The University of Southern California has long been a global center for arts, technology, business and communication. This degree enables your employee to study the intersection of these disciplines without having to relocate or neglect other responsibilities. Our 38-credit curriculum equips students with cross-disciplinary knowledge and problem-solving skills that will spark innovative approaches to your business challenges.

Who Does this Program Benefit?
With the rise of global connectivity and today’s new available technologies, it is critical to develop agile and innovative leaders in your workplace. Our flexible online graduate program is intended for working professionals seeking the essential knowledge and cross-disciplinary skill set to keep pace with the future.

The program’s learning model incorporates design-based thinking strategies, cross-functional team projects and real-world business scenarios to teach your employee to lead, manage, create and innovate with a fresh perspective.

UX/UI and graphic designers can use this degree to learn how to communicate their vision to a variety of stakeholders across fields, and drive better business outcomes with design.

Program managers and marketing professionals can build the cross-disciplinary skill set to manage integrated teams, employ versatile problem-solving skills and efficiently strategize across departments.

Engineers, programmers and analysts can develop or refine their ability to think creatively and communicate clearly with colleagues and clients who are unfamiliar with technological jargon.

Business executives and “intrapreneurs” can become innovation catalysts, managing cross-functional teams and leading effectual changes within their organization or company.

What Will My Employee Gain?
- A foundation in design, technology and business languages and methodologies
- An understanding of how these disciplines can work together
- An ability to lead and work on project teams across disciplines

Benefits to Employers
With a course sequence that promotes versatile thinking and merges concepts from many different fields, our online master’s program provides an education and skills that extend beyond the traditional MBA. These tools — as well as the online degree format — can benefit your company by allowing your employees to:

- Continue working and immediately apply what they’ve learned on the job
- Network for your company with talented professionals around the world
- Bring back new ideas and ways of thinking, and pass those on to their colleagues
- Understand that they’re valued, and feel motivated to stay with the company longer

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In addition to their core and selected “focus” courses, students will participate in lab projects, residencies and research projects that expand on their studies and provide real-life, hands-on experiences.

The program concludes with a capstone that summarizes the curriculum and requires students to demonstrate the skills they have learned. They will develop a creative solution to an existing or potential problem, possibly one they are currently facing on the job. The capstone provides your employees an opportunity to immediately apply these solutions to your company.

Visit our curriculum page to view full course descriptions.

“Rarely in history has anything truly complex ever been solved by a single discipline.”

— Erica Muhl, founding dean of USC Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young Academy
Residencies

During the program, students participate in two in-person residency experiences. These residencies are one week or less so employees can maintain their professional responsibilities. The residencies include:

- **The Integrative Practices Residential:** This is a five-day experience held on USC’s campus during the student’s first program term. Students work in teams to consider problems as designers, business professionals and technologists in a hackathon-style experience.

- **The Professional Practices Residential:** Taken before the capstone semester, this experience requires students to work in teams to develop solutions to a significant real-world problem. The residency includes visits to and networking with local industry leaders in major U.S. cities. The location is determined with each cohort.

During these experiences, students will have the chance to meet peers and faculty in person, work collaboratively with their cohort, and use skills learned in class to complete real-world projects.

Flexible Online Program Structure

The online master’s degree from the USC Iovine and Young Academy can be completed in as few as 16 months while your employee continues to work full time. USC prides itself on providing a rigorous program that can be completed on the go. This includes:

- Live, face-to-face weekly classes (after regular business hours)
- Coursework that is available 24/7
- The same interdisciplinary faculty thought leaders who teach on campus
- Small class sizes and assignments that encourage close collaboration
- On-campus residencies that cultivate real-world skills

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