DOCTORAL STUDIES PROGRAM
Few things have a greater impact than a good idea. That's why our Doctoral Studies Program encourages, challenges, and empowers you to ask big questions, think boldly, and chase the ideas that make the biggest impact. At Michigan Ross, you'll get the freedom and flexibility to pursue your passions through thought, collaboration, and research. You'll develop your teaching skills, refine your writing skills, and launch your academic career. So when it's time to step into a faculty position at one of the world's leading universities...

YOU’LL BE READY.
It’s my pleasure to welcome you to a top-ranked business school operating within one of the largest and very best research universities in the world.

As a PhD student at Michigan Ross, you will work side by side with faculty who are shaping their fields and the global business community with groundbreaking research. You will join a research enterprise where faculty address important questions using unique approaches. Sometimes that’s economic or behavioral models. Sometimes the methodology blends the two, and sometimes it incorporates innovations from other fields. You’re free to choose different paths while taking full advantage of the rich breadth and depth of intellectual inquiry found throughout the university.

The Doctoral Studies Program at Michigan Ross in particular prides itself on its diversity of scholars. Because we are a general management institution, our seven areas of study are equally strong. As a result, we have doctoral students from around the world exploring myriad topics. The international composition of students and range of scholarship in our midst mirrors the global business community of the 21st century and fosters creative problem solving.

Just as the multidisciplinary nature of Ross and of the University of Michigan are defining features of the institution, so too is the degree to which faculty and doctoral students work together and truly collaborate. Our faculty regard PhD students as “faculty in training” and, thus, colleagues. This leads to a supportive but also challenging and rewarding environment, both professionally and personally.

I invite you to apply to our Doctoral Studies Program and hope to welcome you as a colleague in the near future.

Best wishes,

Thomas Buchmueller
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research
Waldo O. Hildebrand Professor of Risk Management and Insurance
Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy
READY TO ASK BIG QUESTIONS

Questions are the wheel that moves the world forward.
At Ross, we encourage students to challenge the status quo by asking big, tough, thought-provoking questions.

Do Banks Really Sell Securities to Smooth Earnings?  JOHN ALAND // PhD ’21
Why Do Banks Hide Losses? THOMAS FLANAGAN // PhD ’24
How Can Leaders Be Effective and Maintain Their Well-Being? KATHERINE K. BAE // PhD ’23
Examining the Economic Tether and the Meaning of Work: The Case of the Financial Independence Retire Early (FIRE) Movement. LAURA SONDAY // PhD ’21
How Do Members of a Startup Deal with Losses Associated with Rapid Growth? HILARY HOYT HENDRICKS // PhD ’24
Seeing the New Through the Old: The Constraining Effects of Experience and Status on Analysts’ Evaluation in New Markets. RAJI KUNAPULI // PhD ’21
How Does the Moralization of Intrinsic Motivation Impact an Organization? MIJEONG KWON // PhD ’22
Do Urgent Care Centers Decrease Spending and Increase Access to Care? GIA COMO MEILLE // PhD ’21

YOUR QUESTION MAKES AN IMPACT
Prashant Rajaram came to Michigan to follow his intellectual curiosity.
He discovered a way to improve the user experience and the effectiveness of a streaming video platform by optimizing the sequence and duration of ads. Today he’s an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Western Ontario’s Ivey Business School.

PRASHANT RAJARAM // PhD ’21
WINNER: BEST PAPER AWARD AT THE 2019 HARING SYMPOSIUM
“FINDING THE SWEET SPOT: AD SCHEDULING ON STREAMING MEDIA”
MAKE FIVE YEARS LAST A LIFETIME
A doctoral education is a once-in-a-lifetime investment that sets you up for a lifetime of learning. The intimate size of the Ross program is designed to foster in-depth research and develop teaching abilities in close partnership with the school’s renowned faculty. A steady stream of coursework, assistantships, research, and other opportunities does make it challenging, but also incredibly rewarding.

GREAT FACULTY AREN’T BORN, THEY’RE MADE
It starts on day one. Even while you’re in the program, you’ll be seen as a future faculty member. This distinctive feature of our PhD program develops your expertise in four key areas:
- Research
- Teaching
- Service
- Administration
You’ll also develop the interpersonal skills and awareness needed to work as a valued colleague in an academic setting.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT
Because our graduates typically pursue academic careers at top-notch schools, we require our PhD students to teach an undergraduate course for one term. Our Teacher Development Program guides students by providing mentors and addressing instructional concerns through multiple avenues:
- Lectures, workshops, and brown-bag lunch discussions
- A teaching methodology course
- Class observations of master teachers
- Instructional presentations
- Experience with the latest technologies
The diverse techniques our faculty employ—from the case method to action-based learning to interactive video—provide a solid base for exploration.
Our Faculty in Training Program prepares you to break into the market, and our dedicated support teams help you land just about anywhere. We offer individualized guidance and support to navigate the defense process successfully.

"the moment when..."

I definitely had a nontraditional path to a business PhD, so it was a priority to find a program where that would be an asset. I thought the Ross faculty were the kind of researchers that I could learn a lot from, and I was really impressed by what Michigan had to offer as a university.

ANN BOWERS // PhD '08
Rotman School of Management
University of Toronto

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

In the past five years, 100 percent of Ross PhD graduates secured research positions before graduation and 75 percent received tenure-track assistant professor positions.
READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

Our small class sizes help us tailor the learning environment to empower students with the resources they need to succeed. One of the most valuable resources is exceptional access to our faculty. Starting on day one, our students collaborate with our world-class faculty as research assistants, co-authors, and in other capacities that move the research enterprise forward.

ALWAYS LEARNING
The Ross Doctoral Studies Program puts you in a position to step back from the day-to-day and examine why the business world works as it does. Our students collaborate with faculty on research projects and ask big, far-reaching questions that bridge the theoretical and practical. The atmosphere is intellectual and spirited. The doors are always open. The classroom is just the start.

ALWAYS LEADING
Michigan Ross is a leader in programmatic innovation and action-based learning in business education. The Aspen Institute recognizes Ross as one of the leading business schools in the world for integrating ethical, social, and environmental issues into its curriculum. In addition to world-class academic departments in core business disciplines, Michigan Ross houses research institutes and centers that provide extraordinary thought leadership and learning opportunities:

- Center for Positive Organizations
- Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise
- Mitsui Life Financial Research Center
- Office of Tax Policy Research
- Paton Center for Research in Accounting
- Tauber Institute for Global Operations

ALWAYS LEVERAGING
The University of Michigan is the top public research university in the United States, according to the National Science Foundation. It is highly regarded in many fields, including the social sciences, economics, psychology, sociology, and statistics. It also is home to the nation’s preeminent academic social science laboratory, the Institute for Social Research, a superb college of engineering, and highly ranked schools of law and medicine. The Michigan Ross doctoral program leverages the university’s resources by allowing students to pursue coursework in other disciplines.

ALWAYS LISTENING
We value diversity of background, experiences, and thought because we learn from our differences. As a recipient of the Rackham Faculty Allies Diversity Grant and Student Ally for Diversity Grant, our PhD program develops and builds upon diversity initiatives, which fosters a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment.
READY TO BE INSPIRED

No matter where you are at Ross, you’re steps away from open, light-filled spaces that facilitate gatherings of all kinds. The Robertson Auditorium, Seigle Cafe, and the bright, spacious Davidson Winter Garden are just some of the inspiring spaces you’ll find on campus.

CUTTING-EDGE CLASSROOMS
A variety of classroom sizes, configurations, and technological capabilities supports any learning style. Each of our classrooms has group study rooms nearby to foster the conversations, collaborations, and explorations essential to successful team-based learning.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
 Seamlessly integrated technology enables students and faculty to interact on campus and with project sponsors all over the globe. You’ll also have access to our Research Computing office for computation, data management, computer programming, and statistical analysis. Students conduct studies in human behavior for various areas of study, like marketing, decision science, strategy, and leadership, in the Ross Behavior Lab.

HEALTHY LIVING
You’ll have access to the Och Fitness Center, which features free weights as well as strength and aerobic machines. There are plenty of healthy eating options on campus with Seigle Cafe, the Executive Dining Room, Seven10 East Cafe, and a conveniently located Starbucks.

THE THREE PRIMARY BUILDINGS AT MICHIGAN ROSS ARE CERTIFIED AS LEED SILVER AND GOLD.

"The moment when..."

YOUR UNIQUE PATH PAYS OFF

The program has really been incredible in its support of my development, and on two fronts in particular: first, my advisor (and broader committee members) are always available to read recent drafts of my work and meet to discuss needed edits and second, the program has committed itself to my development as an instructor through formal and informal feedback and classroom observation. I can’t say enough about how appreciative I am!

DEREK LIEF // PhD STUDENT
READY FOR THE IDEAL SETTING

As home to one of the greatest universities in the world, Ann Arbor is a city that is both intellectually robust and economically resilient. The University of Michigan attracts global leaders in all fields, including medicine, life sciences, law, engineering, public policy, and education. Rich with history and tradition, U-M and Ann Arbor offer a classic college town experience.

A CULTURAL HOT SPOT
Ann Arbor enjoys an international reputation for its vibrant entertainment, music, and performing arts scene. In addition to bringing Yo-Yo Ma and the Berlin Philharmonic to town, the University Musical Society also hosts the only U.S. residency of England’s Royal Shakespeare Company. The recently renovated University of Michigan Museum of Art features dramatic new galleries that highlight pieces drawn from the museum’s more than 18,000 works.

A GOOD PLACE TO BE HUNGRY/THIRSTY
You can find whatever you want to eat (or cook) in Ann Arbor, no matter your taste or budget. Restaurants and specialty grocery stores abound, and there’s no shortage of bars, breweries, and distilleries. A word to the wise: If you leave Ann Arbor without going to Zingerman’s Delicatessen, you’ll never know just how exciting a sandwich can be.

AN OUTDOOR OASIS
Imagine biking more than 60 miles of scenic trails, kayaking down the Huron River, exploring the Nichols Arboretum, or taking advantage of Ann Arbor’s many golf courses. Michigan’s beaches, sand dunes, lighthouses, and marinas are just some of the welcoming attractions found within a day’s drive of the city. Local attractions such as the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, the petting zoo at Domino’s Farms, and fall hayrides and cider mill tours will delight the whole family.
Michigan Ross is the birthplace of modern accounting research. Its Doctoral Studies Program builds on this tradition by developing the next generation of academic leaders who will produce work of lasting importance at the nation’s top research-oriented universities. Placements in the last five years include the University of Chicago, Cornell, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford.

A major strength of our program is its productive and highly regarded research faculty, who focus on issues of importance to the accounting and business communities. Our recent research topics include the impact of accounting information on capital markets and the behavior of decision-makers within firms. The Ross PhD program in accounting also is well-known for its emphasis on close faculty–student interaction. We only admit two or three students into the program each year, which fosters joint research and ensures a highly collegial environment.

COURSES
Entering students are expected to have completed courses in introductory finance, advanced-level financial accounting, and intermediate managerial accounting in addition to the school’s required background and analytical tools courses.

All doctoral students majoring in accounting also are required to complete the following minimum course requirements:

- Econometrics/statistics (3 courses)
- Economics (2 courses)
- Finance (2 courses)
- PhD seminars in accounting
- Electives (normally fulfilled in economics, finance, statistics, or operations management)

RESEARCH
The program requires two projects: a research proposal (at a minimum) completed in the first year, and a small-scale study completed in the second year.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AND CANDIDACY
After completing coursework and the first research project, students may take the preliminary written exam. They advance to candidacy by passing the exam and completing the second research project. The remainder of the program is devoted to the dissertation.

“Collaboration” is a buzzword on many campuses. But as an alumnus and faculty member, Greg Miller knows it’s a way of life at Ross. “What makes Michigan Ross special is how the faculty and students interact,” he says. “PhD students are truly involved in the life of the department, providing great experiences and bringing energy to the faculty. That relationship is the heart of our PhD experience, and I believe it is unique among accounting programs.” Miller calls his student experience “more than just a set of classes; it was an apprenticeship into being a scholar.” Now, he is responsible for cultivating that experience for others. “What makes Ross students stand out is their passion for answering real questions in a way that adds value for researchers, students, and practitioners,” he says. “The diversity of our people allows us to have rich discussions and investigations into many areas — providing true engagement without dogma.” Miller spent 10 years on the faculty at Harvard before returning to Ann Arbor in 2008. His research focuses on financial communication — understanding how managers use financial information and the markets to communicate to outside stakeholders and opinion formers.

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At Ross, you have the opportunity to learn from and work with some of the top scholars in the field. The faculty invest a significant amount of time and energy into mentoring PhD students, whether it’s discussing new ideas, providing feedback on early work, or collaborating on joint research projects. They also encourage you to think carefully and creatively to tackle the big questions that not only contribute to the academic literature, but also have meaningful practical implications.

After spending five years in this intellectually challenging and collegial environment, you will be equipped with all of the skills that are needed to achieve a placement at a leading research university.”

ANDREA DOWN // PhD ’20
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING
ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
The PhD in Business and Economics is a joint degree offered by Michigan Ross and the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan. The goal of the joint program is to provide scholars with the best training in the theoretical and methodological approaches used in economics, combined with the specific training in business applications offered at Ross. The program is designed to serve students who have interests in broad microeconomic research areas relevant to business, including industrial organization, and business-related topics in labor, environmental, health, international, and development economics. Graduates of this program are expected to be particularly attractive hires for academic positions in economics groups in business schools, as well as economics departments, policy schools, and schools of public health.

COURSES
Students devote the first two years of the program to meeting core and secondary requirements. Core requirements include:

- Microeconomic theory (4 courses of 1.5 credits each, and a preliminary exam in the summer of the first year)
- Macroeconomic theory (2 courses of 3 credits each, and a preliminary exam in the summer of the first year)
- Methods (math for economists and 3 econometrics courses of 3 credits each)

Secondary requirements include:

- BE seminars (5 courses of 1.5 credits each, with a B+-average grade requirement)
- A field of economics, such as industrial organization, international economics, or labor economics (2 courses, plus a field exam in the summer of the second year)
- Additional courses as necessary

RESEARCH
Students complete an empirical research project by the end of their third year.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AND CANDIDACY
Students are expected to fulfill core and secondary requirements, including micro and macro preliminaries, and a field exam in one chosen field by the end of the summer of the second year to pass into candidacy. The remainder of the program is devoted to the dissertation.

I chose the joint doctorate program in business and economics at U-M because I felt it brought together the best elements of both areas. Over the next few years, I will take on rigorous technical and theoretical training in economics, opportunities to learn from and interact with world-class faculty and students across two areas, and the resources to do research in applied microeconomics and business topics. More broadly, I was drawn to the highly supportive environment Michigan Ross offers to its graduate students. Students have ample access to faculty, to the resources they need to complete their PhD programs successfully, and to an excellent placement office to help them compete in the job market.”

EVELYN SMITH // PhD CANDIDATE

JAGADEESH SIVADASAN
Associate Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy

Jagadeesh Sivadasan says the program provides a unique environment for students interested in business-related economic research. “The small program size and depth of support provided by Ross — combined with the coursework, faculty breadth, and placement support of the Economics Department — gives students a supportive setting for study and research,” he says. Students in the program can follow a wide range of interests in economic fields where research has implications for business and related government policy. “Faculty in the business and economics group have varied interests encompassing industrial organization, health, international, environmental, and development economics,” he says. Sivadasan’s own research centers on how firm performance is impacted by a variety of government policies, such as labor, foreign entry, and trade regulation, as well as by firms’ strategic choices. “In today’s economy, firms are the key engines of innovation, propelling economic growth and improvements in social welfare across both developing and rich countries. I am fascinated by what makes firms in some countries more productive than others.”

EVELYN SMITH // PhD CANDIDATE