

Deferred Entry MBA

The Deferred Entry MBA program at the Carlson School is highly selective for domestic students (U.S. Citizens or permanent residents) in their senior year of college. This program is intended for students who have a solid academic background, leadership and collaboration skills, and a desire to reserve their spot in our programs while they gain work experience after graduation. During their senior year, students can apply to the program and, upon admission, embark on a unique journey into the professional realm, gaining two years of invaluable work experience before entering the Carlson Full-Time MBA or Management Science MBA program.

We encourage applicants to have a robust academic background, substantial internship experience, and, ideally, a post-graduation job opportunity. A commitment to full-time work between conditional and full admission ensures a seamless transition, empowering students to forge their path toward a successful career confidently.

Benefits of the program:

- Guaranteed minimum \$25,000 per year scholarship to the Full-time or STEMBA program so long as conditional admission requirements are met.
- Access to connections with other admitted MBA Fellows, including fall and spring get-togethers.
- 89% of the Full-Time MBA graduates from the Class of 2023 received job offers within three months of graduation and the average starting base salary has increased by 17.5% to \$141,471.

Program Structure

- Senior Year:

- Study for GMAT/GRE and take the exam - send the test scores to Carlson by June 1st after completing your senior year
- Request letters of recommendation
- Polish resume
- Craft personal statement
- Speak with Admissions Team about how to strengthen your application to apply to the Deferred MBA program
- **Apply by June 1**

The pre-enrollment period is the period between when applicants are conditionally admitted to the Full-time MBA or Management Science MBA program, and when they enroll. For example, Deferred Entry MBA applicants applying at the June 1, 2025 deadline will begin their MBA program in Fall 2027. Students are expected to be working full-time during this period and submit the additional information outlined in their admissions portal in order to ensure they receive full admission and their guaranteed minimum scholarship.

Additional details will be shared with admitted students over the course of their two-year deferral to make the most of their time in the workforce and prepare them for joining the MBA program for full-time study.

Year 1 after conditional admission:

Meet with MBA program mentors to learn more about the student experience

Connect with student organizations at events and other MBA programs

Year 2 after conditional admission:

Late Summer:

Submit an updated resume with professional accomplishments and new skills developed since your first application.

Request an endorsement from a current supervisor or colleague who can speak to your growing professionalism and on-the-job achievements.

Fall:

Meet with admissions staff to discuss any outstanding questions about entering full-time study.

Finalize your intent to begin the following fall semester by making your initial deposit and confirmation.

Winter/Spring:

Attend events like Ask Me Anything student panels and Up Close to get to know other students in your incoming cohort.

Summer:

Complete required pre-work and assessments

Attend Orientation in August

Application Deadlines

Candidates will apply by **June 1** after completing their senior year/bachelor's degree. Conditional admission decisions will be released in mid-late August.

Full-Time MBA Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Deferred Entry MBA program, applicants must be in their senior year, in the process of completing their Bachelor's degree, or having recently completed their bachelor's degree, and submit a complete application to the Carlson School's MBA Program Office. A complete application please visit:

<https://carlsonschool.umn.edu/graduate/mba/full-time/admissions/deferred-mba>