

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

› **What will the AACSB Bridge Program enable me to do?**

The Program is designed to prepare experienced professionals to pursue teaching positions in business schools. Business school faculty members have a much higher responsibility than just sharing their knowledge of a subject; they are mentors and the inspiration for tomorrow's business leaders. This five-day intensive seminar will help senior professionals become influential educators.

› **Do I need a PhD to teach?**

No, faculty members that do not possess a doctoral degree are known as professionally qualified (PQ) instructors. According to the AACSB Accreditation Standards, PQ faculty members are normally required to have a master's degree in a field related to the area of teaching. Additionally, PQ faculty members must have professional experience that is significant in duration and level of responsibility and current at the time of hiring.

› **What are the differences between faculty members with a PhD and without a PhD?**

Business schools primarily have faculty members with two types of qualifications; academically qualified (those who possess a doctoral degree) and professionally qualified (those who do not possess a doctoral degree but have significant experience in an area of business and normally a master's degree). AACSB Accreditation Standards specify that at least 50% of faculty resources must be academically qualified (or possess a doctoral degree).

Academically qualified faculty members typically partake in rigorous research projects in addition to their teaching responsibilities, integrating their findings into industry practice and classroom instruction. Professionally qualified faculty members generally concentrate on teaching and preparing students based on first-hand industry experience. Many also contribute back to business through applied research and publications, consulting and other business oriented activities.

› **After completing the AACSB Bridge Program, will I be certified to teach at the university level?**

Prior to enrollment, each applicant's experience will be reviewed to ensure they meet the general requirements for a professionally qualified faculty member. As each AACSB accredited business school has its own unique needs, Bridge Program graduates must apply to individual schools and each institution will assess how the specific experience and education meets the unique needs of the

school. Program participants will receive a certificate of completion and may desire to add the accomplishment to their resumes.

› **At what level in a business school will I be able to teach?**

Professionally qualified faculty members, such as those who graduate from the AACSB Bridge Program, are typically assigned to teach undergraduate-level courses consistent with their experience.

› **Which business schools will recognize the completion of the AACSB Bridge Program?**

AACSB-accredited business schools have contributed to identifying the need for this Program and will recognize the completion of the Program.

Because the Program coincides with the AACSB Accreditation Standards, it will make it easier for business schools to meet the quality and skill requirements of professionally qualified (PQ) faculty. However, because each school must have its own criteria for PQ faculty, completing the Bridge Program alone will not insure employment. Employment decisions are solely the school's decision.

› **Does AACSB provide placement assistance for Bridge Program participants?**

The Program will include discussions on marketing yourself to business schools and the academic hiring process.

Following the completion of the Program, Deans from all AACSB business schools (world-wide) will receive notification about the graduates and will be have access to the backgrounds and experience of graduates (with permission) as well as their teaching preferences.

› **Will the AACSB Bridge Program assist part-time doctoral students in becoming more effective instructors?**

The Program is designed for individuals unfamiliar with the academic environment but with the capability of educating students based on expertise and experience. Part-time doctoral students, who meet the experience requirements, may benefit from the Program by understanding how to successfully integrate their experience into the classroom.

› **I am already teaching as a professionally qualified faculty. Will this program enable me to become a better educator?**

The Program is designed to help individuals with extensive industry expertise transfer that knowledge to students and become familiar with the academic environment. While those currently teaching in business schools are not the Program's focus, they may find the Program as very helpful in translating their industry knowledge into an effective classroom process.

› **Is the AACSB Bridge Program open to individuals from around the world?**

Yes, as a global organization, AACSB International accredits business schools all over the world. Although the Program is currently held in the United States, future events may be held in other regions.

› **Who is AACSB International?**

Mission

AACSB International advances quality management education worldwide through Accreditation and Thought Leadership.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business is a not-for-profit corporation of educational institutions, corporations, and other organizations devoted to promotion and improvement of higher education in business administration and management. AACSB has more than 1,000 members in 70 countries around the world.

› **How important is it that I follow a career in academia at an AACSB-accredited business school?**

Faculty members at AACSB-accredited business schools can ensure they are employed at a top business school that provides a high-quality education to its graduates and constituents. AACSB also represents non-accredited members who are pursuing accreditation and these schools are also in need of highly qualified faculty.

› **How many AACSB-accredited business schools are there?**

540 – With nearly 200 additional business schools seeking AACSB-accreditation.