

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA), 2025-2026

Date: 2/17/2026

In Attendance: Interim Provost Robin Fox; Dean Paul Ambrose (Business & Econ); Dean of Graduate Studies Matt Vick; Department Chair Matt Winden; Program Coordinator Praveen Parboteeah; faculty and staff in the Applied Doctorate in Business program: Pascal Letourneau, Arjan Premti, Balaji Sankaranarayanan, Andy Yu, Andy Ciganek, Yefeng Wang; Program Review Team Chair Kristen Prock; Program Review team members Nick Hwang; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) There was a strong turnout at the meeting, and the program provided a well-written report that clearly conveyed its structure, goals, and outcomes. Student success rates are well documented and remain high, reflecting the program's continued competitiveness in the market and its awareness of that standing. The program's recent adjustments demonstrate a student-centered approach that responds to the needs of prospective and current students, including intentional opportunities for students to connect with faculty before the program begins.
- b) Curricular revisions were implemented to address challenges in the dissertation process, including adding a practice-oriented course to strengthen research preparation. Additional coursework in AI, data analytics, and qualitative research has also been incorporated to align with evolving applied expectations and student feedback.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Can you provide insight as to how the program incorporates student perceptions of the curricular changes and program improvements. Specifically, what are students' perceptions of the pre-work aspect of the program?

The purpose of the summer pre-work and orientation is to help students begin the program with a strong foundation. By completing this preparation in advance, students enter the fall semester ready to engage, rather than feeling as though they must immediately "hit the ground running."

Since implementing these changes, faculty have observed that the first-semester experience is more manageable for students. Orientation includes an overview of what to expect in the initial courses, which helps set clear expectations.

Faculty members report that students now arrive better prepared and are more confident in their understanding of program demands. Previously, students often spent personal time—such as weekends during the fall—to catch up. With the pre-orientation work, they begin the semester with baseline

preparation, reducing the initial shock related to workload and improving their transition into doctoral studies.

2 – Can you provide the program’s perspective on the design and the supports available for students’ unique lived experience? For example, if a student is struggling while completing the program, what support is provided?

The program shared that significant challenges related to students’ unique lived experiences are not common; however, when individual needs arise, faculty are willing to provide personalized, one-on-one support. In one instance, a student required additional individualized guidance, and faculty were able to adjust accordingly. The program noted that challenges tend to be tied to individual circumstances rather than a specific point in the curriculum.

When students are unable to continue due to personal or professional circumstances, they typically return to engage with the program once they can do so.

In addition, the program’s structured supports include the end-of-first-year portfolio review. Students submit a research proposal, which is evaluated using a standard scoring process. Students who do not meet expectations receive remediation and targeted support to help them strengthen their work and continue progressing in the program.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Provide an update on the impact of the program/curricular changes as well as any changes to the assessment plan.

Recommended Action #2

Provide an update on student perspectives of milestones/checkpoints for the dissertation completion process after students complete their required coursework.

Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2032, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2032

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.