

Dear Prospective Doctoral Students:

Thank you for your interest in the doctoral program. Before contacting me by email or phone, I would appreciate if you carefully read the following information that may answer most of your questions.

The GW School of Business doctoral program has taken a mentorship approach. That is, admission to the program depends crucially on the recommendation of at least two faculty members who may find that the applicant's research interests match that of the faculty member (as well, of course, as considering other qualifications such as GMAT/GRE, GPA, letters of recommendation, etc). This recommendation is made to a school-wide admissions committee that selects the best students to admit from those recommended by departments.

If admitted, the first year in the doctoral program is essentially the same for all students and is very rigorous (consisting of courses in statistics, research design, microeconomics, etc.) Assuming the student passes first year qualifying exams, an admitted student will work with a small set of faculty members--often, though not always, those who have made the admission recommendations-- to develop an appropriate set of courses and other doctoral-level experiences to complete the program. Therefore, after the first year, each student's program is tailored to their individual interests, and the student/professor (mentor) relationship is made clear early in the student's career at GW. After completion of coursework, the student completes comprehensive exams, a dissertation proposal, and a final dissertation under the direction of a small set of faculty members.

The following items answer most questions that prospective applicants to the program have. Please read and follow their advice carefully.

1. Become familiar with the basics of the program, including admissions information by reading the content on our doctoral program website at:
<http://business.gwu.edu/grad/phd/>
2. Examine the publications of the faculty in the Strategic Management and Public Policy Department (<http://www.gwu.edu/~business/smpp/index.asp>). Identify faculty who are doing work that is closest to the kind of research that you have done and/or want to do in the future. Make a list of these professors and note their email addresses.
3. Select 2-3 faculty members from the list you created and read some of their most recent publications.
4. Contact via email each of these professors and tell them about your research interests, your publications (if applicable), pertinent previous coursework etc. If you've read the faculty members' articles, make reference to them. Point out not only what you like about their work but also explain the connections between the kind of work they have done and what you would like to do.

5. Finally, the doctoral program does not have a minimum requirement for the GMAT/GRE. However, scores below the 80% percentile are much less competitive. Many applicant characteristics--beyond the GMAT/GRE--are taken into consideration by the doctoral committee when deciding admissions.

After you review this information carefully and follow the steps outlined above, please send me your resume and a few lines (no more than two paragraphs) describing your research interests and why you want to pursue a Ph.D in our department. Also, if you have additional questions, please send me an email.

Best,

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