



Course Syllabus: Foundations for the MBA

Dillard College of Business Administration

BUAD 5006 X10 Online

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Lead Instructor: Dr. Grace Zhang

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Office hours: MW 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, TR 10:30 am – 11:00 am, or by appointment

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Course Description

The course provides graduate-level prologue to the accounting, statistics, economics, finance, marketing, management, and management information systems foundations built upon during subsequent graduate classes.

Course Learning Goals

1. General Learning Goals:

- Our students will integrate knowledge across business disciplines. The course builds a proper foundation for further study of the functional areas.
- Our students will produce creative responses to business situations. Our graduates will demonstrate the capability to critically analyze business situations and develop creative solutions to opportunities and problems.

These general learning goals are among those established by the Dillard College of Business Administration. General learning goals represent the skills that graduates will carry with them into their careers. While assessing student performance in obtaining these general learning goals, the Dillard College is assessing its programs. The assessments will assist us as we improve our curriculum and curriculum delivery.

2. Course-Specific Learning Goals: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the accounting principles that form the foundation of an MBA.
- Understand the statistical methods that form the foundation of an MBA.
- Understand the economic principles that form the foundation of an MBA.

- Understand the financial principles that form the foundation of an MBA.
- Understand the management information systems principles that form the foundation of an MBA.
- Understand the marketing principles that form the foundation of an MBA.
- Understand the organizational behavior principles that form the foundation of an MBA.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Lecture notes and other additional materials will be provided in Desire2Learn (D2L).
- D2L access to all course-related activities.
- Recommended but NOT Required Materials
 - Accounting: Financial and Managerial Accounting by Warren, Jones, and Tayler.
 - Business Statistics: Statistics for Business and Economics by Anderson, Sweeney, and Williams
 - Economics: Modern Principles of Micro and Macroeconomics by Cowen and Tabarrok.
 - Finance: Finance: Applications and Theory by Cornett, Adair, and Nofsinger
 - Management: None
 - Management Information System: Using MIS by Kroenke and Boyle
 - Marketing: MKTG 12th by Lamb, Hair, and McDaniel

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Refer to: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Late or Missing Work

Ample time window will be provided to finish class activities. Written verification is mandatory for late or missing work. The instructor must be contacted by the day of the scheduled activity, or NO makeup will be allowed. A deduction may be assessed for a late exam or assignment at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance and Participation

This course follows the university policies regarding attendance. Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled.

Instructor's records of class attendance stand as evidence of absences. Absences will be excused only for approved school trips or severe health issues. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. If Zoom attendance is requested and approved by the instructor, make sure that video camera and microphone work, and the student needs to be presented professionally throughout the meeting.

Class participation in all formats (questions, answers, comments, and feedback) is highly encouraged to achieve a good participation grade.

Grading

Module Exams: There are seven modules in this course. Each module has its own module exam. A passing rate of 70% or better is REQUIRED for EACH module exam to pass the course. Students will be allowed to have a second attempt on each exam if the first attempt is not successful. You will have 120 minutes to complete each attempt. You are required to complete one module exam every two weeks during the semester (see the course content and outline section). Please contact the instructor for any failed attempts.

Table 1: Final grade

Grade	Criteria
CR (Credit)	Seven of the seven module exams grade $\geq 70\%$
NC (No Credit)	Zero to three of the seven module exams grade $\geq 70\%$
I (Incomplete)	Four to six of the seven module exams grade $\geq 70\%$

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation about disability will be required to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU

Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#).

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Content and Outline

Week	Module	Topic
1	Introduction	Syllabus and Course Q&A
2 and 3	Business Finance	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 09/13, 11:59pm.
4 and 5	Business Statistics	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 09/27, 11:59pm.
6 and 7	Macroeconomics and Microeconomics	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 10/11, 11:59pm.
8 and 9	Financial and Managerial Accounting	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 10/25, 11:59pm.
10 and 11	Management	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 11/08, 11:59pm.
12 and 13	Management Information Systems	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.)

Week	Module	Topic
		Module Exam (2 attempts), due 11/22, 11:59pm.
14 and 15	Marketing	Module Introduction and Guidelines Module Content Materials (slides, text, notes, videos, etc.) Module Exam (2 attempts), due 12/6, 11:59pm.
16	Conclusion	Grade Q&A