Business

"One Course, plus Cornell's small class sizes, translates to a high-commitment, high-accountability learning environment. There's simply no better preparation for the world of work."

Santhi Hejeebu, Professor of Economics and Business

All Cornell business majors complete a common set of core courses in economics, accounting, and statistics. From there, one of three concentrations are chosen:

- Finance
- Business analytics
- Actuarial science

DEVELOPING BUSINESS LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Modern businesses require leaders with a range of skills, a broad worldview, and the ability to adapt quickly to new challenges and opportunities. Rooted in the liberal arts and taking advantage of Cornell's One Course At A Time curriculum, students in this program develop skills and experiences that are essential for their first jobs, and they are prepared for greater responsibility as their careers thrive.

In Cornell's business program, students will:

- Learn multiple ways of framing problems, not just bottom-line calculations.
- Develop strong writing, teamwork, and presentation skills in small classrooms.
- Become responsible decision-makers, rooted in a complex understanding of a global community.
- Become career-ready in emerging and high-demand business fields, while gaining solid preparation for nationally recognized business certifications.
- Apply mathematical ideas to a range of social and business problems, frequently using real-world business cases or simulations.

BUSINESS MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS

FINANCE

Finance is a field that merges economics with accounting. It investigates the allocation of monetary assets and liabilities, particularly over time and under conditions of uncertainty.

The finance concentration prepares students for careers in the financial sector proper, as well as for careers in finance and accounting divisions of organizations across the economy.

This track covers topics that are necessary for success in the Chartered Financial Analyst, level I exam (CFA) administered by the CFA Institute. Average starting salary in finance is $56,094, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

BUSINESS ANALYTICS

Business analytics blends economics, statistics, and computer science. With the rapid growth in data and low-cost computing, businesses are applying business analytics techniques to every business function from operations to talent management to marketing.

The business analytics concentration includes courses in areas such as data visualization, statistical analysis, database management, and modeling decision-making. The business analytics track prepares students for passage of the SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst Credential. This certification is for business professionals who carry out applied statistical analysis and is administered by the SAS Institute Incorporated. Salary.com indicates the median starting salary is $57,339.

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Actuarial science is a field that applies mathematics and statistics to the assessment of risk. Insurance companies, financial planners, and multinational corporations all rely on the deep analytical skills of actuaries.

This concentration is ideally suited for students inclined to double major in mathematics. The actuarial science track prepares students for the first two actuarial exams, Financial Mathematics (FM) and Probability (P), administered by the Society of Actuaries. Average starting salary in this field is $63,555 (NACE).

INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS

The economics and business major offers more flexibility in choosing electives and may be a good option if you want to customize a program in business beyond the three concentrations offered in the business major.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

Because of this distinctive block calendar, Cornell students have the opportunity to experience aspects of economic and business life

A'AMER FAROOQI
Professor of Economics and Business
Specializes in international economics, with particular interests in economic development and environmental issues in developing countries. His courses include International Economics and Global Environmental Economics. Ph.D., economics, University of Pittsburgh

SANTHI HEJEEBU
Professor of Economics and Business
Has interests in applied microeconomics, economics of organization, and economic history. Her courses include Economics of Organizations, Business Analytics, and Markets and Social Networks. She enjoys taking students off campus to visit businesses, archives, and museums. Guest lecturers, business leaders, and scholars are integral to her courses. She is co-author of "Humanism Challenges Materialism in Economics and Economic History" (2017). Her scholarship has appeared in numerous academic journals. Ph.D., economics, University of Iowa.

TODD KNOOP
David Joyce Professor of Economics and Business
Has interests in macroeconomic policy, business cycles, financial crises, and economic growth. His courses include Money and Banking, Economics of Recessions and Depressions, Growth Theory, and Econometrics. He is the author of "The Traveling Economist: Using Economics to Think about What Makes us all the Same and So Different" (2017), Global Finance in Emerging Market Economies" (2015), "Recessions and Depressions: Understanding Business Cycles" (2009), and "Modern Financial Macroeconomics: Panics, Crashes, and Crises" (2007). Ph.D., economics, Purdue University.

Cornell College

that are outside the reach of most undergraduates. Textbooks come alive when students meet the people, visit the places, and directly observe the processes being studied. In addition to taking students off campus, Cornell regularly hosts business leaders, best-selling authors, and scholars in on-campus classes.

The Berry Career Institute and the McWethy Program for Economics, Business & Public Policy support business majors through internships, leadership development, and other opportunities. Students go to actual businesses, talk with business leaders, and discuss real problems, which helps students build bridges between what they learned in the classroom and what they have seen in the business world. Block-long, off-campus study opportunities are offered in Argentina, Chicago, Shanghai, Dallas, and more.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Students are encouraged to learn through firsthand experience, whether on the trading floor in Chicago's financial district or on the floor of factories in emerging global markets. In upper level courses, students have the opportunity to follow a major case study with an actual organization and develop solutions to real life problems. Courses such as sports economics, during which students travel to professional sporting clubs in Dallas, illustrate how interest in multiple fields can blend seamlessly within the classroom.

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Students in business are encouraged to pursue internships as an integral part of their coursework. Working in consultation with a faculty advisor, students may be eligible to receive academic credit for an internship. Recent locations include:

- Thales, financial consulting firm, Montevideo, Uruguay (Class of 2019)
- Jacobson Group, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2019)
- John Deere, Moline, Illinois (Class of 2019)
- Teacher Created Materials, Huntington Beach, California (Class of 2018)
- AXA Equitable, LaCrosse, Wisconsin (Class of 2019)
- Torchmark Corporation, McKinney, Texas (Class of 2019)
- Nortek Air Solutions, Eden Prairie, Minnesota (Class of 2019)
- Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix, Arizona (Class of 2018)
- Republican National Committee, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2018)
- Amazing Edibles, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2018)

AFTER CORNELL

Cornell's three business majors each position students well for careers in a broad spectrum of fields. National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reports mean starting salaries for graduates with a B.A. in finance is $56,809 and for those with a degree in actuarial science, the mean salary is $59,400. Graduates in business analytics are prepared to pursue careers in many areas of business.

ALUMNI CAREERS

Entry solution developer, Acxiom, Chicago (Class of 2018)

Media analyst, Lindsay, Stone & Briggs, Madison, Wisconsin (Class of 2018)

Lead account executive, Quill, LLC, Lincolnshire, Illinois (Class of 2018)

Associate, CohnReznick (accounting firm), Boston (Class of 2017)

Account services coordinator, Creative Strategies Group, Denver, Colorado (Class of 2017)

Bank examiner, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, U.S. Treasury, Overland Park, Kansas (Class of 2017)

Provider Data Services Analyst, Aetna, Chattanooga, Tennessee (Class of 2017)

Contract Underwriter, Merchants Bonding Company, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2017)

Accounting assistant, Terrill Glass and Mirror Company, Ben Wheeler, Texas (Class of 2016)

Financial representative, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Class of 2016)

Management trainee, Geico Insurance, Coralville, Iowa (Class of 2016)

Financial account analyst, Arrow Electronics, Englewood, Colorado (Class of 2016)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

M.S., analytics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (Class of 2017)

M.A., data science, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2016)

Ph.D., natural resource economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Class of 2016)

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri (Class of 2015)

Ph.D., economics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee (Class of 2015)

J.D.-M.B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin (Class of 2015)

JERRY SAVITSKY
Professor of Economics and Business
Has interests in labor market discrimination, the economics of women and the family, and game theory. His courses include Labor Market Issues, The Economics of Sports, Industrial Organization, and Women, Men, and the Labor Market. Ph.D., economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

CYNTHIA BRADLEY
Lecturer in Business Analytics
Has over 25 years of professional experience in business intelligence, information technology, and program management. Has held executive positions at major enterprises such as GoDaddy, TaxAct, and MCI. Her courses include Data Visualization, Business Analytics I, and Analytics Case Seminar. M.S., business intelligence and analytics, St. Joseph's University.

ELMIRA SHEKARI NAMIN
Assistant Professor of Economics and Business
Specializes in finance with interests in empirical asset pricing, market microstructure, and fixed income securities. Her courses include Investments, Financial Accounting, Introduction to Financial Management, Asset Valuation, and Financial Management Seminar. Has industry experience as investment advisor and credit analyst. Ph.D., finance, University of Rhode Island.