

## Welcome!

On behalf of the EMBA faculty and staff, welcome to the class of 2024! We look forward to working with you over the course of the program. One of the common questions we hear from new students is how to best get ready for the program so that it's possible to make the most of the experience. We would like to share some faculty recommendations for things you can do over the summer to be well-prepared for the program. In all, we have recommendations in three areas; each is considered below.

### 1. Your Business Orientation

As you will see when class begins, you are a diverse group on many dimensions – one of which is the breadth of your business acumen. Some of you have had a career that has exposed you to many elements of business, others will have spent time largely in one functional area. Similarly, some of you may have had an opportunity to work in varied industries where others of you have primarily been in just one. Both depth and breadth of experience can be advantages, but to be best prepared for the program it is a good idea to work on breadth. For that reason, the first recommendation is that you make a deliberate effort to increase your exposure to the entire range of business topics, geographies, and disciplines. The easiest way to do that is to increase your exposure through what you read and what you watch. There are myriad outlets to consider, but here are a few recommended by the faculty (in no particular order):

<i><b>Print</b></i>	<i><b>Blogs &amp; Podcasts</b></i>	<i><b>Television &amp; Radio</b></i>
The Economist	Worklife with Adam Grant	Street Signs (CNBC)
The Wall Street Journal	HBR Ideacast (Harvard Business Review)	Closing Bell (CNBC)
The Financial Times	How I Built This	Marketplace (NPR)
BusinessWeek	The Masters of Scale	Wharton Business Radio
Forbes	Planet Money	Bloomberg Radio
Fast Company	Work Matters by Bob Sutton (Stanford Univ)	Business Daily (BBC)
Inc		

It is not our suggestion that you read or listen to all of this, but that you sample around to find outlets that are exposing you to things you have not had time to learn about and spend time with each of them. As a GSU student, you will have free access to many of the resources via the GSU library. Be sure to access with your campus id and password <https://library.gsu.edu/>

### 2. Building Foundational Skills

Our experience suggests there are two common deficits and the good news is there are for

each a large number of resources that can help you build or shore up your competency. The two areas are Excel and accounting. Though the program does offer some pre-program assistance with each, if you recognize either as a shortcoming it is a great use of summer time to invest in yourself here. Time spent over the summer will offer a great return in less time struggling throughout the program!

The link below takes you to a site designed to prepare students for basic spreadsheet analysis of problems in Accounting, Finance, Econ and Statistics.

<https://www.mbamath.com/GettingStarted.aspx>

While we do see this program as particularly suited for soon-to-be MBA students, we realize you may not want to come out of pocket for the course (~\$149). There are other resources available to you; this particular course is not required. In sum, if you suspect your skills in Excel and/or basic statistics are rusty or incomplete, doing something now will pay returns down the road.

If you prefer to seek out other resources that might be less costly or simply preferred to you, feel free. One you might consider <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/excel-2016-essential-training/welcome>. In the end, your goal should be to feel comfortable with Excel and to have recollected basic statistics.

### **3. Develop and Practice New Routines**

We encourage you to make time this summer to settle as much as you can about your work and personal life. You are embarking on a journey that is going to change your availability for other people and other tasks. To the degree you can take care of things now so that they don't distract you later, the program will become more manageable. This summer is a great time to take a family vacation or to find a way to spoil yourself. This summer is the right time to plan with a significant other or family members as when you will be available to them – develop a date night routine; develop routines for special time with children, other friends and family. Putting that discipline in place (and sticking to it) will help you and your significant others over the course of the program.

Most of all, please remember that while you are well-advised to spend some time improving your ability to excel when you start the program, the most important thing we advise you to do this summer is to invest not just in yourself but in your relationships with all of those around you on whose support you will rely over the course of the program.

Regards – and excited to begin this journey with you shortly!

The EMBA Faculty and Staff