

BESTBIZ SCHOOLS

Considering a Career as a Business School Professor?

An Overview of Job Outlook, Work-Life Balance,
and Compensation

AACSB International

Student Resources

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There are many advantages of being a business school faculty member; particularly at the professor level. For instance, business school professors have fairly high job security, flexible working environments, attractive compensation packages, and opportunities to help others through research and teaching.

The Supply and Demand for Business School Professors

Over the last decade, there has been a worrisome shortage of doctorally qualified business school faculty. This has resulted from several factors, including the weakened production of new business doctorates and the exponential growth in business school enrollment (at the undergraduate and graduate level). The unaccommodating level of production could continue into the future (particularly with global economic conditions that place strain on doctoral programs).

The demand for doctorally qualified business school faculty is expected to continue as an increasing percentage of the world's population is predicated to be between the ages of 18 and 24 (and likely pursuing postsecondary degrees). And, it also is anticipated that a large number of adults will continue to return to school. Additionally, the demand may be accentuated by a sudden increase in retirements among business school faculty. On a positive note, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, postsecondary teachers are expected to grow by 15-percent between 2008 and 2018—a faster than average growth rate¹.

The Work-Life Balance for Business Professors

Working as a professor on a college campus provides a great deal of flexibility. Besides meetings with other faculty, specific class times, and office hours, business professors are free to create their own schedules. This is primarily because the institution wants to give ample opportunities for faculty to engage in high-level research and/or manage the courses they teach. After all, most individuals work best when they are able to create their preferred work environment—whether in a laboratory or under a shady tree on campus. Additionally, faculty contracts are based on nine-month intervals. This provides faculty opportunities to research and consult during the remaining months of the year (allowing for additional income earnings).

Performance is typically measured by the quantity of research articles published in acceptable journals and student evaluations (from classes taught). Professors also may be measured by their interaction with students, such as the oversight of academic clubs/centers and/or the management of graduate students (e.g., graduate assistants or doctoral candidates).

¹ (2010). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition. Retrieved on July 20, 2010 from http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm#projections_data.

Attractive Compensation for Business School Faculty

It is no secret that business school faculty members (particularly those that hold PhDs) earn very attractive salaries. This is partly driven by demand and the level of education required for such a position. According to Occupational Employment Statistics, also by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mean annual wage for postsecondary business teachers is 83,840 USD². This figure included both faculty engaged in teaching and research. The report continued by listing U.S. states with the highest concentrations of individuals working in the field—with Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia containing the largest amounts. These areas also have attractive compensation for postsecondary business educators, with average annual salaries of 115,100 USD, 127,219 USD, and 76,700 USD respectively.

According to AACSB International 2009–10 salary data, at public AACSB-accredited business schools (worldwide) professors averaged 129,300 USD annually. Associate professors and assistant professors earned an average of 106,000 USD and 102,600 USD respectively. New doctorates earned an average of 105,500 USD. And, individuals that were hired as “ABD” or “all but dissertation” averaged 92,200 USD. At private AACSB-accredited business schools (worldwide) average earnings have been reported to be 152,800 USD for professors, 117,400 USD for associate professors, 112,800 USD for assistant professors, 119,400 USD for new doctorates, and 87,900 USD for those hired as ABD³.

The income potential for business school faculty is not limited to an annual salary. There are many additional opportunities for business school faculty to earn extra income. For example, summer teaching, consulting, additional research, executive program instruction, textbook writing, and sponsored papers and presentations can all contribute to annual earnings.

Directly Affecting Industry Challenges through Research

Since business school faculty members are required to contribute directly to research, there are many opportunities for doctorally qualified professors to develop answers to industry challenges, as well as explore uncharted areas. Not only is it exciting to be involved in research that may provide critical solutions to apparent industry challenges, it also is personally rewarding. Overall, a business school professor has the ability to think freely and research the corresponding challenges that face his or her discipline.

Helping Students Better Their Future

Many individuals have had a special professor in college. He or she either inspired students to pursue their dreams or helped them to determine the fields they were most interested in. Because of this, many graduates feel passionate about giving back and assisting students in the same way. When teaching a college class, you can expect to meet all kinds of students. Some are working multiple jobs to

² (2009, May). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics. Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2009. 25-1011 Business Teachers, Postsecondary. Retrieved on July 20, 2010 from <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes251011.htm>.

³ (2009). AACSB International. 2009-2010 Global Salary Survey Report.

support their tuition, some are raising a family, and others are the first in their family to enter college. All of them have dreams of a successful career and wish to make a better life for themselves. Therefore, by transferring your knowledge into the classroom you are directly contributing to the futures of students. Being a professor is certainly a job that allows you to go home at the end of the day knowing you did something truly positive.

Additional Information

For more information on doctorate programs in business, faculty salaries, career paths for graduates, and to search for AACSB-accredited programs, visit AACSB International's student Web site at:

www.bestbizschools.com/doctorate

For additional information on AACSB International and its accreditation, visit:

www.aacsb.edu