Our mission

The Richard J. Wehle School of Business (WSB) develops career-ready business leaders who are prepared to make ethical business decisions that reflect the interests of multiple stakeholders.

With our partners in the Western New York business community, we emphasize immersive, experience-based learning activities that reflect the interconnected and global nature of business.

Faculty are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professional engagement with an emphasis on improving and informing business practices.

In accordance with our Jesuit tradition, we are committed to educating the whole person, to using our skills in the service of others, and to a business work ethic of doing more and going beyond what is expected.

Our vision

Leveraging our national rankings in accounting and finance, we will be recognized as the premier business school in Western New York by combining innovative learning activities involving real business problems with intensive leadership development rooted in Jesuit values. We will be recognized as thought leaders in the transformation of business in our region, and we will be a provider of choice among our alumni and the business community for continued professional development.

Our learning goals

We are committed to developing professionals who have depth of expertise in business functions combined with breadth of leadership and professional skills for success in today’s dynamic business environment. Our graduates will:

• Understand ethical behavior and sustainability concepts.
  • Canisius graduates will be able to identify principled and ethical solutions to business problems.
  • Canisius graduates will be able to assess the potential social, economics, and environmental impact of business decisions on relevant stakeholders.

• Make well-informed business decisions by demonstrating the ability to identify and solve business problems through quantitative and qualitative reasoning.
  • Canisius graduates will be able to interpret data, employ quantitative reasoning, and apply appropriate analytical tools to derive data-driven decisions.
  • Canisius graduates will be able to evaluate and incorporate contextual information in the decision-making process [and generate positive solutions].

• Understand how functional areas of business impact business strategy.
  • Canisius graduates will apply knowledge of functional areas to evaluate business strategy goals that are designed to improve organizational performance and positively impact all stakeholders.

• Be career-ready professionals who are prepared to lead.

• Canisius graduates will be able to practice and assess their leadership capacity to influence others, collaborate on teams, and encourage cooperation towards organizational goals.

For more information on the Graduate Business Programs visit the Richard J Wehle School of Business website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/our-schools/richard-j-wehle-school-business/).

AACSB Accreditation

The Richard J. Wehle School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (http://www.aacsb.edu/) (AACSB). Accreditation by AACSB is the hallmark of excellence in management education, and has been earned by less than five percent of the world’s business programs. It represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Programs receiving AACSB International accreditation have superior faculty, high-caliber teaching, and meaningful interaction between students and faculty. All students earning degrees in business are required to participate in assessment exercises appropriate for meeting accreditation requirements.

Graduate Business Leadership & Professional Development Program (LPD)

In addition to a graduate degree from Canisius’ Wehle School of Business, students also will earn a Learning & Professional Development Certificate. This program offers students personal and professional development experiences to evaluate their competencies, set actionable goals and participate in workshops that address communication, teamwork and innovation. There are three courses: My Personal Leadership Plan, My Personal Brand and My Path Forward. These are not academic in the traditional sense as they are non-credit bearing and there are no textbooks, exams, or weekly class meetings. Whether a young professional or emerging executive, the LPD has a significant impact on students both during their studies and after graduation. Completion of the LPD is a requirement for degree conferral.

Admission

The graduate programs in business are open to any qualified holder of a bachelor’s degree from a recognized college or university regardless of the undergraduate major field of study. The goal of the admission policy is the selection of those candidates who indicate the greatest potential for academic and professional achievement. The candidate for admission to graduate study must present evidence of qualifications to participate successfully in a graduate level academic endeavor.

Please review degree pages for admission requirements for individual programs.

Graduation

Students must ordinarily complete all requirements within five years of their first semester of attendance. Extensions may be granted upon the petition of the student to the Director of Graduate Business Programs. Student can complete degree requirements in fall, spring, and summer. The graduation ceremony is in May. Students that complete degree requirements in Fall will be invited to the May ceremony. Students that complete the program in summer, may petition the Director of Graduate Business Program to participate in the May ceremony prior to completion of the program.
Transfer Credit

Graduate business course work completed by a student at another AACSB accredited college or university may be accepted for transfer credit. Students desiring transfer credit should submit a written request to the program director for evaluation.

No transfer credit will be awarded for courses with grades below “B” and not more than 18 credit hours of transfer credit will be accepted for the evening MBA and MBAPA programs. No transfer credit is allowed for the One-Year MBA program.

Transfer students in the Graduate Business Programs must complete more than 50% of their program at Canisius.

Graduate business students at Canisius College who wish to transfer graduate course work at another institution must have the prior written permission from the director of Graduate Business Programs.

The Jesuit Consortium (JEBNET), of which Canisius is a member, allows MBA students from another Jesuit institution to readily transfer coursework upon approval of the program director.

Waivers

Students may qualify for waivers of foundation courses in the MBA or MBAPA Program based upon their undergraduate or graduate coursework, at the discretion of the program director. No waivers are granted for the One-Year MBA program.

Policy for Waivers of Foundation Level Courses: A minimum of six credit hours of undergraduate courses with grades of B or better in the last five years in appropriate content.

Beta Gamma Sigma

The Wehle School of Business at Canisius College houses a chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma (https://www.betagammasigma.org/). Beta Gamma Sigma is the premier honor society recognizing business excellence. Lifetime members of the Society have earned the right to be considered the “Best in Business.” Students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their class are eligible for membership.

External Business Programs

Center for Professional Development

The WSB houses the Center for Professional Development (CPD), which delivers executive education and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals and businesses throughout the Western New York region and beyond. The CPD’s diverse program options provide individuals with opportunity to advance their career, regardless of role or experience. Led by distinguished Faculty at Canisius College as well as by Western New York business experts, the CPD’s programs are targeted at enhancing the skills leaders require to be successful in today’s business climate. Located on the Main St. campus of Canisius College in Science Hall, many of the non-credit bearing seminars, professional development workshops, training and other programs offered by the CPD are open to enrollment by students, alumni and members of the community. For additional information and a listing of CPD programs and upcoming events, visit the official CPD website (http://caniuscpd.com/).

The Women’s Business Center

Located in Science Hall, the Women’s Business Center (WBC) empowers entrepreneurs to succeed through education, connections and community by developing leaders, fostering opportunities and building collaboration. The WBC was established by the Richard J. Wehle School of Business in 2003 to support the success of entrepreneurs and small business owners with a focus on women in Erie County and the surrounding region including Buffalo, Rochester, Jamestown and Niagara Falls. The WBC provides services in small business development: training, counseling, coaching, and networking. Networking serves as a major component of all programs to ensure that every participant has made appropriate connections with business and community resources. Faculty and students at Canisius frequently connect with area entrepreneurs and small businesses through programs offered by the Women’s Business Center. These connections often result in mutually beneficial relationships that contribute to the economic strength of the local and regional economy. The WBC is directed by Sara Vescio. For additional information and a listing of WBC programs and upcoming events, visit the official WBC website (http://thewomensbusinesscenter.com/).

Degrees

The Richard J. Wehle School of Business offers graduate programs leading to the following master’s degrees:

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
  - Flexible Program (part-time or accelerated full-time with the option of day classes)
  - One-Year Program (full-time)
- Master of Business Administration in Professional Accounting (MBAPA)
- Master of Business Administration in Accounting (MBAA) - Canisius undergraduate accounting students only
- Master of Science in Finance

All four programs are professional in nature and the MBAA and the MBPA and the MS in Finance are derivatives of the MBA Program. Their objective is to educate forward-looking leaders for business, industry and government. They are all registered with the New York State Education Department. The MBA, MBAPA, MBAA, and MS in Finance programs are fully accredited by AACSB-International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The professional accounting program (MBAPA) is for those who enter on the graduate level without an accounting background. The MBAA is for those who begin as accounting undergraduates at Canisius College. The MBAA is designed to meet the 150-hour requirement of the American Institute of CPAs. The MBAPA and MBAA programs qualify students to sit for the CPA examination in New York State. Graduates of the MBAPA and MBAA are required to complete one year of experience for certification in the State of New York.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

The Evening MBA is designed for either full or part-time study. Working adults can complete their program of studies on a part time basis. Students attending full-time can take up to 12 credit hours a semester and complete in 16 months. The majority of students come from the Western New York area and they have a variety of undergraduate majors.

One Year MBA Program

The One Year MBA Program is a full-time program designed for individuals who wish to minimize the delay in starting their professional career or reduce the time away from their present career. This intense program begins in the fall semester and continues through the spring and summer semesters. Because of the special nature of this course of study, candidates for the One Year MBA are admitted as a single group in the fall and
complete the program together. Classes are during the day in the fall with an evening class in spring and elective classes in summer in the evening.

Master of Business Administration in Professional Accounting (MBAPA)

In addition to enabling them to earn an MBA degree, this program makes it possible for holders of undergraduate and graduate degrees with majors other than accounting to:

1. Complete a major in accounting.
2. Prepare to enter the accounting profession.
3. Acquire the educational requirements to take the CPA examination leading to professional licensing.

Master of Business Administration in Accounting (MBAA)

This program is designed for undergraduate accounting majors at Canisius College. It meets the 150-hour requirement of the American Institute of CPAs and qualifies students for CPA Licensure. Graduates are required to complete one year of work experience for certification. Students should apply for admission in the fall of their junior year. They should take the GMAT at the earliest opportunity and no later than February 1 of their junior year. The admissions criteria for this program are different from those that apply to the MBA and MBAPA programs. Recommended admission standards:

1. a minimum cumulative average of 2.75 in all accounting courses taken at Canisius, including junior accounting courses,
2. a minimum cumulative overall average of 3.00 by the end of junior year, and
3. a minimum score of 500 on the GMAT.

Master of Science in Finance (M.S.)

The Master of Science in Finance program provides advanced knowledge of general finance in the areas of investments, quantitative analysis, financial institutions and markets. Grounded in our Jesuit tradition, the program’s holistic approach emphasizes both technical expertise and ethical decision-making. Instructional methods focus on the care and personal growth of each individual finance professional. Classroom projects and activities advance the highest standards of professional conduct as well as communication and teamwork. To meet the demands of today’s emerging business needs and financial markets, students can choose one of four concentrations: investment research, risk management, data analytics or general finance. Students from any undergraduate major are welcome to apply, as long as they have acquired a bachelor’s degree prior to the start of classes.

- Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher.
- Students without the following prerequisites will be required to complete them prior to beginning the MS Finance classes: (students without the classes may waive them if an assessment exam is passed with a grade of 80% or better).
  - Calculus I or Calculus for Business (MAT 111 or MAT 115 at Canisius)
  - Financial Accounting (ACC 201/ACC 211, or ACC 505 at Canisius)
  - Business Statistics (ECO 255, MAT 351, or ECO 503 at Canisius)
  - Business Analytics (ECO 256, MAT 352, or ECO 503 at Canisius)
  - Information Systems or Excel proficiency (e.g. ISB 101, ISB 501, or MS Excel certification)
  - Economics for Managers (ECO 504 at Canisius)