



IBA California

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION POLICY

A structured catalog for online business education, institutional policies, academic programs, tuition, admissions, and student services.

RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION PHASE

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree at IBA California is a professional doctoral program designed to develop advanced applied research capabilities in business and management. The doctoral dissertation represents the culminating academic requirement of the program and demonstrates the student's ability to conduct **independent, original, and applied research** that contributes to professional practice and knowledge in the field of business.

Students are eligible to enter the Dissertation Phase upon:

- Successful completion of all required coursework
- Achievement of a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) or higher
- Successful completion of the Doctoral Comprehensive Examination
- Approval by the Academic Affairs Office

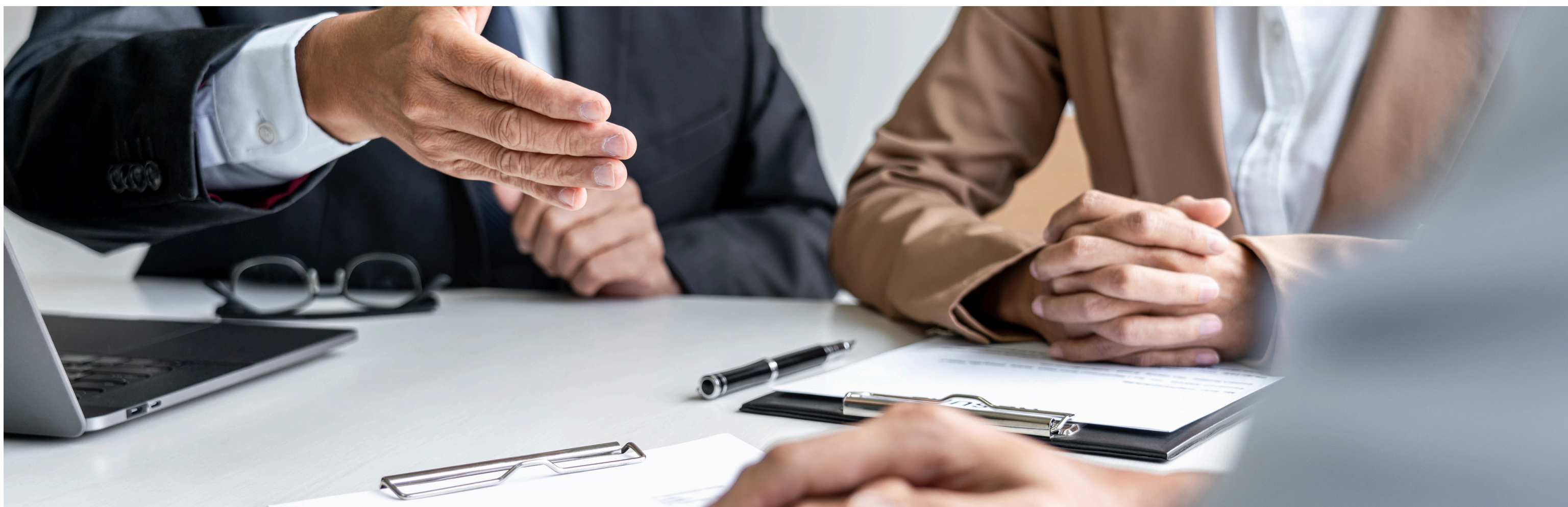
DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Each doctoral candidate will be assigned a Dissertation Committee consisting of a minimum of three qualified faculty members.

- All committee members must hold a **doctoral degree from an accredited or recognized institution**
- Members must demonstrate **academic and/or professional expertise in business, management, or a related field**
- One member shall be designated as the **Dissertation Chair**, responsible for primary supervision

The Dissertation Committee is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving the research topic
- Evaluating the dissertation proposal
- Providing academic guidance throughout the research process
- Reviewing and approving the final dissertation manuscript
- Participating in the final dissertation defense



RESEARCH APPROACH

Doctoral candidates may conduct research using methodologies appropriate to applied business research, including but not limited to:

- Empirical Research (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods involving data collection and analysis)
- Applied/Practice-Based Research (case studies, organizational analysis, strategic frameworks)
- Critical Analysis Research (evaluation and synthesis of existing theories leading to new models or frameworks)

All research must demonstrate:

- Academic rigor
- Ethical compliance
- Relevance to contemporary business practice

DISSERTATION PROCESS (THREE STAGES)

The doctoral dissertation is completed in the following structured stages:

1. RESEARCH TOPIC APPROVAL

Students must submit a **Research Topic Approval Form (RTAF)** outlining:

- Proposed research topic
- Research objectives
- Proposed methodology
- Relevance to business practice

The purpose of this stage is to:

- Ensure feasibility and academic relevance
- Provide early guidance from faculty

Progression requires formal written approval from the Dissertation Committee.

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2. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

Following topic approval, students must develop a **formal dissertation proposal**, which includes:

- Introduction and research problem
- Literature review
- Research methodology and design
- Data collection and analysis plan
- Ethical considerations

Key requirements:

- The proposal must be submitted in written form
- Approval must be granted **before any data collection or research begins**
- Verbal feedback from faculty does not constitute formal approval

The proposal must meet institutional academic standards and be approved by the Dissertation Committee.

3. DISSERTATION MANUSCRIPT AND DEFENSE

Upon proposal approval, students proceed to:

- Conduct research
- Analyze findings
- Research methodology and design
- Prepare the final dissertation manuscript

The dissertation must:

- Follow institutional formatting and academic writing standards
- Demonstrate originality and applied contribution to business practice
- Be written in clear, scholarly English



FINAL ORAL DEFENSE

As a final requirement, doctoral candidates must successfully complete an **oral defense** of their dissertation:

- Conducted via **videoconference or in person**
- Evaluated by the Dissertation Committee
- Students must demonstrate:
 - Mastery of their research topic
 - Ability to defend methodology and findings
 - Contribution to professional practice

A Pass decision is required for degree completion.

FINAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Upon successful completion of the dissertation and defense:

- Students must submit the final approved dissertation in digital format
- The institution may require an additional archival-quality bound copy for record retention
- The dissertation becomes part of the permanent academic record of IBA California