MBA Elective Policy Guidelines

The Iowa State MBA requires you to complete at least eighteen credit hours of elective coursework. You may choose an area of specialization, but you are also expected to maintain sufficient breadth in your elective coursework. A specialization is not required in the Iowa State MBA.

In order to maintain sufficient breadth when selecting elective courses, you must choose elective coursework from at least three academic areas in the College of Business. Academic areas are identified by these course designations: ACCT, FIN, MKT, MIS, and SCM. MGMT electives include multiple academic areas (e.g., strategy, human resources, entrepreneurship).

MBA specializations offered include accounting, finance, marketing, supply chain management, and technology and innovation management. Each specialization requires nine credits consisting of coursework within the academic area.

With the exception of STEM MBA students who are enrolled in a BS/MBA concurrent degree program, MBA students are expected to take graduate level business courses (numbered 500 and above) as electives. Undergraduate level electives (numbered 400 or below) must be approved in advance by your academic adviser or major professor.

STEM MBA students are limited to three 400-level courses or two 400-level courses and one 300-level course on their MBA program of study. These courses must be approved by your undergraduate and MBA advisers.

MBA students (non-STEM) may take up to six elective credits outside the College of Business. Outside courses may be from other Iowa State University departments or other regionally-accredited institutions. MBA electives may only be transferred from AACSB-accredited business programs. Approval of outside courses by your academic adviser or major professor is required. (Your major professor may approve additional outside credits for extraordinary circumstances.)

Elective coursework may include up to three credits of independent study (“590” designated course).