Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship

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The mission of the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship is to inspire innovation, creativity, and growth. We accomplish this through a personalized learning environment that challenges students to deeply engage in their education and take initiative for their own success in school and life. The College’s mission is embodied by Jabs Hall, the College’s home which opened in summer 2015. Jabs Hall offers students an energy-efficient building with cutting-edge classrooms, student work rooms, and many collaboration and social areas.

An extraordinary faculty offers transformational learning experiences that help students develop the initiative, skills, and creativity to be effective innovators in many different organizational contexts, including entrepreneurial ventures and large corporations. Distinguishing features of the program include exceptional faculty members in every classroom (no graduate student instructors), rigorous course work, an interactive, personalized learning environment, an emphasis on professional skills, and high-performing students.

The College is fully accredited by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the premium accrediting association for business programs. AACSB has awarded its mark of distinction to only five percent of all business programs worldwide. Not only does this accreditation certify that Jabs meets AACSB’s rigorous standards for business education, but it also signals to local, regional, and national employers that the College’s graduates are well-prepared for careers in business.

Learning Objectives

Throughout the business curriculum, students receive significant exposure to each of the College’s learning goals:

• Knowledge of Business: Students will have strong working knowledge of fundamental concepts in accounting, finance, management, marketing, information technology, strategy, and law.
• Critical Thinking: Students will learn to effectively and persuasively assimilate and evaluate information to solve business problems.
• Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to interpret, represent, and evaluate quantitative information and integrate such information into business decisions and recommendations.
• Effective Written Communication: Students will be able to develop and organize ideas, adopt an appropriate tone, employ correct grammar, sentence structure and mechanics, use appropriate vocabulary, and correctly cite sources for facts, quotations and ideas.
• Effective Oral Communication: Students will be able to develop and organize ideas, successfully employ technology in support of a message, speak extemporaneously with minimal hesitations and fillers, adopt an appropriate tone, use appropriate vocabulary, employ correct grammar and sentence structure, and manage presentation pacing and timing effectively.
• Ethical Decision Making and Social Responsibility: Students will recognize the ethical and societal implications of proposed actions, employ decision-making tools to evaluate the ethical and societal effects of a variety of options, and make sound decisions in accordance with the analysis and evaluation of options.
• Life-Long Learning: Students will be immersed in an environment that encourages life-long learning through extensive opportunities to learn in team settings and to develop effective team skills, to develop research skills to advance learning, and to strengthen critical thinking skills.

Degree Programs


The Jabs Master of Professional Accountancy degree is a demanding and highly reputed program that should be considered by students who are interested in pursuing CPA certification or advanced financial positions. Information about this program can be found in the College of Business (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/business/) section of MSU’s Graduate Catalog.

The Jabs undergraduate curriculum is made up three blocks: pre-business (foundation) courses, common body of knowledge (CBK) courses, and option (marketing, management, finance and accounting) courses. The pre-business courses must be completed with grades of C- or better and an MSU cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better in order for students to
be admitted to the College (p. 2) and move on with their upper-
division coursework.

Pre-Business courses:

- BGEN 104US Business & Entrepreneurship Fundamentals Seminar* 3
- or BGEN 204 Business & Entrepreneurship Fundamentals 3
- BMGT 205 Prof Business Communication 3
- BMIS 211 Spreadsheet and Database Skills 3
- ACTG 201 Principles of Financial Acct 3
- ACTG 202 Principles of Managerial Accounting** 3
- or ACTG 223 Principles of Accounting II 3
- M 161Q Survey of Calculus 4
- ECNS 101IS Economic Way of Thinking 3
- ECNS 202 Principles of Macroeconomics 3
- ECNS 204IS Microeconomics 3
- STAT 216Q Introduction to Statistics 3
- BMGT 240IS Business Research Methods 3
- or STAT 217Q Intermediate Statistical Concepts 3

*Students transferring into Jabs from another institution or transitioning from another MSU department, who have already earned credit for a University Seminar (US) course must take BGEN 204 instead of BGEN 104US.

**Accounting students take ACTG 201, 202 & 223; Finance students take ACTG 201 & 223; Management & Marketing students take ACTG 201 & 202. ACTG 223 can substitute for ACTG 202.

Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) courses:

- BMGT 335 Management and Organization 3
- BGEN 302 Career Perspectives 1
- or BGEN 303 Professional Coaching Clinic 1
- BMIS 311 Management Information Systems 3
- BMGT 322 Operations Management 3
- BMKT 325 Principles of Marketing 3
- BFIN 322 Business Finance 3
- BGEN 361 Principles of Business Law 3
- BGEN 499 Senior Thesis/Capstone: Strategy Seminar 4

Option Courses:
The option courses, most of which are 400-level courses designed for seniors, enhance the depth of understanding in one area of business: Accounting (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/accounting/), Finance (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/), Management (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/management/) or Marketing (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/marketing/).

Jabs Student Resources

The Gary K. Bracken Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education

The Bracken Center (http://www.montana.edu/business/bracken/) is located within the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship in Jabs Hall, where it offers students access to internship and career information, employer interviews, state-of-the-art conference rooms for student use, and the Bracken Business Communication Clinic (http://www.montana.edu/business/bracken/bbcc/) (BBCC). The BBCC is staffed by business communication professionals who coach students on oral presentations and written assignments, including basic grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and tenses, and business themes, content, and organization of material. The Bracken Center also provides assistance to faculty members to support their teaching and professional development activities. For more information: http://www.montana.edu/business/bracken/index.html (http://www.montana.edu/business/bracken/)

Blackstone LaunchPad

In addition, MSU’s Blackstone LaunchPad (http://www.montana.edu/launchpad/), a collaboration of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, Montana State University, the University of Montana, and Headwaters R&D, provides guidance, resources, and mentoring to students from all majors as they develop their ideas into entrepreneurial opportunities. For more information: http://www.montana.edu/launchpad/

Advising & Student Services

The Jabs Office of Student Services (OSS) coordinates new and transfer student orientation, advises pre-business students (prior to admission to the College), coordinates continuing student course registration, and admission to Jabs, and certifies degree requirements. Each Jabs student is assigned a professional advisor in the Office of Student Services for their first two years; once admitted to the College they are transitioned to a faculty advisor to consult about the student’s career-related goals and objectives.

Academic Policies

Admission to the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship

All business majors must be admitted to Jabs in order to enroll in upper-
division option (300-400 level) ACTG, BGEN, BFIN, BMGT and BMKT courses and the senior capstone, BGEN 499.

Requirements for admission to Jabs include:

- Junior standing (completion of 60 semester credits)
- Completion of all pre-business courses with no grade less than a C-
- Minimum 2.50 cumulative MSU GPA

To be considered for admission, students must submit a completed admission application. Students who meet all requirements for admission and have a 2.50 or higher cumulative MSU GPA will be admitted to the College. Applications from students with a cumulative GPA less than 2.50 will not be considered. Applications for admission to the College are considered throughout the year. See the Jabs Office for Student Services (business@montana.edu) for specific deadlines. Applications are available in the Jabs Student Services Office located in Jabs Hall Room 124, and on the Jabs website at: http://www.montana.edu/business/current-students/advising-faq.html. Notification of admission decisions will be made via the student’s official e-mail address as listed in MyInfo.

Course pre-requisites

Course pre-requisites are listed for each course in the catalog. Where there are specific pre-requisites for business students, please note that students pursuing a business major, minor, or certificate are considered business students and will be expected to meet those pre-requisites.

Minimum Grades

The Montana Board of Regents has established a common policy on minimum course grades across all campuses in the Montana University System. According to the policy, a grade of C- or better is required to satisfy requirements for prerequisite and required courses in majors, minors, and certificate programs and for all university core requirements. Further, a grade of C- or better is required in all courses that will be counted toward
the 42 upper-division credits required in all degrees. Courses with a passing
grade of D-, D, or D+ may only be counted toward the overall 120 credit
requirement. To graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business,
a student must earn a C- or better in all prerequisites, university core,
required and elective courses, and non-business/non-economics courses.

Acceptance of Transfer Credits and Residency Requirements

Residency Requirements

All students must comply with the Jabs and the Montana State University
residency requirements to be awarded a degree from Montana State
University. The Montana State University residency requirement can be
found at http://catalog.montana.edu/curriculum-enrollment-graduation/
#Credits_for_Degree_Completion.

The Jabs residency requirement is that of the upper-division credits
required for business students, at least 18 credits and BGEN 499 (4 credits)
must be taken in residence at the Jabs.

Transferring to Jabs

University undergraduate programs in business administration normally
concentrate on professional business courses in the last two years of a four-
year program. The objective is to allow students the opportunity to build a
foundation of work in the arts, sciences, and humanities prior to beginning
professional course work. As a result of this approach, and because of
the standards and requirements of AACSB, the international accrediting
organization for colleges of business, most students transferring into the
Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship from another university
should do so no later than the end of their sophomore year.

Students taking their first two years of work at another institution should
take only those business courses offered at the freshman or sophomore
level at Montana State University. Lower-division business courses may not
be used to satisfy upper-division course requirements of the Jabs. If at all
possible, students should complete courses which will transfer to Montana
State University as the equivalent to the pre-business courses.

For additional guidance on transferring to Montana State University,
see the Admissions (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate-
admissions/) section of this catalog, explore the Admissions website
at: http://www.montana.edu/admissions (http://www.montana.edu/
admissions/), and/or contact the Jabs Office of Student Services at
business@montana.edu.

Undergraduate Programs

• Accounting (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/
  accounting/)
• Finance (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/finance/)
• Management (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/
  management/)
• Marketing (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/business/
  marketing/)
• Business Minors & Certificates (http://catalog.montana.edu/
   undergraduate/business/business-minors/)

Graduate Degrees

• Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc) (http://
catalog.montana.edu/graduate/business/)