

April 28, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Master of Science (MS) Business Research

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new Master of Science (MS) in Business Research.

BACKGROUND:

Some students may complete all of the course work needed for the PhD, but not the additional requirements of passing comprehensive examinations and/or writing the dissertation. In recognition of the advanced curriculum that these students have successfully completed, the program will award these students a MS in Business Research degree. To differentiate from MS/MA/MBA programs in Business Administration this degree will be a newly created research-based field of study, MS in Business Research. School of Business Ph.D. students take coursework in methods and research as well as passing a Qualifying Research Paper during the first two years in the program.

Review of peer institutions for the Ph.D. in Business Administration found that almost half of the schools provided a MS or MA degree to their doctoral students, either along the way to the Ph.D. degree, or in lieu of the Ph.D. degree. Further review of AACSB member schools provided confirmation that a number of schools used the degree "Business Research" exclusively for this purpose. Our proposal is a degree in lieu of, not in addition to, the PhD, offered only in conjunction with termination of PhD studies.

Annually we expect 0-1 student to receive this degree. In the past few years this could have applied to 4 students.

## Request for New UConn Academic Degree Program

### General Information

Name of degree program:	Master of Science (MS) Business Research
Name of sponsoring Department:	School of Business
Name of sponsoring College:	School of Business
Campuses:	Storrs
Contact persons:	Nancy Crouch
Type of Proposal:	New
Type of Program:	Master of Arts
Anticipated Initiation Date:	Fall 2021
Anticipated Date of First Graduation:	Spring 2023
Program Payment Type:	Tuition based
CIP Code:	52.0299: Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other.

### Justification for the New Program

A. Some students may complete all of the course work needed for the PhD, but not the additional requirements of passing comprehensive examinations and/or writing the dissertation. In recognition of the advanced curriculum that these students have successfully completed, the program will award these students a MS in Business Research degree.

B. Per the UConn graduate catalogue: UConn graduate students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree, if one is offered specifically in their field of study, under either the Thesis or the Non-Thesis Plan. <https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/academic-regulations/>. Thus, this proposal is consistent with other schools at UConn and with our own MS plans of study.

C. To differentiate from MS/MA/MBA programs in Business Administration this degree will be a newly created research-based field of study, MS in Business Research. School of Business Ph.D. students take coursework in methods and research as well as passing a Qualifying Research Paper during the first two years in the program.

### Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?

Review of peer institutions for the Ph.D. in Business Administration found that almost half of the schools provided a MS or MA degree to their doctoral students, either along the way to the Ph.D. degree, or in lieu of the Ph.D. degree. Further review of AACSB member schools provided confirmation that a number of schools used the degree “Business Research” exclusively for this purpose. Our proposal is a degree in lieu of, not in addition to, the PhD, offered only in conjunction with termination of PhD studies.

**What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?**

To understand business concepts from a research perspective and apply the knowledge to organizational settings and situations. To have the ability to write a research paper that encompasses or interprets empirical and statistical data.

**Program Description**

Master of Science (non-thesis) degree track for Ph.D. students in business who have completed coursework, but are leaving the program and have not completed the dissertation.

**Proposed Graduate Catalogue Copy**

The M.S. in Business Research provides training in business theory and methods, combined with core courses in the department's program of study. It is available only to students enrolled in the PhD Program in Business Administration at the time of application.

Requirements for the degree: (1) Successful completion of all coursework required for the student's concentration area, with the exception of 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Research), at least 37 credit hours, (2) a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher, and (3) approval for the M.S. in Business Research by the student's Plan of Study Committee.

Credits used to fulfill the MS in Business Research degree cannot be used toward Ph.D. degree requirements in business. The PhD general examination requirements need not be satisfied for the award of MS in Business Research. This degree is non-thesis track. Application for the degree can occur during the student's final semester enrolled in the PhD program, subject to final GPA evaluation.

**Faculty Involvement**

Lucy Gilson, Associate Dean of Faculty and Outreach PhD Department Faculty Coordinators; Todd Kravet (Accounting), Joseph Golec (Finance), David Souder (Management), Debanjan Mitra (Marketing), Manuel Nunez (OPIM)

**Enrollment and graduate projections**

Annually we expect 0-1 student to receive this degree. In the past few years this could have applied to 4 students.

**Program Evaluation**

Annual program review by the School of Business PhD committee, consisting of Associate Dean of Faculty, PhD Department Faculty Coordinators, and the PhD Program Director. Evaluation and reporting to be overseen by the School of Business PhD Program office.

**Program Administration**

Application for the degree will occur during the student's final enrolled semester, subject to final GPA evaluation, successful completion of all coursework required for the student's concentration area, and approval for the M.S. in Business Research by their Plan of Study Committee. The process to receive the degree, confirmed by Registrars and Graduate School on 12/14/2020: After a student's Plan of Study Committee approves this degree change, the BUS PhD Program will notify Registrars, ie Degree Audit Masters. Registrars will update the students' record to a terminal masters. (Graduate School would not create an extra degree at PhD admissions, because it would be a terminal master's.)

**Funding and Financial Resources Needed**

No additional resources are needed.

**Other Resource Needs**

No additional resources are needed.

**Consultation with other potentially affected units**

To differentiate from MS/MA/MBA programs in Business Administration this degree will be a newly created research based field of study, MS in Business Research. Because the field of study is unique and strictly for Business PhD students, we do not foresee conflicts with other units.

**Who can apply to this program?**

A UConn Business Ph.D. student

**Anticipated term and year of first enrollment**

Fall 2021

**Admission Requirements**

- Successful completion of all coursework required for the student's concentration area, with the exception of 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Research), at least 37 credit hours.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Approval for the M.S. in Business Research by their Plan of Study Committee.

**Term(s) to which students will be admitted**

Fall, Spring

**Application deadline:** Rolling

**Initiator**

Nancy Crouch, [nancy.crouch@uconn.edu](mailto:nancy.crouch@uconn.edu), 860-486-5822

**Program Director Name**

Lucy Gilson, Dean/Associate Dean, [lucy.gilson@uconn.edu](mailto:lucy.gilson@uconn.edu), 860-486-3504

**Administrative Contact**

Nancy Crouch, [nancy.crouch@uconn.edu](mailto:nancy.crouch@uconn.edu), 860-486-5822