ARTS ADMINISTRATION Specialization

Take your passion for the arts to new heights as a strategic leader.
EXPERIENCE THE ARTS ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIZATION ADVANTAGE.

Develop thriving and vital spaces for arts and culture as a strong community leader. Get an arts-specific MBA with a general management core. This nationally renowned program blends intensive business study, hands-on experience, and extensive professional networking opportunities.

An engaged and inspiring alumni and advisory board community works with staff to help connect you wherever you want to land. Your network includes distinguished alumni who serve at prestigious national organizations and who have connections in major metropolitan cities across the U.S.

Gain the business tools to lead an organization, focused through the lens of the arts. Your top-ranked MBA education is coupled with immersion in arts administration—including fundraising, development, education, outreach, volunteerism, and partnership. You get training of unparalleled depth that takes you farther than an arts degree alone. Become adept at applying business fundamentals to the unique needs of nonprofits and the arts as you collaborate with a range of audiences—from artists and boards to community partners and benefactors.

Work with innovative industry leaders as you prepare to impact the arts. Before you even arrive on campus, you are paired with a local or regional organization to begin an ongoing professional consulting relationship. Apply classroom learning to create a strategic road map built on marketing and development audits and other business evaluations. You also learn through site visits at leading cultural institutions, and participate in a research project in New York.

Attributes of students who succeed in arts administration
- Passionate
- Strong self-advocate
- Forward thinker
- Motivated leader
- Big-picture thinker
The Wisconsin MBA in arts administration provides prestige and industry contacts to position you to make an impact as a strong community, nonprofit, or arts leader.

Supported by the Bolz Center for Arts Administration, the Wisconsin School of Business has one of the leading arts administration graduate programs in the United States—and the only MBA-level arts administration program worldwide founded and based in a business school. Board members are highly engaged. They advise on all aspects of the program, refer and mentor talented students, and assist with admissions. Through these passionate and influential advisors, you gain an immediate nationwide network of arts, nonprofit, and community leaders.

Employment outcomes

1:1 ATTENTION; 5 BOLZ COHORT

1st AND ONLY MBA-LEVEL ARTS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM to be founded and remain in a school of business

Hiring employers

Graduates have gone on to work for organizations including:

- Association of Performing Arts Presenters
- Bangor Symphony Orchestra
- Bravo! Vail
- Chicago Humanities Festival
- Grand Rapids Symphony
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Madison Symphony Orchestra
- Minneapolis Downtown Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
- Overture Center for the Arts

Graduates get offers for roles such as

- Artistic Director
- Arts Commission Executive Director
- Symphony Executive Director
- Director of Education and Public Programming
- Chief Marketing Officer
- Development Director
- Finance Director
- Economic Development Director
- Director of Operations

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THE WISCONSIN MBA EXPERIENCE
Focused, Close-Knit, Collaborative

This program is small and selective. Classes are often only five students, so you get unparalleled individual attention and exceptional industry exposure. Share core business classes with students from other specializations to gain well-rounded business perspectives. The Wisconsin MBA, coupled with premier arts exposure, forges relationships and opens doors.

Dedicated staff knows you by name
Your support team is passionate about championing your academic and career success in arts administration. Staff and career advisors provide one-on-one support from admissions through graduation and job placement.

Sherry Wagner-Henry, Director
Sherry brings 25 years of extensive experience in arts administration and higher education. Her primary role in the Bolz Center is to continually enhance the student experience: recruiting students through equity-based approaches, teaching through applied learning and professional practice, fostering alumni and advisory board engagement, and ultimately, securing job placement for students who represent the next generation of arts and culture leaders. Sherry leads Campus Arts and Business Initiatives (CABI), which includes the development of the UW Creative Placemaking Consortium and the Creative Placemaking HUB.

Betsy Golomski, Assistant Director, MBA Career Management
Betsy will be your dedicated career specialist from admission through interviews, offer evaluation, and compensation negotiation. She brings a strong background in corporate relations to the Wisconsin MBA career management team, pairing her deep connections in business with her passion for connecting students to their ideal careers.

Let’s continue the conversation

Betsy Kacizak, Admissions Director
Betsy excels at walking you through the admissions process, including helping guide you toward the specialization that best fits your passions and career aspirations. She has expertise as a leader in the field of graduate admissions. She has worked for the Wisconsin School of Business for 14 years and worked for seven years at Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).

Rebecca Buckman, Assistant Director
Becky coordinates all MBA student-related services on your behalf to be sure you have a top-rate MBA experience. She connects you with real-world learning opportunities, manages logistics for site visits, and supports the Center’s hands-on work experiences and student projects. Becky has worked with the Bolz Center since 2005 and has extensive knowledge of the program. She welcomes your questions.

Wisconsin Full-Time MBA Program Office
Wisconsin School of Business
University of Wisconsin–Madison

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