



Ph.D. in Information, Risk & Operations Management Supply Chain & Operations Management Concentration

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Overview

The doctoral program in the Department of Information, Risk & Operations Management (IROM) offers three distinct concentrations: Supply Chain and Operations Management (SCOM), Risk and Decision Making (RADM) and Information Systems (IS). The primary objective of all three concentrations is to prepare students for careers in research and teaching at leading schools of business. The department is home to over 30 research active faculty, and is well-recognized for its high quality research, educational offerings, and service to the profession.

The Supply Chain and Operations Management (SCOM) doctoral concentration focuses on research issues in supply chain, manufacturing, service, and logistics operations and systems as well as operations linkages with other functional areas of management. The program emphasizes rigorous and relevant research to understand, model, and support strategic, tactical, and operational decisions in supply chain and operations management. To support this research mission, the concentration has developed a set of specific course requirements covering methodological foundations in optimization, stochastic models, economics, and statistics as well as contextual SCOM topics. Within this framework, each student's course of study is designed to accommodate his or her individual background, experiences, and objectives.



Students are encouraged to interact regularly with faculty and students from all areas. Student development is assessed in terms of competence in theory, application, and research skills essential to the advancement of knowledge in his or her chosen topic. The departmental course offerings for graduate students are structured as small seminar courses, usually with five to ten students, providing in-depth study and close faculty contact.

Upon entering the program, students are expected to spend the first one or two years taking methodological coursework, and acquainting themselves with current research issues by attending seminars and engaging in one-on-one discussions with the faculty. Students are expected to become involved with at least one research project as soon as possible. Students who are admitted to the program are usually provided financial support, including stipend, tuition credit, and benefits, for up to five years. Such support is provided through a combination of fellowships and academic job appointments. In addition, funds are available to support student research, conference attendance, and travel.

Areas of Specialization

Students may take courses and select doctoral committee members from a broad interdisciplinary spectrum. Recent IROM graduates have developed programs of study that tie into disciplines such as computer science, engineering, mathematics, economics, communications, and marketing. Major topics in the SCOM area include assortment planning, stochastic inventory management,





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topics at the interface between and finance, revenue management, supply chain planning and contracting issues, decision support modeling and optimization, and simulation.

Faculty, University, and Austin

The IROM Department has an outstanding group of faculty with diverse research interests. Many of its members have achieved international recognition for their contributions to both theoretical and applied research. Faculty members hold important editorial positions with leading journals in the fields of operations management, operations research, and management science. Current Supply Chain and Operations Management faculty members are listed at: www.mcombs.utexas.edu/dept/irom/phd/sofaculty.asp

The university offers an invigorating environment of scholarship set within the technology-rich city of Austin. The campus boasts premier schools and departments in Engineering, Economics, Mathematics, Social Science, and Public Policy, and is also home to one of the largest and best funded library systems in the country. The city of Austin is a major operating base for top technology firms such as Apple Computers, AMD, Applied Materials, Dell, Freescale, IBM, Samsung, and Sun. It is located within driving distance to the business and medical hubs of Dallas and Houston. The McCombs School of Business also hosts the Supply Chain Management Center of Excellence (<http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/scm/>), established with collaboration and support from several leading firms. These and other connections that the school and university have with businesses and government provide many opportunities to interact with practitioners and policy makers.

Austin is an enchanting city equally popular with students and faculty for its diverse culture, music festivals, friendly people, affordable housing, and efficient public services befitting the capital of one of the fastest growing states in the U.S.



Student Placement

Recent graduates from the department have accepted tenure-track faculty positions at well-known U.S. universities such as: Pennsylvania State University, Southern Methodist University, Tulane University, University of Indiana, University of Maryland, and University of Washington. International placements of IROM graduates include tenure-track faculty positions at reputed universities such as: Eindhoven University of Technology, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

