Department of Operations and Business Analytics

DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Max M. Fisher College of Business
A PhD in Operations Management

The Department of Operations and Business Analytics at The Ohio State University Max M. Fisher College of Business prides itself on the development of leading scholars in the field of operations management. The PhD program offered through this department is one of the oldest programs in the world and has produced several eminent scholars in the discipline. A major strength of the PhD program in operations management is the consistency of placement of the graduating students at top research schools and their high research productivity. Like its faculty, many of the program’s alumni have had very productive research careers, publishing regularly at top-tier journals, holding editorial positions at top journals, earning fellowships, and leading some of the most prestigious societies and academic institutions in the field of management sciences. Several of them have gone to serve as administrators and deans in their institutions.

Research

A key component of our success is our long-standing reputation as producers of rigorous, problem-driven empirical research aimed at generating insights, often working directly with industries and organizations. Our PhD program is designed to provide students with the capabilities and motivation to publish in leading academic and practitioner journals, and to earn tenured positions at top research institutions. As such, we place a strong emphasis not only on research methods but also on learning directly from productive faculty about the science and the art of research. The Department of Operations and Business Analytics also works closely with industry-focused centers of excellence at Fisher, including the department's Center for Operational Excellence, the Risk Institute and the National Center for the Middle Market, to form strong partnerships with established organizations regionally and nationally. Our faculty also partner with leading organizations across the country to provide research insights.

Program Length

The doctoral program in operations management at Fisher takes four to five years to complete. The program is full-time, and all students are expected to be in residence throughout the entire program, including graduation, to ensure they complete the degree in a timely manner. Fisher strategically manages the size of its PhD program according to a number of factors, including careful analysis of market and budgetary conditions. The result is an intentionally small, efficient and high-quality program that cultivates and fosters the next generation of thought leaders.
Our faculty prepare students for tenure track positions at top research universities. Our unique approach produces exceptionally trained scholars who are prepared to take on the biggest challenges in business.

### Recent Placements

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Initial Placement</th>
<th>Current Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Toyin Clottey</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Stephanie Eckerd</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>Indiana University</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>John Gardner</td>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Jurriaan De Jong</td>
<td>SUNY Buffalo</td>
<td>SUNY Buffalo</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Brett Massimino</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Claire Senot</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Luv Sharma</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Keith Skowronski</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Myra Pan</td>
<td>Southwest University of Finance and Economics</td>
<td>Southwest University of Finance and Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Yingchao Lan</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
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“The PhD program in operations management at Ohio State is highly respected around the world, especially for its empirical research. Besides the rigorous training, quality faculty and generous resources provided to PhD students, I am grateful that I was able to explore my research interests. Columbus is a great city and is friendly to international students. I am fortunate to have studied at Ohio State.”

Yingchao Lan
PhD, The Ohio State University, 2018
MA in Management Science and Engineering, BeiHang University, 2009
BS in Industrial Engineering, BeiHang University, 2007

“The Ohio State University offers one of the best empirical research PhD programs in the U.S. The school has an impressive group of research-active faculty, and the breadth of research conducted offers ample opportunities to get exposure to different research streams. Given my inclination toward empirical research, Ohio State was a clear choice for me.”

Luv Sharma
PhD, The Ohio State University, 2016
MBA, The Ohio State University, 2009
MS, The Ohio State University, 2007

“Fisher College of Business and The Ohio State University have great reputations and provided me strong opportunities to understand empirical, analytical and behavioral methods for researching real problems in management science. I discovered that graduates become part of a Buckeye network of excellent researchers and friends.”

John Gardner
PhD, The Ohio State University, 2012
MA, International and Area Studies, Brigham Young University, 2003
MBA, Brigham Young University, 2003

According to Our Alumni
Claire Senot, PhD ’14

Having completed your PhD studies at Fisher, where are you now?
I have been an assistant professor of management science at A.B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane University for the past five years. I am planning on continuing to develop my research, mentor students, develop new classes and take an active role in the growth of our school.

How do you anticipate continuing that research during the next phase in your career?
While my dissertation mostly focused on health care delivery within hospitals, I have now extended this research stream to the entire care continuum, both within and outside hospital walls.

How do you anticipate your Fisher PhD studies and research benefiting your students?
The Fisher PhD program has trained me to think critically and quickly, which has helped me better discuss different points of view with my students. In addition, thanks to the Fisher PhD program, I have been exposed to research in many key areas of operations management, which has significantly helped me in designing an operations and supply chain management course. Finally, my dissertation work has provided me with many examples to convey the practical relevance of many of the topics that I teach.

What attracted you to Fisher's PhD program?
I completed my MBA at Fisher and really enjoyed my interactions with the faculty. Professors at Fisher are accomplished researchers who, thanks to the small PhD class size, are able and willing to provide dedicated mentorship to each PhD student.

What distinguishes Fisher students from other students you've interacted with previously?
Students at Fisher are exposed to all key areas of operations management, not just their dissertation topic. This provides them with the ability to understand and analyze a broad variety of topics and to draw upon all relevant knowledge when discussing a specific issue.

What is your favorite business school-related memory from Ohio State and Fisher?
Graduating (and having my name announced) inside Ohio Stadium while being surrounded by family and friends. It was the culmination of five years of incredibly hard work.

Keith Skowronski, PhD ’16

Having completed your PhD studies at Fisher, where are you now?
I am currently an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, which affords me the opportunity to focus on continuing to develop my research and teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

How do you anticipate continuing that research during the next phase in your career?
South Carolina provides a great research environment, so I have been able to begin projects with other faculty and PhD students here. Fisher also really encouraged collaboration, and, because of that, I have begun research projects with other Fisher alumni that I met during my studies at there.

How do you anticipate your Fisher PhD studies and research benefiting your students?
At Fisher, we were encouraged to look at practically relevant research problems, which makes our research topics interesting to a wide audience. For example, I draw on my research when we have in-depth discussions in my MBA course around the effects of offshoring and reshoring.

What attracted you to Fisher's PhD program?
Two things really set Fisher’s PhD program in operations management apart from the rest and have resulted in great job placements for graduates. First, Fisher has a diverse and renowned faculty from which PhD students can learn from. This results in exposure to a wide range of operations management topics. Second, Ohio State has a number of other top colleges that students can take courses at to broaden their education.

What distinguishes Fisher students from other students you've interacted with previously?
I taught the undergraduate Introduction to Operations Management course while at Ohio State. I found Fisher students to be as hard-working and astute as any undergraduates I have encountered.

What is your favorite business school-related memory from Ohio State and Fisher?
I made lifelong friendships with other students and faculty while in the PhD program. Fisher has given me a tremendous support network, which I truly appreciate.
W.C. Benton, Jr.
Edwin D. Dodd Professor of Management
Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management

W. C. Benton is the Edwin D. Dodd Professor of Management and professor of operations and supply chain management at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. He is the author of four textbooks and more than 150 refereed academic journal articles. Professor Benton has been invited to serve as a keynote speaker for conferences and companies in Australia, Canada, China, India, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Vienna, the Netherlands, and the U.S.

He serves as senior editor for the journal, Production and Operations Management (manufacturing and industry practice departments), and as associate editor for six other management science and operations management journals. Professor Benton also serves as a panel member for the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Division of Design, Manufacturing and Innovation as well as the Healthcare Research Panel. He is a member of the NSF’s audit team.

Professor Benton has chaired the PhD committees for 15 students and has served on the committee and/or published papers with numerous students.

Kenneth Boyer
Dean’s Distinguished Professor of Operations Management
Faculty Directory, Non-Degree Executive Education

Ken Boyer is the Fisher Designated Professor of Management Sciences and the faculty director of non-degree executive education at Fisher. His research focuses on three key streams: the use of new technology to enhance operational effectiveness; health care and operations management (how techniques and tools from operational excellence originally developed in manufacturing may be applied to improve patient safety; and omni-channel commerce. He is one of the few scholars in the world to have published articles in each of four leading journals focused on operations management, including Journal of Operations Management, Production and Operations Management, Management Science and Manufacturing and Service Operations Management. In addition to publishing over 50 refereed research articles, one textbook and one trade press book, he has also served as co-editor in chief for the Journal of Operations Management and chaired the annual meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute.

Professor Boyer has chaired the PhD committees for five students and been on the committee and/or published papers with an additional five students. His undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering is from Brown University, operations management is from The Ohio State University.
Teaching and Research Associateships

Our students are provided a combination of teaching and research associateships and are paid very competitive stipends. Teaching and research associateships complement students’ graduate education, and Fisher encourages students to accept such appointments during the course of their graduate studies.

University Fellowship

A limited number of university fellowships are available for highly qualified U.S. and international applicants, including those who have already received their master’s degrees from other institutions.

External Fellowships and Support

We encourage students to compete for national grants, which permit full-time attention to the dissertation during their final year.

Additional Support

Students are provided with computers and software. Funds are available to support additional software and data acquisition as needed. Travel to research conferences and doctoral consortia is also supported.
Admission & Application

The PhD program is designed for full-time students. The admissions process is extremely competitive, with over 100 applications received each year for just one to three openings in the program.

The operations and business analytics faculty requires that all applicants take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). If your native language is not English, the university requires the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). This requirement is waived if you have a degree from an English-speaking university. All non-native English speakers who are admitted to the program are required to take the Test of Spoken English (TSE) during their first year on campus.

Meet Elliot Bendoly
PhD Program Director, Professor

Dr. Elliot Bendoly is the Fisher College of Business Distinguished Professor in the Management Sciences, at the Ohio State University, and Operations Management Distinguished Scholar at the Academy of Management. He was formerly the Caldwell Research Fellow at Emory University. At Fisher, he has served as Associate Dean for Fisher’s Undergraduate program and Co-Academic Director of the Specialized Master in Business Analytics. Professor Bendoly is a Senior Editor at the Production and Operations Management journal (Behavioral Operations and Management of Technology departments) and Associate Editor for the Journal of Operations Management. His own publications in POM, JOM, Management Science, Information Systems Research, MIS Quarterly and Journal of Applied Psychology, represent no less than 27 published academic articles, with 32 additional articles appearing in other peer reviewed outlets (Journal of Business Logistics, Decision Sciences, EJOR, IJOPM, etc.; Google scholar h-index of 40). He has authored “Excel Basics to Black Belt”, “Strategic ERP Extension and Use”, “Handbook of Research in Enterprise Systems”, “Handbook of Behavioral Operations Management”, and “Visual Analytics for Management”.

Apply online
go.osu.edu/FisherPhDApp

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