

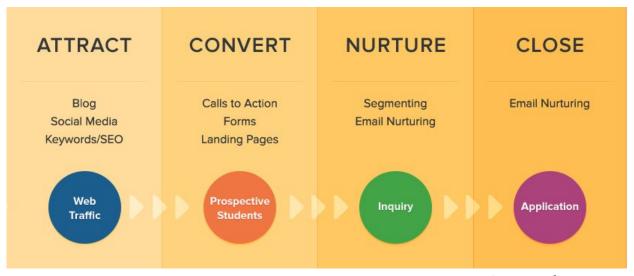


# **Agenda**

- The basics of content marketing and why it matters
- How AI and Search Generative Experience (SGE) have changed the student research process
- Creating and optimizing content with SGE/AI in mind
- Ideas to leverage content and push prospects down the funnel



# What is inbound marketing?



Source: Hubspot



# **Why Content Matters**

- Prospective students who find you through organic search tend to be more engaged and have a higher likelihood of converting.
- High-performing organic content can reduce paid campaign costs by contributing to assisted conversions.
- Search-optimized content enhances your brand visibility.
- Establishing a strong organic footprint provides a **long-term competitive edge**, as it's harder and more time-consuming for rivals to replicate.
- Gaining insights into audience behavior and content engagement helps shape a more effective strategy for program landing pages, both for organic and paid channels.



#### The Evolution of Search



#### The Evolution of Search

# Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

The practice of optimizing websites to rank higher in search engine results pages and attract more organic traffic.

# Search Generative Experience (SGE)

Enhancing the search experience using generative Al technologies to provide more relevant responses to queries

# **Generative Engine Optimization (GEO)**

GEO combines traditional SEO with generative models for better search results



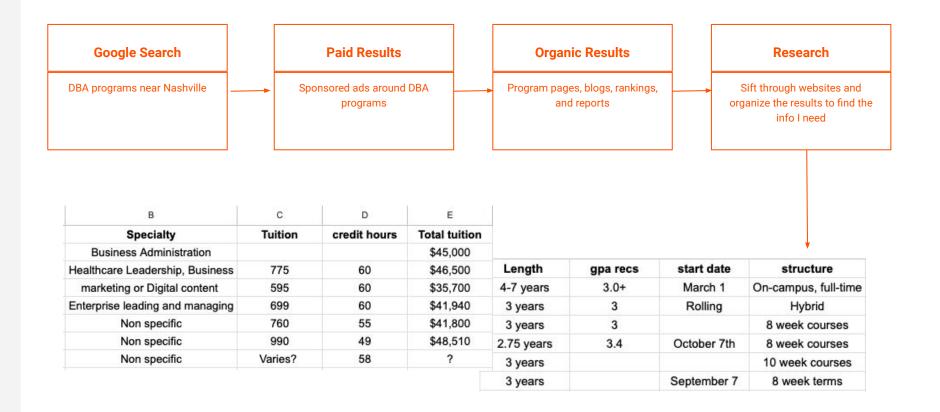
# The Evolving Search Journey

In 2020, I began my search for a DBA program.

Here's how that journey looked in 2020 and how that same search looks today...



# The Search Journey: 2020

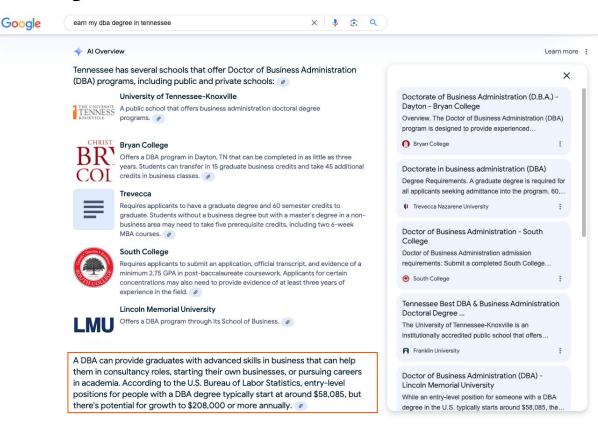




#### The Search Journey: 2024



- List of schools with DBA
- Direct links to program pages
- A mix of program requirement info
- Advantages of earning a DBA





# The Search Journey: 2024

Prompt: I want to earn my dba degree. Please create a table with the following headers: School, tuition, format (online, hybrid, on-site), length of program, start date, gpa requirements, dissertation information. Please fill in the table for schools in tennessee that offer a dba program.



- Only provided 2 options
- Hyperlinks to DBA program pages
- Disclaimer to contact schools for most accurate information

School	Tuition	Format	Length of Program	Start Date	GPA Requirements	Dissertation Information
Trevecca Nazarene University	\$777/credit hour	Online	3 years	Rolling	3.4 GPA (graduate work)	Option of a traditional dissertation or Applied Doctoral Project (ADP) (Homepage)
South College	Subscription- based (varies)	Online, self- paced	Varies (self- paced)	Rolling	2.75 GPA (graduate work)	Requires a dissertation with a defense for successful completion (South College)







- Provided more options
- Less details about dissertation
- No links
- No tuition amounts
- Different GPA requirements than ChatGPT
- Disclaimer to contact schools for most accurate information

School	Tuition	Format	Length of Program	Start Date	GPA Requirements	Dissertation Information
Lincoln Memorial University	Varies	Online	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation
South College	Varies	Online	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation
Trevecca Nazarene University	Varies	Online	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation
Bryan College	Varies	On-site	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation
University of Tennessee- Knoxville	Varies	On-site	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation
University of Memphis	Varies	On-site	3 years	Fall, Spring	3.0 GPA (graduate)	30-credit dissertation



### The Evolving Search Journey

#### 2020

- Relied on SEO to surface relevant organic pages for my search.
- Paid efforts appeared to align with my search intent.
- The process of finding the needed information was lengthy.
- Comparing programs was manual and time-consuming.

#### 2024

- Google search provided a mix of paid, organic, and AI-generated content.
- It offered a thorough range of information
- Synthesized information for easier understanding.
- Presented comparisons and considerations I may not have initially thought about.



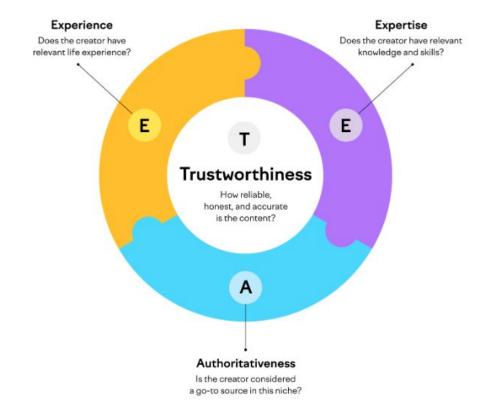
#### **Content With SGE In Mind**



#### Writing Content With Al In Mind

Google's automated ranking systems aim to deliver useful and reliable content in top search results, prioritizing information created to serve users' needs rather than simply to boost search rankings. E-E-A-T is the framework.

- Experience
- Expertise
- Authoritativeness
- Trustworthiness





#### **Understanding Google's Search Intent**

Google's <u>Search Quality Evaluator Guidelines</u> explains how it determines the quality and trustworthiness of websites. Here's how they gauge intent:

- **Know query** the user wants to know about a topic
  - a. "Highest paying jobs in healthcare?"
- Do query the user is trying to accomplish a goal or engage in an activity
  - a. "Earn a healthcare degree online"
- **Website query** when the user is looking for a specific website or webpage
  - a. "Kansas State financial aid"
- **Visit-in-person query**, the user is looking for a specific business or organization
  - a. "Tennessee State campus"

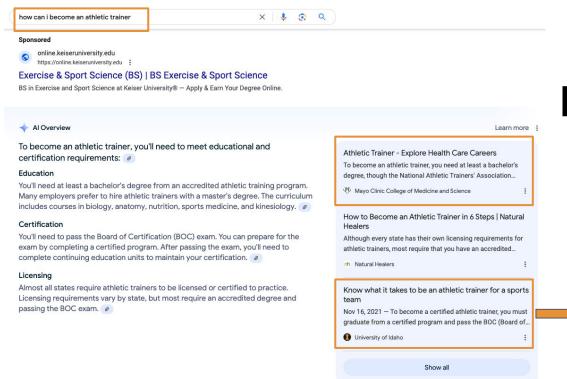


# **Understanding Search Intent**

Informational (general knowledge)	Navigational (specific pages)	Commercial (comparing options)	Transactional (specific actions)
Best business schools Top ranked universities	UT application deadline UCLA scholarship Alabama greek life	Online MBA programs Rn to BSN degrees Healthcare masters	Apply to TCU Lipscomb MBA info session ISU scholarship application



# **How is SGE Showcasing Content?**





ATHLETIC TRAINING

Athletic Training U of I

Our Approach Our MSAT Program

am Our DAT Program

Know what it takes to become an athletic trainer for a sports team



November 16, 2021

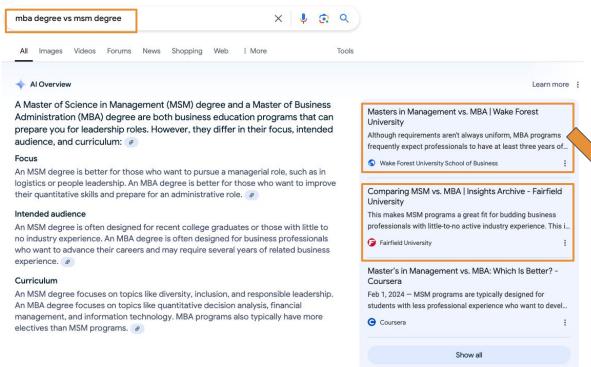
If you ask most people "What do athletic trainers do?" the first thing that pops into their minds is working for a professional sports team. Although athletic trainers have been moving into other arenas of healthcare, sport teams are still a very common employment setting. So do you have what it takes to be an athletic trainer, for a professional sports team? Let's take a look.

#### What is an athletic trainer's job description?

Athletic trainers are highly skilled health age prefessionals who address issues



## **How is SGE Showcasing Content?**





Earning a Master of Business Administration

business.wfu.edu > Masters in Management > Articles > Masters in Management vs. MBA

#### (MBA) vs. a Masters in Management (MSM) Degree

The first Master of Business Administration (MBA) was introduced over a century ago, and while it has become the de-facto career enhancer for many professionals, the Master of Science in Management (MSM) started giving it competition in the early 2000s. Yet, in spite of name and curriculum similarities, the MBA and Masters in Management degrees address two distinct groups of business professionals and, in turn, deliver

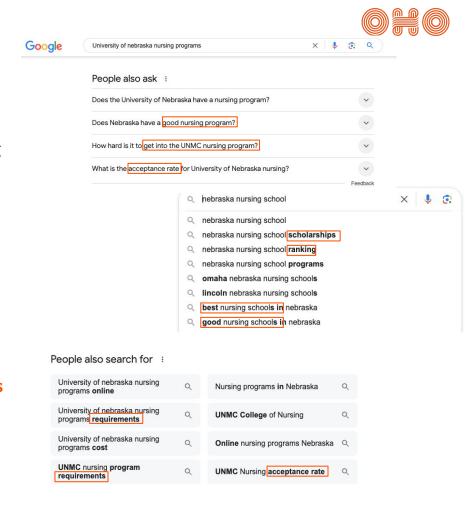
As you think about entering a new stage of your career, here are some of the key differences and similarities between the MBA and the Masters in Management.

The General Differences Between an MBA and a Masters in Management

#### **Create New Content**

- Tools like <u>SemRush</u> can help with determining the search intent in your search traffic along with long tailed keywords and questions
- Use Google's helpful output
  - People also ask
  - Auto populated searches
  - o People also search for

Using Google's insights, Nebraska may consider content around nursing scholarships, rankings, and admissions requirements.





#### **Use Ai To Brainstorm**



I want to create inbound content for the website around Nebraska's nursing scholarships, rankings, and admissions requirements. Give me 5 ideas for topics



#### 5 Inbound Content Ideas for a Nebraska Nursing Website

- "Decoding Nebraska's Nursing Scholarships: A Comprehensive Guide" This
  post will provide an in-depth overview of various scholarships available to
  nursing students in Nebraska, including eligibility criteria, application deadlines,
  and award amounts.
- "Navigating Nebraska's Nursing Admissions: A Step-by-Step Guide" This
  post will explain the typical admission requirements for nursing programs in
  Nebraska, such as GPA, standardized test scores, prerequisite courses, and the
  application process.
- "Nebraska's Nursing Schools Ranked: Factors to Consider When Choosing"
   Rank the top nursing schools in Nebraska based on factors like accreditation, faculty expertise, clinical placements, and student outcomes.
- 4. "Career Paths for Nurses in Nebraska: Exploring Diverse Opportunities" Highlight the various career paths available to nurses in Nebraska, including specialties like pediatrics, geriatrics, critical care, and mental health nursing.
- 5. "Nursing Schools in Rural Nebraska: Unique Challenges and Rewards" -Discuss the challenges and rewards of pursuing a nursing degree in rural areas of Nebraska, focusing on the need for healthcare professionals in underserved communities.



### **Optimize Your Current Content**

- Program pages
  - Are they created with the prospective student in mind?
  - Is the content robust and helpful for a student's search?
  - Does your program page directly address search queries?
  - How is the content structured?
- Blogs and resources
  - Is there a content strategy to create authority?
  - Are the articles properly structured?
  - Is the content helpful to answer complex questions?
  - Is the tone conversational?
- Don't forget the basics
  - SEO fundamentals still matter
  - Shift towards meaningful conversations vs keyword stuffing



#### **Content For Every Stage**

#### Consideration

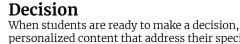
As students move further down the funnel, they need more detailed information.

- Program comparison guide
- Offering
- Case study

#### **Awareness**

At this stage, students are just starting their research. Content that provide general information about your programs, campus life, and financial aid options are great.

- Blog
- Checklist
- Ebook
- Tip sheet
- Infographic



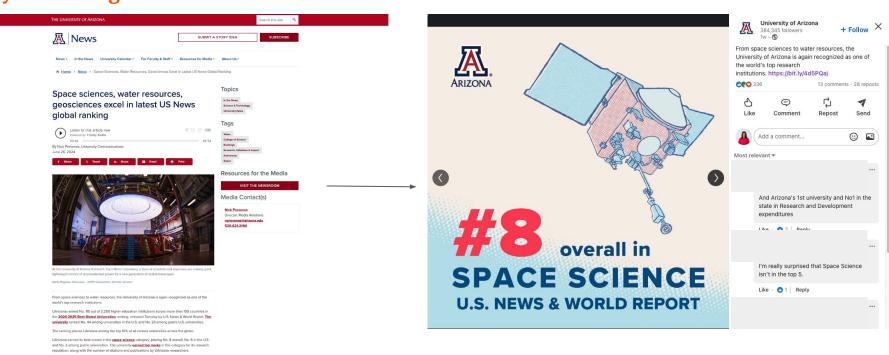
personalized content that address their specific questions and concerns is key.

- Meet with an enrollment counselor
- Forms & landing pages
- Personalized emails



### **Leveraging Content Beyond Your Site**

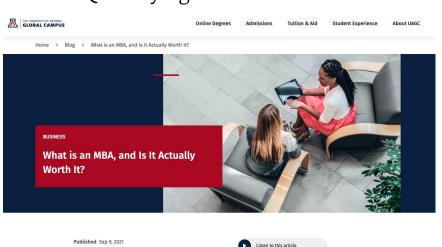
Repurposing your content can **amplify your reach**, **diversify your audience**, and **reinforce your message**.





#### Leveraging Content Beyond Your Site

- 1. Start with a comprehensive blog
- 2. Create an infographic for a more visual representation
- 3. Break down the infographic into bite sized posts for a social media series
- 4. Use tools like <u>Lumen5</u> to create a video from that blog
- 5. Leverage blog into a more robust offering, like an ebook "The ROI of an MBA: Quantifying the Benefits"



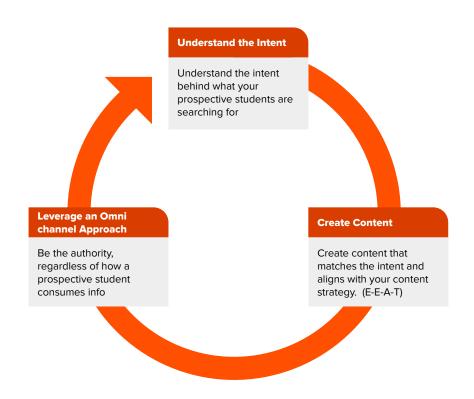
Last Updated Jul 30, 2024





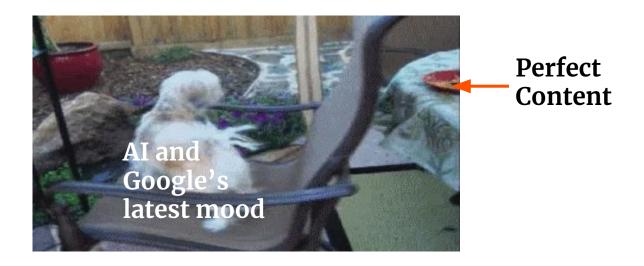


#### **Moving Forward With Your Content**





# Don't Give up







#### **Nurture to Conversion**

Now you have content that draws in prospective students, now what? Use that content to nurture them down the funnel

**Top of the Funnel:** At this stage, students are just starting their research. Content like **blogs**, **eBooks**, and **webinars** that provide general information about your programs, campus life, and financial aid options are crucial.

**Middle of the Funnel:** As students move further down the funnel, they need more detailed information. Here, **case studies**, **testimonials**, and **virtual tours** can help them envision themselves at your institution.

**Bottom of the Funnel:** When students are ready to make a decision, personalized content becomes key. This could include **one-on-one consultations**, **detailed application guides**, or **personalized emails** that address their specific questions and concerns.