

Competency Based Education (CBE) at Nichols College FAQs

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA); Management (MGMT) concentration

Duration: Depends on the student and their pace

Thesis Requirements: No thesis requirements

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What is the BSBA Management CBE Program?

The BSBA management CBE program is a competency-based education program that prepares leaders for management and leadership roles in an increasingly technological and global society. This program is available online and is tailored specifically for adult learners.

The BSBA Management CBE program is an affordable way to earn a baccalaureate degree. The competencies and courses are offered in seven-week terms so students will be able to accelerate their time to degree completion.

This program is limited to adult learners who have completed at least 24 college level credits.

The courses in the program include business core courses and upper division coursework in the management discipline.

What is competency-based education?

Competency-based education combines an intentional and transparent approach to curricular design with an academic model in which the time it takes to demonstrate competencies varies, and the expectations about learning are held constant. Students acquire and demonstrate their knowledge and skills by engaging in learning exercises, activities and experiences that align with clearly defined programmatic outcomes. Students receive proactive guidance and support from faculty and staff. Learners earn credentials by demonstrating mastery through multiple forms of assessment, often at a personalized pace. (Competency-Based Education Network)

Our CBE course-based program is aligned with the Nichols College mission and is consistent with our traditional seat-based and online program. In this program, we provide an experiential business curriculum that integrates experiences that enhance professional skills and career readiness.

It has been designed to allow students to work at a pace most appropriate for their needs given the subject matter (discipline). Self-paced in this context should not be conflated with the term 'self-study'. There are academic coaches who are subject matter experts in each course. They serve as faculty. In addition, there is a student success coach who assists CBE students throughout their program.

What is an Academic Coach? An Academic Coach serves as a subject matter expert in his/her discipline and is responsible for providing learning content, as needed, to the CBE student. They represent what our faculty do in our non-CBE program. Academic Coaches have industry experience in their discipline and hold master or doctoral degrees in their field.

What is a Student Success Coach? The Student Success Coach serves to assist the student in his/her goals and is responsible for all non-academic guidance to the student. This includes ensuring students make forward progress, advising and mentoring each student during the enrollment process.

How is the CBE program delivered?

The CBE program is delivered 100% online.

How can I self-assess whether CBE is the right program for me?

You will complete a survey to assess your potential fit. In addition, you will meet with the CBE Student Success Coach. Together you will discuss your goals and determine if this program is a good fit for your learning style and goals.

What is the tuition, fees, books and expenses for the program?

The flat-rate tuition fee for a 12-month subscription is \$6,000, or \$5,250 if you are an employee of one of our many corporate partners. There are no addition fees. We use open resource and

faculty developed content, so there are no text books required. Your cost is \$6,000 for a 12-month timeframe. (\$5,250 if you are an employee of a corporate partner)

Is it possible to enroll in courses as a non-matriculated student? (not formally accepted into the CBE degree program yet)

Yes. There will be a different tuition rate for non-matriculated students. Please contact Amanda White for more information.

How many times can I take a course?

You must master each competency within a course at an 80 or better to proceed. You have up to three attempts to demonstrate your mastery of the competency. Your faculty is ready to help you every step of the way. If you do not demonstrate mastery by the third attempt, your student success coach will recommend an alternative program for you. You must master every competency within a course at 80% or better to continue in the program.

What if I need a course to complete my program and it is not offered?

You can take up to 5 courses in our traditional undergraduate evening program during your journey as a CBE student at no additional cost. We have partnered with another college that offers all general education requirements in a CBE format. You could complete the course using Straighter-Line or Study.com and transfer into the CBE program. Courses in the CBE program are delivered in a sequence format and all courses in sequence five must be taken in the CBE program through Nichols. Your student success coach will work out a degree plan that meets your individual needs to meet your goals.

What if something happens in my work or personal life that will prevent me from being successful in a course?

We understand that there will be times life gets in the way of your academic journey. Given you must demonstrate each competency within a course with 80% or better, we have a very flexible withdrawal policy. Students are permitted to drop a course anytime during the seven-week period. Your student success coach is here to help you create a new plan for success and will adjust your timeline based on your current priorities and needs.

How many courses should I take in each 7-week session?

Depending on your personal goals, students can register for up to two courses per 7-week session. Alternately, you can enroll in just one course or take a session off.

What if, based on my knowledge and skills, I can handle more than 2 courses in a 7-week session?

You can accelerate with the expectation that you will complete the coursework by the end of the seven-week session. Once you master all the competencies within a course, you may continue to add courses, one at a time, throughout the seven-week session. Using this method, you are able to shorten your time to degree completion. You are not allowed to add courses during the 5th, 6th or 7th week of the session because we want to ensure you have enough time to be successful.

Can I try a course to see if this is a good fit?

We have an orientation course that is designed to show you the program. All students will complete this course to make sure you are comfortable with the technology, expectations and overall competency set up.

How do I know what credits will transfer and what I will need to take?

Your student success coach will do a preliminary analysis of your prior college credits. To be eligible for this program you must have earned a minimum of 24 college level credits from a regionally accredited institution. Nichols will accept a maximum of 90 college level credits toward the CBE degree program. The total degree program is 120 credit hours.

Is financial aid available?

Yes. Your student success coach will introduce you to our Financial Aid experts.

Do you have a payment plan available?

Yes, we can offer you four payments for your annual fee, your student success coach will direct you to our billing experts.