University of Pittsburgh, Katz School of Business
Business Analytics and Operations PhD Program

Thanks for your interest in our PhD program in Business Analytics and Operations (BAO)! This information sheet will provide you with a brief view of the advantages of studying BAO at the Katz School, University of Pittsburgh. For more information, please call us at +1(412) 648-1524, email us at katzphd@katz.pitt.edu, or visit our website at https://katz.business.pitt.edu/phd. Click on the “Choose a Program” button on the left and choose “Business Analytics and Operations.”

Placements: We are a leading program with respect to placement. Over the last decade, all students who actively sought university positions obtained them, and our recent alumni were placed as faculty members at major universities in the US and Canada, and in research positions in industry.

External Funding: External Funding: Since 2010, our program has had very close ties with the Veterans Health Administration, and has engaged in a wide variety of healthcare analytics projects with them. FY 2018 funding on VHA projects exceeds $995,000.

The Center for Supply Chain Management: The Center for Supply Chain Management was recently established from seed funding from Herb Shear, former executive chairman of Genco. The Center seeks to bring together faculty, students and industry professionals to support research, teaching and outreach. Through the Center, students get opportunities to interact with industry.

Our Focus on Mentorship: We are a small, highly selective program, and work closely with our students to make sure that those who join our program complete it successfully and are placed appropriately. The faculty members who currently work with PhD students are:

Arian Aflaki (PhD, Duke University) is an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at the Katz Graduate School of Business. His cutting-edge research provides practical insights into supply chain management and effective solutions to the challenges of firm operations spanning over two specific areas: retail operations and humanitarian operations management. In retail, he studies the impact of consumer behavior on firm pricing, inventory, channel, and product design decisions and seeks for the solutions that benefit firms and consumers; in humanitarian operations, his focus is on the influence of contributor behavior on the funding strategies of humanitarian organizations and their operational efficiency. He publishes in and serves as a referee for leading academic journals in the fields of Management Science and Operations.

G.G. Hegde (PhD, University of Rochester). In his analytical and empirical research, G.G. Hegde has studied manufacturing issues from a systems perspective, where design engineering, production control, accounting, and market/field constitute a production system. He has emphasized bridging theory with practice in research and in teaching.

Jerrold H. May (PhD, Yale University), Jerry has authored or co-authored over 75 refereed publications in management science, information systems, and artificial intelligence, more than 50 of those with former or current doctoral students. He has chaired 19 doctoral dissertation committees, and co-chaired or directed four others. Most of Jerry’s recent work focuses on data mining and healthcare analytics. Since 2010, he and his research group have worked closely with the Veterans Health Administration on projects tasks improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare services to Veterans.

Prakash Mirchandani (PhD, MIT) is the Ben L. Fryrear Faculty Fellow and Professor of Business Administration at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School. Mirchandani has published in leading academic journals in the Management Science and Operations Management fields, including Management Science, Operations Research, and numerous others. He was Area Editor, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, of the INFORMS Journal on Computing (he was also briefly the Editor-in-Chief of the journal), and has served on the editorial boards of Manufacturing and Service Operations Management. His research interests include network design models for the transportation and telecommunication industries, polyhedral combinatorics and heuristic optimization for integer programming, and the impact of commonality and revenue management on supply chain effectiveness. He is a recipient of the 2013 Katz Excellence in Research Award.

For more information about the Katz PhD Program
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Jennifer Shang (PhD, University of Texas - Austin), Professor and Area Director. Her current research emphasizes three areas: (1) Design, planning, scheduling, and control of operational systems in manufacturing and service organizations (2) Design and evaluation of integrated information/operational and healthcare systems (3) Multi-criteria decision making. Dr. Shang has published more than 60 articles in top Operations and Supply Chain Management area journals as well as in other leading journals across business disciplines. Her Information Systems Research Journal article won the 2011 best paper award.

Pandu R. Tadikamalla (PhD, University of Iowa), Professor. He teaches courses in Decision Models, Statistical Techniques for Management, and Simulation. His research interests lie in simulation methodology, statistical techniques in operations management and Marketing. Dr. Tadikamalla received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial and Management Engineering from the University of Iowa. Dr. Tadikamalla has published over 50 research articles in several professional journals.

Leon Valdes (PhD, MIT), Assistant Professor. His primary research focuses on the impact of human behavior on the management of sustainable operations. He has studied through laboratory experiments and analytical models how supply chain transparency affects both consumers’ valuations of sustainable products and companies’ investments in social responsibility. Leon’s research received the Best Student Paper award from the POMS College of Sustainable Operations (2015) and was the Runner-Up in the Best Working Paper competition from the INFORMS Behavioral Operations Management Section (2015). He received his B.S. in Industrial Engineering from University of Chile; his M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Ecole Centrale Paris; and his Ph.D. in Operations Management from MIT.

Luis G. Vargas (PhD, University of Sevilla; PhD, University of Pennsylvania) Professor. He received his B.S. in mathematics and M.S. Operations Research from the University of Granada, Spain; and his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Sevilla, Spain. His research focuses on decision theory, practical applications of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), artificial intelligence in manufacturing, the use of artificial intelligence techniques for scheduling, measurement of resource utilization, group decision making, Bayesian networks, and forecasting. He has published more than 70 papers in refereed journals and has coauthored five books with Professor Thomas Saaty.

Richard E. Wendell (PhD, Northwestern University) Professor. His research includes more than 50 papers on the theory and applications of decision technologies and many have appeared in leading academic journals including Management Science. Operations Research, Mathematics of Operations Research, Mathematical Programming and Interfaces. In particular, he has published extensively in the areas of sensitivity analysis, facility location, multiple objective optimization, and project management, and his research has been supported by several grants from the National Science Foundation.


Examples: Our collaboration frequently results in articles that are published in top journals. Some recent examples over the last several years include the following. Note: In bold are our PhD students.

Goffman, Rachel M., Harris, Shannon L., May, Jerrold H., Milicevic, Aleksandra Sasha; Monte, Robert J.; Myaskovsky, Larissa; Rodriguez, Keri L.; Tjader, Youxi C.; and Vargas, Dominic L., “Modeling Patient No-show History and Predicting Future Outpatient Appointment Behavior in the Veterans Health Administration.” Military Medicine 182 (2017) 1708-1714.

Glowacka, Karolina. May, Jerrold; Goffman, Rachel; May, Elizabeth; Milicevic, Aleksandra Sasha; Rodriguez, Keri; Tjader, Youxi; Vargas, Dominic; and Vargas, Luis G., “On Prioritizing On-Time Arrivals in an Outpatient Clinic,” IIE Transactions on Healthcare Systems Engineering 7 (2017) 93-106.


Harris, Shannon L. and Jerrold H. May, “Patient No-Show Behavior and Its Influence on Outpatient Clinic Appointment Scheduling,” Proceedings of the INFORMS Data Mining and Health Informatics Workshop, Minneapolis, September 2013.


