



The State University  
of New York

## Office of the Chancellor

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building  
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

SUNY Global Center, 116 E 55<sup>th</sup> St,  
New York, NY 10022

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**April 28, 2026**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York at Buffalo**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York at Buffalo to offer the Doctor of Business Administration degree, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents.

### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

**Resolved** that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York at Buffalo to confer the Doctor of Business Administration degree.

### **Background**

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York at Buffalo ("UB") to offer the Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.) degree, subject to approval by the Board of Regents. Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents UB's first use of the D.B.A. degree.

The D.B.A. degree is a professional practice-based doctoral degree designed for experienced mid- to senior-level executives in the field of business administration that prepares graduates to take on new leadership responsibilities

and transform their careers. Although D.B.A. and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programs both include study and application of theory, D.B.A programs are intended to empower experienced executives to become scholar-practitioners and leaders in their fields, whereas Ph.D. programs tend to prepare early-career scholars for traditional academic pathways.

The proposed D.B.A. in Business Administration at UB is designed to prepare students to address complex strategic and organizational challenges by developing their knowledge and skills related to the application of advanced analytical tools and evidence-based frameworks relevant to contemporary business practice. Graduates may apply their learning to current professional positions and to new endeavors such as consulting, public scholarship, academic engagement, or other forms of leadership. The program is designed to be fully online and can be completed within three years, inclusive of summer terms. Each semester includes a series of two consecutive seven-week courses and one concurrent fifteen-week directed research course; this combination facilitates candidates' deeper engagement with the course material and faculty and supports the application of theory throughout the program. The UB D.B.A. would be the first in the SUNY system and third in New York State, and it is intended to complement the existing portfolio of academic programs in UB's School of Management, including baccalaureate and master's degrees in fields such as accounting, business administration and analytics, finance, and marketing, as well as a Ph.D. program in management

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is 15 part-time students, increasing in year five to more than 85 part-time students.

The program will utilize existing resources, including highly qualified faculty, a well-developed ecosystem for online instruction, and substantial research assets. The budget includes anticipated costs for marketing, instructional materials, and student aid, as well as changes in the distribution of personnel in the School of Management as student enrollment increases.

According to the labor market analytics tool Lightcast, through 2036, for doctoral programs in business administration there is modest demand in target occupations with a projected increase of approximately 8% in the state and nationally. Additionally, many of the skills associated with such programs, including artificial intelligence, data analysis, and risk management, are growing or rapidly growing in demand.

The external evaluators highlighted multiple strengths of the program, including the quality of the faculty and the academic program portfolio in the School of Management. One of the evaluators noted that the D.B.A. will "fill a clear market gap within the state and among R1 public institutions. Its design

emphasizes solid academic rigor and coherence, combining analytics coursework, leadership development, and applied research experiences under the mentorship of accomplished faculty.”

Offering the Doctor of Business Administration fits well with the mission of the State University of New York at Buffalo. The program has been carefully reviewed by the System Provost’s Office and Office of Budget and found to be sound, both academically and fiscally.