

Advantages

- Joint degree programs are most attractive to individuals who want to work at the intersection of both professions. For example, an aspiring healthcare entrepreneur may seek a joint degree for a career developing new healthcare resources or managing a healthcare organization.
- Students who want to make a career transition may like the fact that the joint or dual degree option allows them to earn two degrees faster than if they pursued the degrees separately, because some courses will fulfill requirements in both programs.

Limitations

- Joint degrees require an extensive absence from the job market—usually three or more years. Therefore, this may not be the best choice for those who plan to continue along a career path and need to maintain current job skills and professional knowledge.
- Prospective employers may not have a clear understanding of why you chose to pursue either or both disciplines.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Timeline

Most US business schools have three rounds of admissions deadlines:

- fall (September/October)
- winter (January/February)
- spring (March/April)

Check each school's admissions schedule. When a deadline arrives, the admissions committee reviews all completed applications submitted by the deadline. All subsequent applications are held until the next deadline, or "round." Some business schools operate on a "rolling" calendar, reviewing applications as they arrive and continuing to admit students until all spaces have been filled.

Researching programs and schools

There are over 1900 business schools offering more than 4500 programs worldwide. Try these resources to help narrow the field:

- www.mba.com The Graduate Management Admission Search Service® (GMASS®) developed by the Graduate Management Admissions Council. When you create an account on mba.com or when you take the GMAT exam, you'll be asked if you want business schools to contact you. If you choose "yes," then your information will be entered into the GMASS search service database, so schools can find you.
- www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu/business-school Tools on the OCS website to help you evaluate MBA programs.
- <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools> U.S. News and World Report annual ranking of MBA programs.