Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship

The Department of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School—recently rated in the top 10 in terms of research nationwide—focuses on leadership, strategy and entrepreneurship, connecting the external worlds of competition and collaboration with the critical process of knowledge creation and innovation within organizations. Our program draws on world-renowned scholars in strategic management, entrepreneurship, international business, and innovation. Each student develops an individualized program of study combining coursework with active involvement in faculty research, research seminars, and teaching opportunities. This prepares our students to conduct high level research as well as find academic placements at top research universities worldwide. For more information about this program visit: carlonschool.umn.edu/phd-ba/strategic-management

Curriculum & Courses

The Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship department requires its students to take four or five of the department’s core PhD courses. Typically students will take both strategy courses and the theory building course; they then choose one or two of the remaining courses. Beyond the departmental courses listed here, special seminars are offered from time to time. Students also take from eight to eleven additional classes outside the SME department in order to deepen their knowledge and preparedness.

SME PhD Seminars Offered:
- Seminar in Strategy Content
- Seminar in Strategy Process
- Seminar in Entrepreneurship
- Theory Building and Research Design
- Seminar in International Management
- Seminar in Organizational Theory
- Other Topics in Strategy and Entrepreneurship, as designed by professors

Admissions Statistics (Fall 2014)

- Applications: 54
- Offers: 16
- Program size: 32
- Average GRE before August 2011: 1450
- Average GRE after August 2011: 332
- Average GMAT: 730
Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship Faculty

Stuart Albert, Associate Professor  
PhD, The Ohio State University  
Areas of Interest: Timing of managerial decisions, temporal comparison theory and the management of change and transitions within organizations, the response of organizations to business cycles  

Sunasir Dutta, Assistant Professor  
PhD, Stanford University  
Areas of Interest: Organization theory, social entrepreneurship, strategies of change in organizations and markets, collective action

Dan Forbes, Associate Professor  
PhD, New York University  
Areas of Interest: Corporate governance, new venture strategy, social psychology of entrepreneurship, strategic decision-making  

Russell Funk, Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Areas of Interest: Technology strategy, innovation management, entrepreneurship, social networks, economic geography, data science

Martin Ganco, Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Areas of Interest: Entrepreneurial processes and their impact on firm capabilities, performance and industry evolution

Aseem Kaul, Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School  
Areas of Interest: Corporate strategy, technology strategy and private equity/venture capital  

Jiao Luo, Assistant Professor  
PhD, Columbia Business School  
Areas of Interest: Organization theory, strategic management, network, trust, learning, relational exchange, reputation, illegitimacy, institutionalization

Ian Maitland, Associate Dean and Professor  
PhD, Columbia University  
Areas of Interest: Business ethics; corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, ethics of international business

Alfred Marcus, Professor and Edson Spencer Endowed Chair in Strategy and Technological Leadership  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School  
Areas of Interest: Pricing strategy, brand management, information economics, consumer risk preferences, cross-cultural consumer behavior, cognitive neuroscience

Harry Sapienza, Professor and Curtis L. Carlson Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies  
PhD, University of Maryland - College Park  
Areas of Interest: Venture capital, inter-organizational relationships, strategic decision making, international entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial process

Myles Shaver, Professor, Pond Family Chair in the Teaching and Advancement of Free Enterprise Principles  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Areas of Interest: Corporate strategy choice and performance, the management and economics of international expansion

Gurneeta Singh, Assistant Professor  
PhD, George Washington University  
Areas of Interest: Knowledge-building strategies, technology alliances, geography of innovation, national institutions  

Puay Khoon (PK) Toh, Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Areas of Interest: Organization structure, management of innovation, resource interdependence, strategies in intellectual property rights, firm’s search behavior

Paul Vaaler, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Integrative Leadership  
PhD, University of Minnesota  
Areas of Interest: Risk and investment in emerging market countries, performance stability in turbulent industries

Andrew H. Van de Ven, Professor; Vernon H. Heath Chair in Organizational Innovation and Change  
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Areas of Interest: Organization theory, management of innovation and change, inter-organizational relationships, nominal group processes and methods of engaged scholarship

Joel Waldfogel  
Professor and Fredrick R. Kappel Chair in Applied Economics  
PhD, Stanford University  
Areas of Interest: Industrial organization, law, economics

Richard Wang, Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of California-Berkeley  
Areas of Interest: Competitive strategy, innovation management, entrepreneurship, international business

Aks Zaheer, Professor, Curtis L. Carlson Chair in Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship; Director of Strategic Management Research Center  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Areas of Interest: Competitive advantage from inter-firm relationships, trust in inter-organizational collaborations, buyer-supplier relations, research on networks of firms, using inter-firm networks to build capabilities, strategic decision making in uncertain business environments, mergers and acquisitions, strategic alliances

Srilita Zaheer, Dean of the Carlson School of Management, Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Global Corporate Social Responsibility  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Areas of Interest: The legitimacy of MNEs, offshore outsourcing, location strategies, information networks

Shaker Zahra, Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship Department Chair; Robert E. Buuck Chair in Entrepreneurship; Academic Director of the Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurial Studies  
PhD, University of Mississippi  
Areas in Interest: Entrepreneurship in global contexts, technology strategy, nascent industries, innovation