The Kellogg School of Management:
Established in 1908 as Northwestern University’s School of Commerce, the Kellogg School is an educational leader and innovator. The school awarded its first doctoral degrees in 1927.

The Kellogg School is housed in the Donald P. Jacobs Center, a modern, six-story complex on Northwestern University’s Evanston campus, which has 17 classrooms, more than 50 group study rooms, conference rooms, a quiet study area, student lounges and all administrative, faculty and PhD student offices.

PhD Overview:
Our PhD program is designed for candidates with outstanding intellectual abilities and a strong commitment to research. It is founded on intellectual rigor, the desire to develop useful frameworks and insights for the business environment, and a culture of collaboration.

Currently there are 124 doctoral students enrolled at Kellogg. Our students have access to 155 research faculty across our seven doctoral programs. There are 24 research centers that support collaborative research among faculty members and graduate students in various disciplines, both within Kellogg and throughout Northwestern University.

Our Mission:
The principal objective of the Kellogg School’s doctoral program is to train men and women for academic positions in universities where they will discover and communicate new knowledge. Doctoral students are provided with the skills necessary to succeed as scholars: the ability to think critically, facility with rigorous research methods, knowledge of the relevant questions in their field and the motivation to continue learning throughout their career.

PhD Programs:
Kellogg offers seven areas of study at the PhD level: Accounting Information and Management, Finance, Managerial Economics and Strategy (MECS), Marketing, Management and Organizations (MORS), Management and Organizations and Sociology (a joint initiative of the Kellogg School and Northwestern University’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences) and Operations Management. Kellogg also offers a JD-PhD degree that enables doctoral students to earn a law degree and a PhD degree concurrently; the academic job placement could be either at a business school or law school.

The Kellogg School’s innovative curriculum furnishes students with the methodological and theoretical tools they need to move to the next level of doctoral education – designing their own research. Our distinguished faculty and collaborative culture encourage students to think creatively and push the boundaries of conventional wisdom.

Completion of the doctoral program typically requires five years of full-time study and intense dedication and self-discipline. Kellogg offers a five-year funding package: stipend, tuition scholarship, and health insurance coverage. Additionally, a new laptop computer is provided.

World-Renowned Research Faculty and Collaboration with Students

Doctoral study is rooted in the research expertise of the Kellogg School’s faculty, and Kellogg’s doctoral program has long been an integral part of the school’s ongoing research mission. Our faculty include trailblazing scholars whose research has redefined the study of management and contributed to fields such as marketing, finance, strategy, game theory, negotiations, operations management and accounting. Of our 155 research faculty, 72 hold endowed chairs. The faculty’s commitment to scholarly inquiry is evidenced by the school’s many research centers, as well as by sustained scholarly output. Most Kellogg faculty serve in editorial positions at leading research journals.

The professors themselves are a research resource for students – Kellogg faculty train the next generation of scholars. Each year, Kellogg professors offer 45+ doctoral seminars in which they share current knowledge and, more significantly to students, the process by which that knowledge was gained and the puzzles that remain. Other fields of study at Northwestern University, including economics, mathematics, engineering, psychology, political science and sociology, also provide training in the fundamental disciplines that underlie much of the research in business. Doctoral students become involved in research early in their training and often collaborate with faculty on research and publication.

Through research and theoretical discussions with their colleagues, doctoral students refine their ideas and develop methods and models to solve problems. By the time students reach the dissertation stage, they should have a thorough understanding of their field, the ability to identify opportunities for new frameworks and insights, and the technical ability to turn those opportunities into published research. These experiences prepare students for productive careers in research and teaching.
PhD study at the Kellogg School of Management is interdisciplinary. To supplement their Kellogg coursework and training, doctoral students attend classes in economics, mathematics, statistics, political science, psychology, sociology, and anthropology and other subjects through the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. The Donald P. Jacobs Center, which houses the Kellogg School and Northwestern University’s Economics Department, is the heart of the economics community at Northwestern. The departments of psychology and sociology are based nearby. Doctoral students interested in operations research often take classes in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, located just down the street from the Jacobs Center. A collegial environment encourages close working relationships with students and faculty across disciplines. Additionally, Northwestern University is affiliated with the Traveling Scholar Program, which allows students to take classes at other Big Ten Universities and the University of Chicago for credit.

The flexible curriculum allows students to create their own research plan under the guidance of Kellogg advisors and affiliated faculty. Additionally, at the dissertation stage, Kellogg requires that one professor on a student’s dissertation committee be from outside of the student’s program. That professor usually represents a student’s minor field of study or is someone who can bring a unique perspective to the student’s dissertation research.

Each academic department at the Kellogg School sponsors a weekly seminar series that brings world-renowned scholars to campus to present their research to faculty and doctoral students. A wide variety of topics are covered each week and provide opportunities to exchange ideas and socialize.

Learning effective ways to use research resources for experimental and behavioral data collection, statistical data analysis and computational exercises is an integral part of the doctoral program. Kellogg offers a broad array of research resources, ranging from experimental facilities, servers for web surveys and high-end computational servers, as well as all necessary software.

Doctoral students have access to software such as Gauss, MediaLab, Mathematica, Matlab, RATS, SAS, Scientific Workplace, SPSS and Stata. They also have access to datasets such as Standard & Poor’s CompuStat, Center for Research in Security Prices data, Datastream Research Services and SDC Platinum, among many other data sources. The University Library's Social Science Data Services unit manages institutional subscriptions to some of the most important data repositories in the world. Projects that demand a high-end computing environment can be carried out using the Kellogg School’s LINUX server or the LINUX-based Social Science Computing Cluster.

Doctoral students also can take advantage of the Kellogg School’s research support group within Research Computing, which offers consultancy services in statistical and experimental methods, as well as training in statistical and mathematical applications, and on the use of business research datasets.

The Kellogg School’s research facilities include two state of the art experimental and behavioral laboratories, equipped with audio-visual recording equipment, computer hardware and software. These labs are reserved for Kellogg faculty and students. The laboratories consist of two large rooms with workstations and adjoining rooms for small-group experiments, as well as a special room for recording, control and observation. Kellogg actively maintains two subject pools, managed with SONA systems, a web based subject pool administration platform. The first subject pool has approximately 4,500 participants, mostly Northwestern University undergraduate students. The second subject pool, dubbed “eLab,” consists of local and non-local participants, recruited nationwide.

Within Kellogg’s community of scholars, doctoral students forge research partnerships with their fellow students and faculty that will last throughout their careers. Students are housed within the academic departments, so that they regularly interact with colleagues within their program. Weekly seminars and “brown bag” lunch seminars provide other opportunities to exchange ideas and socialize.

The ability to communicate clearly, both in writing and in oral presentations, is important. To contribute to the professional development of our students, the PhD Program Office sponsors a writing workshop targeting the issues needs of scientific writers and researchers, as well as a workshop on PowerPoint presentation skills. To prepare students for the job market, a school-wide panel discussion is held addressing the academic job market process, and practice job talks are scheduled within the student’s program. Departmental staff assists students in preparing and submitting their job packets to schools. There is also a support network of Kellogg professors and alumni at academic institutions throughout the world that helps launch our students on the job market.

By the time our doctoral students enter the job market, they have a solid research portfolio; research papers that have been rigorously tested through seminar presentations, conferences, and discussions with faculty, who raise questions and make comments that foster further study and examination. The years spent at Kellogg have set the research agenda for our doctoral graduates for the coming years. As professors, our doctoral graduates will contribute their hard work and research capital to the research institution that hires them and the academic community as a whole.

It is within this supportive environment that doctoral students find solace and form friendships. At Northwestern, there are student organizations, clubs, and support services for international students, student parents, women, and students with disabilities. The Multicultural Affairs Office promotes diversity in Northwestern’s student population and provides support services and networking opportunities. Kellogg hosts various get-togethers beginning with several orientation programs for incoming students, pizza parties, and around the holidays, Kellogg’s Dean hosts a Thanksgiving Day dinner for all faculty, students, staff, and their families, and a holiday party in December. June is a busy month with graduation ceremonies, receptions, and year-end barbecues for the Kellogg community and their families.