



Business Certification Program™ *for Professionals in Independent Schools*

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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APPLICATION FOR BCP CERTIFICATION

All forms are available at isminc.com/BCP

For more information, please refer to the handbook available on isminc.com/BCP

Congratulations on pursuing your Business Certification sponsored by Independent School Management (ISM). This certification represents your commitment to the Guiding Principles for Business and Operations, your dedication to your profession, and your desire to continually improve your professional skills and standing. We hope you will display your certificate in your office and share your rewarding experience with others in the profession.

Please keep a copy of every completed form, including all documentation, for your records, as your submissions will NOT be returned. For more details about the requirements, refer to the handbook.

Allow 8–12 weeks for processing.

Mail forms to:

BCP Registrar, ISM

1316 N. Union Street

Wilmington, DE 19806

FREE APPLICATION

No fee required with this application form.

[SECTION I] APPLICANT INFORMATION

First	Middle Initial	Last	Suffix
Title		Years at Current School	Dates
Who reports to you?		To whom do you report? (please indicate title)	

Address Home Work

Street

City State ZIP/Postal Code Country

Contact Information Home Work Cell

Phone Email

Current School Information

School Name	School Head
Street	Total Number of Students
City State ZIP/Postal Code	Total Number of Families
Country	Grades Taught at School
Phone	Type of school <input type="radio"/> Boarding <input type="radio"/> Day <input type="radio"/> Both
Web	Religious Affiliation <input type="radio"/> Faith-based <input type="radio"/> Secular

[SECTION II] EXPERIENCE

Employer	Name of Supervisor and Title		
Street	City	State	
ZIP/Postal Code	Country	Phone	
Position Held	Dates (MM/YY through MM/YY)	Qualifying Independent School Years	
Job Description			

[SECTION II] Experience continued

Employer	Name of Supervisor and Title		
Street	City	State	
ZIP/Postal Code	Country	Phone	
Position Held	Dates (MM/YY through MM/YY)	Qualifying Independent School Years	
Job Description			

Employer	Name of Supervisor and Title		
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ZIP/Postal Code	Country	Phone	
Position Held	Dates (MM/YY through MM/YY)	Qualifying Independent School Years	
Job Description			

[SECTION III] NON-ISM FINANCE AND OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

All candidates must participate in a non-ISM Finance and Operations Conference. Provide adequate documentation for verification.

Conference

Name of Sponsoring Organization

Dates Attended

[SECTION IV] ISM BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS ACADEMY

All candidates are required to attend the ISM Business and Operations Academy.

Name of Mentor

Dates Attended

[SECTION V] DOCUMENTS

Please be sure to attach the listed required documents with your application.

- Letter of recommendation** (*from your School Head*)
- Signed affirmation of the Guiding Principles**
- Professional action plan** (*developed at the ISM Business and Operations Academy*)
- Reflection** (*two-page, single-spaced description of the successes and lessons learned from your professional action plan*)

[SECTION VI] AFFIRMATION

I declare that the information in this form and all materials submitted with it are true and correct.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Guiding Principles

for Business and Operations Professionals

Business and Operations Mission

As school business leaders:

- We support the mission of our schools.
- We understand that the culture of private-independent schools must be valued and protected, and work tirelessly to support high-performing faculty and student cultures.
- We ensure compliance with regulatory and governmental requirements.

Core Values for Business and Operations Professionals

- Students come first. The school's mission must clearly reflect this commitment. Finance and operations professionals are unwavering in their support of this commitment.
- The school's mission is paramount in our decisions and actions. The mission statement is not a meaningless set of words. It is values-rich, and we strive to bring it to life.
- We conduct business and represent our schools in an ethical, honorable, and professional manner. We understand that, to represent our schools, our relationships matter and we build trust with each personal interaction.
- We respect, value, and serve each stakeholder in our school community. We understand and accept that private-independent schools are collegial in nature, and that student and faculty cultures are foundational to build a high-quality and enduring reputation.
- We are committed to privacy and confidentiality. We understand that much of the information we deal with is highly confidential, and that the school's reputation could suffer when privacy and confidentiality is breached. We safeguard all data and honor the privacy of all constituents.
- We are committed to professional growth, industry innovation, emerging issues and opportunities, and the utilization of effective tools to accomplish our work.

I affirm ISM's Guiding Principles and commit to following them in my professional practice in the schools I serve.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAME (Print) _____ TITLE _____

SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO **BCP REGISTRAR, ISM** AND KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.



Independent School Management
1316 N. Union Street, Wilmington, DE 19806

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t [@isminc](#)

REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW

Designation	Professional BCP-P	Senior BCP-S	Executive BCP-E
Experience <i>Experience requirements for Senior and Executive levels can include previous business/operations experience accepted at a ratio of 2 years to 1 year</i>	3 years business/operations experience in private-independent schools	5 years business/operations experience <i>(Minimum of 3 years in private-independent schools)</i>	10 years business/operations experience <i>(Minimum of 7 years in private-independent schools)</i>
Letter of Recommendation <i>Letter of recommendation from your School Head</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p>► Leadership Activities <i>Needs to be stated in your letter of recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Budget creation, oversight, and management • Mentoring of a direct report or colleague • Leading a conference presentation or workshop • Publication of articles • Supervising at least two direct reports 	N/A	2 required	3 required
ISM's Guiding Principles	Signed affirmation	Signed affirmation	Signed affirmation
Non-ISM Finance and Operations Conference	N/A	Yes	Yes
ISM Business and Operations Academy	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p>► Professional Action Plan and Reflection <i>Developed at the ISM Business and Operations Academy, applicants must submit the professional action plan along with the reflection—a two-page, single-spaced description of the successes and lessons learned from the plan.</i></p>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credits <i>Through ISM or ISM-approved</i>	N/A	50 credits/5 years <i>(10 ISM credits required)</i>	50 credits/5 years <i>(10 ISM credits required)</i>
► Finance and Operations Conference <i>(non-ISM)</i>	N/A	10 credits <i>(10 credits maximum)</i>	10 credits <i>(10 credits maximum)</i>
► Online Learning	N/A	1 hour = 1 credit	1 hour = 1 credit
► Association Workshops	N/A	1 hour = 1 credit	1 hour = 1 credit
► 1-day Workshop	N/A	10 credits	10 credits
► 3-day Workshop	N/A	30 credits	30 credits
► CEUs	N/A	1 CEU = 5 credits <i>(20 credits maximum)</i>	1 CEU = 5 credits <i>(20 credits maximum)</i>
Volunteerism <i>Participate in volunteer activities performed outside the professional's school (giving back to the community).</i>	N/A	20 hours per year	20 hours per year
Peer Review <i>Core institutional documents submitted for review by your peer. Examples include, but not limited to, employee handbook, accounting policies and procedures handbook, investment policies, financial aid policies, internal controls, safety and health management, risk management plan, etc.</i>	N/A	Yes (2 documents)	Yes (3 documents)
Interview with BCP faculty	N/A	N/A	Yes