

BUSINESS HORIZONS

2025 PROGRAM FAQ

July 13-17 | Drake University, Des Moines

We often receive questions from students, families, educators and others regarding the Business Horizons program. You will find some of these frequently asked questions below. If you have additional questions, please [contact us](#) and a member of our staff will be in touch as soon as possible.

QUALIFICATIONS

Who can attend? The program is available to any students in the state of Iowa who are current freshmen through seniors (grades 9-12). Students from states outside of Iowa are also welcome to attend.

Can seniors still register even if they will have graduated high school by the time they attend?

Absolutely! Students are welcome to register during their senior year and attend even after they have graduated. Business Horizons is great preparation for college and life after high school.

Is Business Horizons only for students interested in business?

Business Horizons is NOT just for students interested in business careers. The program is great for students with a variety of career interests, as well as those still looking for that right career fit. Our goal is to allow students to explore opportunities based on their personal strengths and help them develop the necessary skills needed for today's workplace, regardless of career field.

Do I need a certain GPA or ACT score to attend?

No. Academic standing is not a determining factor of Business Horizons participation. However, please note that educator references will be given prior notice of each participant's plan to attend and asked if they have any concerns regarding his/her participation.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

How do I sign up?

Complete the registration form found [online here](#). Once you successfully submitted your form, you should receive an automated email confirmation and be directed to the next page that provides guidance on submitting your participation fee. Submit your participation fee (if applicable) to the ABI Foundation following the instructions on the page. Participant fees may be paid either online by credit card or mailed by cash or check to the ABI Foundation.

Is there anything I need to do after I register?

First, mark your calendar for a fantastic week with us! Once your registration is processed by the ABI Foundation staff, you and your parent/guardian will receive an email with some preliminary details and a few important forms to complete and return prior to the program week. If you have registered and do not receive an email notice within two weeks, please [contact us](#).

If needed, can I receive financial assistance to attend?

The ABI Foundation will never turn away a student for the inability to pay the participation fee. We are happy to work with students and families on an individual basis and, with the help of program sponsors, will award program scholarships based on financial need. To inquire about the opportunity to receive assistance, contact info@businesshorizonsiowa.com.

What is the deadline to register?

The final registration deadline is typically two weeks prior to the program. We will make exceptions for last-minute registrants, but it can be difficult for participants to complete the necessary pre-program paperwork in a short amount of time. Also, be sure to note the discount deadline. It (literally) pays to register early!

What if I signed up and can no longer attend? Can I get a refund?

We understand that things happen, and sometimes unforeseen circumstances or illness may get in the way of plans. If you are no longer able to attend, please notify our staff immediately. Notification of your absence **must take place at least one week** before the start of the program in order to guarantee a refund. Staff will work with students who are unable to attend due to illness, emergency, etc.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Where can I find a detailed agenda for the week?

While we know this may cause some stress, we intentionally do not provide a full agenda ahead of the program week. Don't worry, though, participants will have everything they need to know for a great experience. Upon arriving for the program, students will immediately receive a detailed agenda for the week. The schedule is carefully planned by a great team, and students have plenty of on-site support to help make sure they are exactly where they need to be and when.

When does the program officially begin and end?

Check-in takes place on Sunday between 1:00-1:45pm. Arrive at any time within that timeframe to receive your materials for the week and move into your room in the residence hall. Families are invited to stick around that day for our Opening Assembly and optional orientation until 3:30pm. Families are invited back to the program at 4:00pm that Thursday for a showcase and "Graduation" ceremony which will conclude no later than 5:45pm.

What will the hours be like each day?

We want this experience to be a worthwhile one, so we do not waste any time at Business Horizons. Scheduled programming typically begins each day at 8:30am and ends after our "After Hours" activities, which typically conclude at 10:00 p.m. All meals and programming are designed to include a great mix of activities, teamwork, time to meet new friends, and more!

Who are the volunteers at Business Horizons?

In a typical program year, more than 70 volunteers come together to create the five-day Business Horizons experience. These are Iowa business and industry professionals from a variety of backgrounds and careers. They enhance the program experience and serve as advisors, speakers, judges, and more.

Will students be leaving campus at any time during the program?

Any off-campus travel will be done as teams or a large group, and arranged by the program. These often include our business visits and/or trips to our after-hours locations. Students will remain on campus for the large majority of the week, with specific parameters they are required to stay within for their safety.

Do I need to pay for anything during the week?

Participation fees, along with donations from our sponsors, will cover lodging, all meals, program materials and activities for the week. If desired, participants are welcome to bring change/cash for vending machines in the dorm. If any off-site trips are planned in which students may want additional funds on-hand, this will be noted in the pre-program information.

CAMPUS LIFE & HOUSING

What is the housing situation like during the week?

All participants will be housed in an air-conditioned residence hall on our host campus. If all genders are housed in the same hall, they will be separated either by floor or wing with doors in-between that are locked in the evenings for privacy. Prior to scheduled "room times," students are encouraged to make use of the communal spaces in the residence hall. The ABI Foundation also hires several Dorm Staff/Counselors to stay with the group throughout the week to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

Will I have a roommate? If so, can I room with a friend?

Each participant is typically paired with a roommate. A huge benefit of attending Business Horizons is the opportunity to meet new friends from across the state, so it's common that your roommate will be someone new to you. We also understand that new places and experiences can cause a bit of stress, so if you would like to room with another attendee, this can be arranged with the ABI Foundation staff.

How will I know what to bring? What is the general attire?

As we get closer to the program, all participants (and their parents/guardians) will receive several details via email that includes a detailed list of what to bring, attire requirements for the week, when and where to arrive, and more. Attire is mostly casual/comfortable during the week, except for the last day, which is business casual. Attendees also receive a BH t-shirt to wear one day of the week.

Can I leave campus during BH for other obligations during the week (morning workouts, runs, etc.)?

Our number one priority during the program is the safety of our student participants, followed closely by ensuring a full and worthwhile experience for all involved. With that in mind, we do not allow students to leave campus during the week for their safety and to ensure they don't miss any essential programming. However, if staff is notified ahead of time, we will be happy to work with students on an individual basis to accommodate or find alternate solutions. For example, students often form running groups each morning for on-campus runs and are accompanied by a member of our staff/volunteer team.

Where will participants be eating while on campus?

Students will mostly dine during mealtimes in the campus cafeteria with plenty of options. A few meals will be catered to alternate locations during the week. Mealtimes are built into the daily schedule and take place as a group.

Are you able to accommodate special medical and/or dietary needs?

We are more than happy to accommodate any medical and/or dietary needs. We kindly ask that students and/or parents/guardians notify us with any necessary information well ahead of the program so that we can ensure all needs are properly met. Students will have the opportunity to indicate any dietary, medical and/or other restrictions on the required medical form. Attendees and their families are also welcome to contact our staff to discuss needs in further detail.