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To compete in this difficult job market, the individual needs to show an employer the skills and competencies needed to help a business or other organization succeed. What employers want is someone who can help them meet their business goals and experience financial and professional success. Business administration courses offer the student several advantages in this regard.

Students in business administration develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills. They learn to communicate clearly both in writing and speaking. They study how to wisely manage financial aspects of the business, and how to conduct human resources programs. Graduates of business administration schools provide the leaders of the future business world.

Business administration courses have a direct application in the working of a successful enterprise. They include accounting, business leadership, marketing, ethics, human resources, risk management and finance. All of these are topics of great interest to owners of both large and small businesses. This versatile degree enables an applicant to demonstrate competencies in these fields for entry-level positions that will be both gratifying and financially rewarding.

Depending on the chosen specialty and geographic location, graduates with a business administration degree can expect to start at a salary of \$35,000-\$50,000. Paying back those student loans should not be a major problem when a new graduate can command this substantial income.

As a general rule, positions in health care, information technology and financial services offer higher salaries. Retail jobs and sales tend to pay less. The most important consideration, though, is a job that will allow for advancement within the company.

The business administration courses prepare the individual to perform several varied functions within a corporation or a small business. Because the degree is versatile, changing positions within the company or seeking a new position with a different employer are available options to advance in a chosen career.

Most business administration degrees offer some degree of specialization. Three options that are particularly promising are International Business, E-Commerce and Entrepreneurship. Specializing in International Business will prepare an individual for the exciting opportunities of international business transactions. This preparation should include study of cultural differences and language, international marketing and negotiations.

E-Commerce is a growing field with great opportunity for the individual who develops competence using a computer for various business functions, including online marketing. Applied courses, labs and competitions included in Entrepreneurship training will prepare the student for a leading role in small businesses. Since the majority of new jobs are developed by small business, this is an excellent opportunity.

An affordable school program that leads to employment opportunities will grant the student an edge in the job market. Prospective students should check with the school to determine the cost of tuition and fees, and to plan for their education. They should also submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) soon after it comes out on January 1.

For the ambitious and creative individual wanting to find a place in the world of business, the two-year or four-year business administration degree is an excellent choice. Business administration

courses provide preparation for entry-level positions in this field and will give the individual an edge in the job market, plus the skills and competencies needed to secure and maintain a meaningful, productive and rewarding position.

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Amy Russell is an independent college counselor who enjoys helping others achieve their education goals. She often gets questions such as - Is it worth taking a [business administration courses](#)? Where can I go for such training? Being a South Florida local, she tends to refer students in the area looking for schools nearby to a <http://www.cbt.edu/academics/school-of-business>.

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