David A. Mack, associate dean at the University of Texas at Arlington College of Business, has an idea for you. Come earn a Ph.D. and then, perhaps, teach to pass on your hard-earned and experience-based knowledge to a fresh generation of business students. It is a path he himself followed in his “third career.”

The program is called the Executive Delivery Ph.D. with a concentration in international business (EPh.D., in academic speak). “We are targeting C-level executives who still have some years left in their careers, who find themselves at a crossroads and want to move in a different direction,” said Mack. The program also is directed to entrepreneurs who are looking for their next challenge, he said. The planned launch date is January 2016. Cost of the program is still under consideration.

Participants will attend an initial boot camp of about a week and then meet in four-day-weekend sessions about every six weeks for three years. “Our intent at this time is to hold the classes at [Dallas-Fort Worth International] Airport to enable us to draw students nationally and internationally,” he said. Some sessions will be held elsewhere in the world. Asia, South America and Europe are possible sites.

Dissertations are a central part of Ph.D. programs. Students in the EPh.D. program will start work on their dissertations early and focus on them during the entire process rather than save them until the end. Mack remembers his own doctoral work as very difficult, in part because most Ph.D. students are left on their own to complete their dissertation. As a result, many do not finish the work, he said. “We intend to work closely with the students to begin their dissertations earlier in the program and to manage their progress on the dissertation. They will have strict due dates and specific, agreed upon, work output that they will be expected to complete,” Mack said.

Rachel Croson, dean of the College of Business at UT Arlington, believes that this program serves an important market need. “While there are many DBA [doctorate of business administration] programs in the market, there is only one other EPh.D offered in the U.S. Our focus on international business meshes well with the international business environment of DFW and the College of Business EMBA programs in Fort Worth and in Asia.”

Mack expects that some of the students will go into consulting as a new career, using the intellectual property they developed as part of their dissertation. “Others will go to universities, to teaching-focused institutions or as faculty in Executive MBA programs at more comprehensive, research-focused institutions,” he said. “A few may make the transition to tenure-track faculty positions at research universities, depending on their interest in continuing their research.”

Mack brings business experience as well as academic credentials to his work. He received his Ph.D. from UT Arlington in May 2000 and previously earned an MBA in entrepreneurship from DePaul University in 1993. He has extensive management experience in the insurance and financial services industry and worked for Allstate Insurance Co. for more than 18 years as a senior manager in the systems, accounting and operations areas.