GORDON FORD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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www.wku.edu/business

History
The long, rich history of the Gordon Ford College of Business is traced back to 1874. Its forerunner, Bowling Green Business University (BU), was a prestigious private four-year business college. In June 1963, the Western Kentucky State Normal School (later Western Kentucky University) assumed the business programs of the BU and named it the Bowling Green College of Commerce in 1964. To honor the generosity of Gordon B. Ford, the college was renamed the Gordon Ford College of Business in December of 1998, becoming the second named business school in Kentucky. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB, accredits all business programs offered by the College. WKU is one of only three universities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to have “dual accreditation” meaning that both its business and accounting programs are AACSB accredited.

Mission
The Mission of the Gordon Ford College of Business is to be a leader in providing high quality, applied undergraduate business education and select graduate programs that meet the needs of the business community. In fulfilling the College and University missions, and with a balanced emphasis on teaching, research, and service, the highly-qualified faculty of the Gordon Ford College strives for effective teaching and active student learning. The faculty demonstrates competency through continuous intellectual activity in discipline-based, applied or instructional research. The currency and relevancy of research and pedagogical activity are supported by active faculty participation with professional associations and projects and other initiatives with business, industry, and government organizations.

Center for Applied Data Analytics
https://www.wku.edu/information-systems/cada.php
Kirk Atkinson, Director
(270) 745-5408

The mission of the Gordon Ford College of Business Center for Applied Analytics is to advance the science and practice of business analytics by bringing together professional and community-based constituents, faculty, and students; to promote economic development, collaborative research, outreach, and education in the areas of applied analytics. We achieve our mission using our primary goals.

Outreach
• Enhance the economic impact to the geographic area served by Western Kentucky University by analyzing customer, production, operational, and market data to improve decision making and enhance the quality of their company’s products and services.
• Assist clients in synthesizing, aggregating, and analyzing data.

Education
• Train students and business professionals to leverage appropriate technologies and best practices used in data analytics.
• Provide our students with real-world experience and internships which promote potential job opportunities.

Collaborative Research
• Serves as a central facility to bring together expertise from a wide variety of disciplines.
• Perform applied interdisciplinary research that aids all aspects of our overall goals.

Center for Applied Economics
wkuappliedeconomics.org/ (http://www.wkuappliedeconomics.org)
Sebastian Leguizaman, Director
(270) 745-3970

The WKU CAE is an outreach of the WKU Department of Economics and Gordon Ford College of Business. It serves as an economic information access point for Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky, provides a bridge between technical research in economics and the local community on relevant topics, provides fee-based studies, and engages graduate students in applied analysis.

Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI)
www.wku.edu/cei/
entrepreneurship@wku.edu (entrepreneurship@wku.edu)
Whitney Peake, Director
Grise Hall 234
(270) 745-4142

The mission of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation is to increase and develop entrepreneurial students through engaged learning, by enhancing connections across campus, and in strengthening community relationships. Making Connections to and for Entrepreneurial Students!

Center for Financial Success
www.wku.edu/cfs/
financialsuccess@wku.edu
Andrew Head, Director
Grise Hall 324
(270) 745-3425

The mission of the WKU Center for Financial Success is to be the primary and coordinating resource in aiding the university and regional community in becoming financially informed and independent by utilizing a combination of faculty expertise, peer-to-peer counseling and applied financial planning education.

We would love to help you create a plan and ensure that you are on track to reaching your financial goals. Topics that we cover include, but are not limited to:
• Budgeting/Spending Plans
• Debt Management
• Student Loans
• Credit
As business culture becomes more global, more sophisticated, and more competitive, the need for insightful and innovative leadership strategies is more important than ever. The Center for Leadership Excellence in the Gordon Ford College of Business at WKU is committed to providing a world-class center for leadership development practices and research information.

The Center will move beyond the methods and styles (the what) used by leadership in the past and the present to the reasons behind those successful strategies (the why) and identifies contexts and circumstances in which strategies can be most successful.

**Mission**

The Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) serves as a resource that advances the understanding and applications of leadership in contemporary society.

**Vision**

An active and vibrant community that develops, enhances, promotes, and advances leadership adapted to diverse contexts.

**Purpose**

- Serve as a preferred resource and depository for leadership information and application
- Work collaboratively across WKU, with other universities, and with external organizations
- Provide outreach for leadership and followership development
- Evaluate results of leadership action and recommend continued development of strong, positive, and diverse leadership behaviors
- Cultivate networks of mutually interested and involved parties through leadership activities

**Goals**

- Train
- Research
- Support external/internal constituents
- Provide professional development
- Maintain a university-wide, interdisciplinary focus and area of work

**Strategies**

- Promote leader-follower relationships

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Welcome to the WKU Center for Professional Selling. Our Sales Program is one of 20 Fully Certified Sales Programs in the United States as a member of the University Sales Center Alliance, and we are one of eight programs in the country offering an academic major and minor in sales. The WKU Center for Professional Selling is the only certified program in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the surrounding geographic area. This Center was formed in July 2007 with two specific goals:

1. **Education Focus**: Enhance the perception of the sales profession while preparing students for a career in sales. Development of appropriate curriculum to include both a major and minor in Sales.
2. **Business Focus**: Strengthen the relationship between WKU and Corporations. Develop partnerships with corporations to provide real-world classroom activities in addition to internship or full-time employment opportunities.

Since 2007, our growth has been outstanding! We have grown more than 300% in the last decade and are among the fastest growing programs on campus. Currently, we have nearly 300 students who are either majoring or minoring in sales. Within that minor, more than 20 different majors are represented, ranging from finance to public relations and agriculture to psychology.

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**Center for the Study of Capitalism**

The purpose of the WKU BB&T Center for the Study of Capitalism is to create a comprehensive program of study on the moral foundations of capitalism. It provides resources and learning opportunities to students and the public regarding capitalism’s role in society.

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**Departments and Programs**

- **Department of Accounting**
  - Accountancy, Master of Accountancy (0445)
  - Economic Data Analytics, Certificate (0491)
  - Economic Data Analytics, Certificate (0491)
- **Department of Economics**
  - Applied Economics, Master of Arts (0410)
  - Economic Data Analytics, Certificate (0491)
- **Department of Finance**
- **Department of Information Systems**
- **Department of Management**
- **Department of Marketing**
- **GFCB Interdisciplinary Programs**
• Business Administration, Master of Business Administration (057) (http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/business/deansofficeprograms/business-administration-mba)
• Business Core Competencies, Certificate (0487) (http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/business/deansofficeprograms/business-core-certificate)
• Business Sustainability, Certificate (0474) (http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/business/deansofficeprograms/business-sustainability-certificate)