



*Doctor of Business Administration*

# Frequently Asked Questions

Designed for senior professionals, this FAQ addresses the most common questions about the DBA program delivered by The Drucker School of Management (CGU) in partnership with EHL Hospitality Business School (EHL). From research structure to program logistics, this guide will help you understand what to expect so that you can focus on advancing your career and contributing original, applied research to your field.

## How does supervision work in the Drucker/EHL DBA?

The program directors will guide you in seeking subject matter experts from both CGU Drucker School of Management and EHL Hospitality Business School faculty. This will happen during the first year of the program, once your research proposal is established. From the very first intensive, you'll explore and narrow down your interests with guidance from faculty. Once your topic is defined, faculty from both universities with aligned and complementary research expertise will be your research support team and assist you in completing your proposal. This approach ensures the right fit for your academic and professional goals.

## How do I develop my research topic?

Topic development is built into the curriculum, with each course adding granularity and focus to your initial ideas. You'll start by identifying broad areas of interest, which will be refined through coursework, assignments, and one-on-one support. By the end of the first year, you'll have a clearly defined research question grounded in both theory and real-world relevance, with the support of your supervisory team.

## How do the courses support my research project?

Each course is designed to move your research forward, they are the building blocks of your research project. For example, a course on literature reviews won't just teach theory; you'll apply it directly to your own topic. Every assignment is crafted to build your research project step by step, making your coursework immediately relevant to advance your research project for successful completion within the three-year time frame.

## What happens if I don't pass a course?

If you don't pass a course, you'll have the opportunity to retake it the following academic year. However, this may delay your program completion by up to a year, and subsequent failures may result in dismissal from the program.

## Can I publish my research project?

Absolutely. Your final project is your intellectual property, and you're actively encouraged to publish it, whether in a journal, book, or other media. The DBA program supports research with real-world impact, designed to influence practice as well as theory.

## What is the structure of the classes?

Courses are primarily online, with a combination of live (synchronous via Zoom) and self-paced (asynchronous) content. Most live sessions take place on Sundays. A typical 2-unit course includes about 15 hours of live teaching and 6 hours of asynchronous material. In-person intensives one week each year also provide valuable face-to-face engagement.

## Who joins this program?

You will be joining a globally diverse cohort of senior professionals. Participants regularly have 10+ years of executive-level experience and come from industries around the world, including North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Many hold C-level or senior leadership roles, enriching the experience with practical insight. The cohort model we use will provide you with a group of senior professionals to support your learning journey.

## What kind of degree will I receive?

You'll receive a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from Claremont Graduate University, as well as a joint certificate by Drucker/EHL. The program is fully accredited by WASC and AACSB.

## How is the administrative side handled ? (e.g., registration, documents, etc.)

You'll receive full onboarding support. A dedicated student services team will guide you through enrollment, platform access and documentation. We aim to make the process as smooth as possible so you can focus on your studies.

## What if I need to miss a class due to travel or work?

Classes are recorded, and absences can be accommodated on a rare occasion. However, active participation is expected, and missing more than one live meeting for a course may result in you being dropped from the course. The program is cohort-based, and the peer learning component is a key part of the experience, so consistent engagement is important.

## What do you mean by "official transcripts"?

These are transcripts sent directly from your previous academic institution, either sealed in an envelope or via a certified digital platform directly to Claremont Graduate University. Personal uploads, scanned copies, or unofficial printouts will not be accepted.

## What is the difference between a PhD and a DBA?

While both are doctoral-level degrees, they serve different purposes. A PhD is typically designed for purely academic careers. The DBA is geared toward experienced professionals applying research to complex business challenges, many of whom become public intellectuals or Professors of Practice. (We're happy to share a visual guide that outlines the differences between the two.)

## Can I transfer credits from another doctoral program?

Yes, the program will accept up to 16 units of graduate credit from an accredited institution. Transferred credits must have earned a minimum of a B (or equivalent) and credits will be converted in accordance with CGU policy around transfer units and contact hours. For more information, speak with an admissions representative.