SFU Beedie has more than 20 years of experience in online business education. Our Graduate Diploma in Business Administration program has been delivered entirely online since 1999, and during that time we have developed a sophisticated online learning environment and instructors who are highly skilled in teaching remotely.

The SFU Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) is a competitive credential that offers the rigour of MBA-level courses with greater flexibility.

It’s delivered 100% online, which means it’s valuable now: you can pursue it while you work and immediately apply your heightened business acumen. And it’s valuable later: you can put your GDBA toward a future MBA at SFU Beedie.

The GDBA is your first step toward the next step.

“The immediate impact of the GDBA has been a change in the way I approach my day professionally. I am equipped to make better decisions. My confidence level has been elevated significantly, and I am enjoying a new sense of optimism in my career.”

– Percival Chang, GDBA & MBA Alumnus Regional Vice President, British Columbia, MD Financial Management

ABOUT SFU BEEDIE
Simon Fraser University’s Beedie School of Business is a dynamic business school with a reputation for delivering world-class research and programs across our three British Columbia campuses. We pioneered Canada’s first Executive MBA and the first Indigenous Business Leadership EMBA in North America. Accredited by AACSB and EQUIS, we are recognized for our innovation, social responsibility, and global outlook. SFU Beedie is home to SFU RADIUS, our social innovation hub, and the Charles Chang Institute for Entrepreneurship. Today, we have more than 30,000 alumni in over 80 countries. 2022 marked SFU Beedie’s 40th anniversary.
Whether the GDBA is your starting point or end goal, it will boost your career by giving you solid grounding in a broad spectrum of business theory and practice, deepening your understanding of the different functional areas of a company and enabling you to collaborate with colleagues across every discipline.

Just how rigorous are courses in our GDBA program? They are equivalent to those in our three MBAs. In fact, many are taught by the same professors and instructors, following the same methodology and covering the same relevant content.

Here’s how the GDBA works:

• Begin when you like: in January, May, or September
• Attend GDBA Boot Camp, a 14-day online orientation before classes begin
• Complete the program in 24 months (six semesters) by taking one course per semester while working full-time—or take more or less time as your schedule allows
• Each course is delivered online in weekly or bi-weekly modules
• Each course typically involves 15-17 hours per week
• Each course in the program ends with a final exam/paper

CURRICULUM
Before classes begin you’ll attend a 14-day GDBA Boot Camp that will prepare you, and your entire cohort, for learning in an online graduate-level business program.

MBA TRANSFERABLE CREDITS
Want to work toward one of our three MBAs? You will need 14 credits of the following courses to ladder into an SFU MBA.

GDBA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOUNDATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP</th>
<th>FULL-TIME MBA</th>
<th>PART-TIME MBA</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing People &amp; Organizations</td>
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<td>Financial &amp; Managerial Accounting</td>
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<td>Business Ethics (1/2 course)</td>
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BUILD TOWARDS YOUR MBA

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<tr>
<th>MANUFACTURING</th>
<th>FULL-TIME MBA</th>
<th>PART-TIME MBA</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Analytics</td>
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<td>Managerial Economics</td>
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<td>Managerial Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
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CUSTOMIZE FOR YOUR CAREER

Choose which area you’d like to specialize in

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</th>
<th>FULL-TIME MBA</th>
<th>PART-TIME MBA</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology Management</td>
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<td>Project Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Indigenous Peoples (1/2 course)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students proceeding to one of the MBA programs should be aware that not all courses may be waived. In particular, University policy specifies that no more than 50% of a program’s credit requirements may be waived.

* Students must achieve a grade of at least 3.0 GPA (B) for the course to be transferable and subject to successful admission to an MBA program.
** GDBA courses are valid to be eligible to transfer to an MBA program, for up to 3 years after completion.
*** Students who achieve a CGPA in their GDBA courses (14 credits) of at least 3.50, will receive a GMAT waiver. Credits required to complete the GDBA, 24 credits

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A VALUABLE QUALIFICATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT

“The GDBA program helped me build up a solid knowledge base and primed me for success in my career. As someone who has been out of school for a long time, the GDBA allowed me to step back in to the academic space and exceeded my expectations from a professional application standpoint.”

– Hang Zhu, GDBA Alumnus, Branch Manager, Scotiabank

“I decided to pursue the online GDBA program as it would provide me with crucial business knowledge and give me time to see how business and the performing arts could intersect”

– Katherine Cowie, GDBA Alumna, Dance Rehearsal Director, Arts Umbrella

“The GDBA program helped me build up a solid knowledge base and primed me for success in my career. As someone who has been out of school for a long time, the GDBA allowed me to step back in to the academic space and exceeded my expectations from a professional application standpoint.”

– Hang Zhu, GDBA Alumnus, Branch Manager, Scotiabank
“It's easy to fit the program into your life, and it made the transition to the MBA easier, especially into some of the more intimidating courses like accounting and finance. There is overlap in courses that strengthen your knowledge by examining subjects from different perspectives.”

–Alecsandra Dragne, GDBA & MBA Alumnus Coordinator,
  Government of Canada
Because our GDBA is offered 100% online, you’ll have complete control over your studies; you can expect to spend 10 to 15 hours per week on your courses – how you divide that up is up to you.

To deepen your connections to your colleagues and keep everyone on pace, your cohort will move through modules together, meeting the same dates for individual and team assignments.

What you study is up to you as well. Based on your passions or your professional goals, you can decide which direction you take your designation.

The GDBA has three different start dates during the year: January, May and September. So you won’t have to wait long to get started.

For most students, the GDBA takes two years to complete, but you can move through the program faster or slower if you prefer. Gearing up for an especially busy time in your personal or professional life? You can opt to take a semester off and pick things up again next round.

“Every course has its weekly assignments and deadlines, but within that you have a lot of freedom to work on your own timetable. I never found the workload unmanageable, and I was always able to maintain my family commitments and meet my other responsibilities during the program.”

– Michael Millard, GDBA Alumnus
Video Producer,
Basetwo Media Inc.
Interaction is key to the GDBA program – not just with a computer screen, but with your cohort and professors. Its format is entirely different from a MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) or traditional distance-learning courses.

Here, discussions are live and designed to encourage everyone to take part. As a result, GDBA candidates and instructors connect more closely than they do in face-to-face classes where discussions can be dominated by a few students.

Never participated in an online program before? Don’t worry – our GDBA program is intuitive and user-friendly.

YOUR COHORT. YOUR KEY CONTACTS.
Admissions to our GDBA program are competitive, which means you’ll be part of a high-calibre cohort that will bring to the equation their diverse experience and expertise. Many of them will become lifelong friends and invaluable contacts.

REAL BUSINESS EDUCATION FOR THE REAL BUSINESS WORLD
Our curriculum is built on real-world business problems with conceptual frameworks woven throughout. You and your cohort will have the opportunity to bring business challenges you’re facing into the discussion, where you, your peers and your instructors can collaborate on solutions, learning from each other in the process.

LEARN THROUGH AN ENGAGING FORMAT
Interactive learning is key to the GDBA. You, your fellow candidates and your instructors have countless opportunities to collaborate through team projects and online study groups. The online format allows instructors to bring the course materials to life through innovative methods like multimedia learning and virtual seminars.

52% Men 48% Women
11 Average years of work experience 35 Average Age
*Average of 3 intakes Spring, Summer & Fall 2021
Renowned worldwide, our faculty is known for their cutting-edge research. But it’s not all ivory tower around here. Our professors and instructors have extensive industry experience to help you prepare for your own.

The same professors who teach our highly regarded MBA programs teach the GDBA. They have a wealth of professional experience and specific business expertise, and are known for their outstanding teaching.

Your professors will be readily available by email, through the learning management system, and, if you happen to be based in Vancouver: in person.

“Online delivery programs such as the GDBA program at SFU offer students maximum flexibility, as well as opportunities for intensive interaction and feedback from both other students and the instructor. Students receive ongoing support as they master concepts and undergo experiences that will enable them to be thought leaders of the future.”

– Dianne Cyr

Dianne Cyr, PhD
[University of British Columbia]
PROFESSOR, MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Dr. Cyr focuses her research on the design of websites and explores how design elements result in user trust, satisfaction, and e-loyalty in an e-commerce context. Unique aspects of this research explore between culture differences and differences with respect to gender. Previously Dr. Cyr was the Academic Chair of the Surrey MBA and the Academic Director for the Business Technology Management Program.

Michael Johnson, PhD
[University of Windsor]
SENIOR LECTURER, TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Dr. Johnson is passionate about teaching statistics, quantitative methods and operations management courses. He is the recipient of the 2011 Canada Trust Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Johnson is a former engineer who improved productivity and operational work flows in high-tech, automotive and process related industries. He has also worked as a consultant on a number of industry and research related projects related to operations research and management science.

Anthony Chan, PhD
[Simon Fraser University]
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Anthony Chan is a Lecturer of Strategy, Innovation and Technology and is currently the academic director of the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) and Full-Time MBA programs at SFU’s Beedie School of Business. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate-level courses on management information systems, strategy, innovation, entrepreneurship and international business and is a recipient of the 2013 TD Canada Trust Distinguished Teaching Award and a Faculty Teaching Fellow.
If you’ve ever ridden a waterslide, you might have Kelly Williams to thank for making the experience both fun and safe. As Manager of Waterslide Engineering for WhiteWater West Industries Ltd., Kelly and his team are behind some of the best and safest waterslide designs in the world. Skills learned at SFU Beedie help Kelly with the kinds of complex decisions and problem solving involved in such technical work—a role he calls a “dream job”.

The structure of the GDBA and its potential application to a future MBA sold him on the program, allowing him to add a solid foundation in business theory to his 18 years of experience working in manufacturing and high-tech.

“Don’t wait to elevate your career. Start now. Because you can continue to work full time while you pursue your GDBA, you can enhance your career as you pursue your studies.

- Gain a competitive edge by developing in-demand business skills
- Demonstrate your commitment to career development and lifelong learning
- Move directly from the GDBA to an MBA through one of three MBA pathways
- Experience for yourself what graduate-level business education is really like
- Gain a valuable designation in the process

**CAREER SERVICES**
Maybe you know exactly what type of role you’re looking for. Maybe you have only a vague idea what the future holds for your career. Either way, in our GDBA program you’ll have access to the online resources every one of our graduates students have.

Among these are:

- A Beedie-specific job board with more than 2,000 jobs posted annually
- Online job search resources designed specifically for business students, including career guides developed by the Career Management Centre

“The GDBA changed the way I think and approach complex problems. Being able to see clarity where other people are struggling with a little bit of chaos, allows you to be a leader.”

— Kelly Williams, GDBA Alumnus
Manager, Waterslide Engineering
WhiteWater West
APPLICATION PROCESS
• Complete the online application form
• Required supporting documents:
  – Official transcripts
  – Essay
  – Resume
  – Two letters of reference from supervisors or former professors
  – Video assessment for shortlisted candidates

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
• Undergraduate degree with a 2.5 CGPA (3.0 is preferred)
• Work experience: Two years or more preferred
• Proficiency in English (if necessary): TOEFL 93+ or IELTS 7+ (with no individual score under 6.5) TOEFL at home will also be accepted.
A small number of applicants with extensive experience may be considered without an undergraduate degree.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
• November 15, 2022 for January 2023 start
• March 31, 2023 for May 2023 start
• July 21, 2023 for Fall 2023 start
We have 3 intakes to the GDBA program each year.

TUITION
• Tuition: $18,109* plus additional costs for textbooks and student fees.
• Tuition is paid each term depending on the number of credits (Full class $2,943*; Half class $1,511*)
*Subject to Board of Governors approval

FEES
• Additional student fees & costs for textbooks and related materials: $1,500 approx.

SFU CONTINUING STUDIES CERTIFICATE HOLDERS
For professionals who have completed eligible SFU Continuing Studies certificates with 8+ years of work experience, taking the next step and earning a valuable business credential just got more accessible. If you’ve completed one of the identified Continuing Studies non-credit certificates, you could be eligible for admission even if you haven’t completed an undergraduate degree.

To determine your eligibility, review this self-assessment checklist.

CONNECT
To connect with an advisor to talk more about the program and application process or connect with SFU Beedie alumni, please contact us at 778.782.3552 or email gdba@sfu.ca.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

When you graduate from our GDBA program, you’ll understand the essentials of business and you’ll have the foundation to put toward an MBA. You’ll be armed with a personalized career plan and have the skills to achieve it. Plus, you’ll establish an invaluable network of industry leaders.

Here’s what it takes to get into the program.

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