you are not a number.

WHERE DO OUR PhD GRADUATES WORK?

Some examples of recent placements:

- Brown University
- Bryant University
- Clark University
- College of Charleston
- Copenhagen Business School
- Florida International University
- Northeastern University
- Providence College
- Suffolk University
- Texas State University
- Villanova University
- UMass-Dartmouth
- University of New Hampshire
- West Virginia University
- Penn State University