

Undergraduate Resource Series

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IS BUSINESS SCHOOL RIGHT FOR YOU?

Graduates of MBA programs can be found in almost any type of organization. Business school will prepare you to create or lead an organization, manage resources, develop effective operational strategies, and more. Once admitted, required coursework typically includes: Organizational Behavior, Marketing, Accounting, Finance, Strategy, and Operations Management. This is followed by elective coursework that allows the student to customize their experience. Some students consider an MBA as essential for advancement to a management role while others will use it as a means to change careers. As an undergraduate student, it is unlikely that you will be admitted to enter directly into an MBA program without first working for a few years. This period of employment will give you time to think about your long term goals and help you determine if a graduate degree is appr

Informational me

Talking with people (wi extremely helpful as you

Be sure to ask:

- How is an MBA view
- Will an MBA improv
- If that person has ar
- What was most help

Your conversation can I goals. Also, speak with c Inquire about their expe

What should you

There's no magic formu achievements, pre-MBA recommendations. Nor career goal or industry i aspire to work. What MI they find opportunities are motivated, have a st themselves, and have a grow.

Business schools tend to focus on impact more than scale. Make sure, therefore, that the academic and extracurricular choices you interest you can be

v attended

will be to your career ed an MBA program. careers.

academic essays, interviews, or

or leaders. In monstrated a vision into a at it's not about lishment, but the

passion with which you invest in and pursue your goals.

make truly reflect your interests, demonstrate initiative, and give you opportunities to play a leadership role in the organization. A strong undergraduate academic record and GMAT (or possibly GRE) score are also important parts of your application to business school. Many schools allow you to sit in on a class to gain insight into what a typical course looks like. Take advantage of this opportunity!

What can you do during the summer?

Summers provide you with opportunities to enhance the skills you'll most likely want to use in your work, to explore various industry options, and build your professional network. As with your academic and extracurricular choices, anything you do in the summer that adds value to your credibility as a leader or someone with a strong sense of initiative will be useful to your candidacy for business school. That can be anything from starting a swimming program to teaching ESL.

WHEN TO APPLY?

Regular admissio

Most undergraduates ty Many decide to apply or

- 1. That they have I
- 2. How their MBA Business schools do not opportunities in an area and leadership in that fi

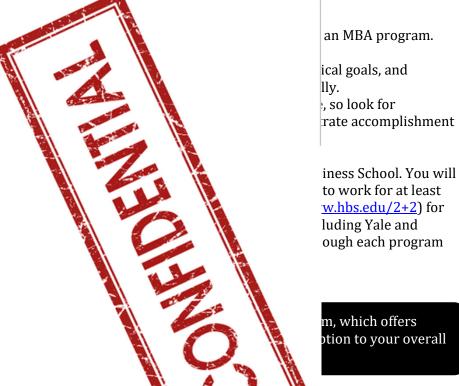
HBS 2+2 is a deferred a apply in the spring of yo two years prior to matrithe most up-to-date app Stanford also have proghas a unique structure a

TIP: CONSULT THE excellent advice about application strategy.

Joint-degree prog

A joint or dual degree pagraduate program of stu

- law
- medicine
- healthcare administration
- engineering



- technology
- international studies

with another full-time

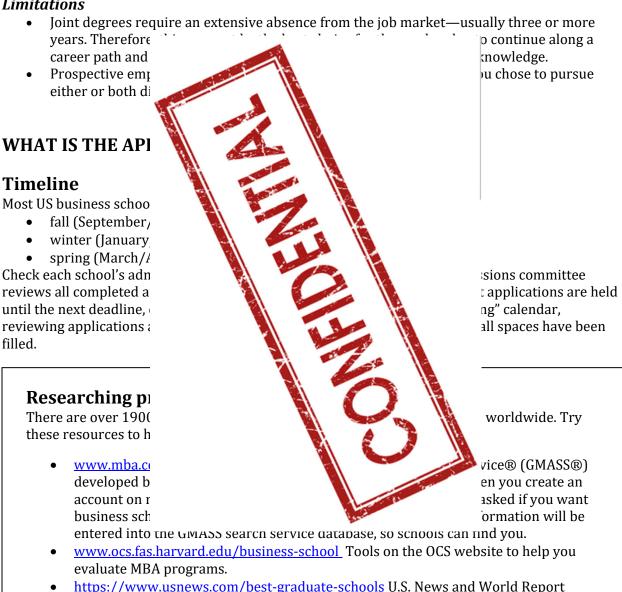
- public policy
- dentistry

You must apply separately for each program. While both programs are usually at the same school, some cooperative relationships between schools do exist. The second program determines total program length, but joint degrees generally take three to four years to complete.

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



annual ranking of MBA programs.

School rankings

Over the years, the media and MBA program brochures have elevated the significance of business school rankings as one of the most important benchmarks for choosing a school to attend. However, school rankings often depend on which publication you read and what research methodology was used. In some cases, information is subjective and may include results that are not checked for accuracy. Most importantly, rankings do not take into account the unique elements of certain programs and how these attributes might meet your individual needs. *Rankings tell you what schools are "best" but do not take into account "best fit."*

Admissions testing

Most MBA programs require at least one graduate admissions test score.

• <u>www.mba.com</u> (

• www.ets.org Gra Consult the individual s graduate school admiss testing and have the flex one of the test-preparat

Essays and person

Most business schools rea range of subjects such community engagement You, as the candidate, ar accomplishments and as

- Write to expres what you think t an MBA degree a
- What will you b give-and-take pralso about what bring to the clasentrance require
- Why this school particular school are a good fit.
- Reality check: In your career, right

iors complete their comfortable with e on their own using test website.

prompts may include complishments, and er they tell one story. ts of your character, know you better.

en you're just writing know why you want

ol community is a business school, it's by what value they can how well they match

pursue an MBA at a en school and why you

s school to advance large extent on what

you did beforehand. Find out what MBA employers look for in candidates by talking to students, alumni and the school's career services office. If you don't have enough experience right now to benefit fully from an MBA, further define your goals and apply later.

Letters of recommendation

A recommendation letter needs to:

- 1. Support how well you can manage the academic demands of the MBA program and your potential to succeed in your chosen career.
- 2. Validate or expand on your credentials, strengths, and aspirations.
- 3. Help the admissions office to get an overall sense of you as a candidate.

Choose a good cross-section of people who can attest to your dependability and who know about your plans for MBA study, such as employers, colleagues, and faculty. Schools may have different recommendation requirements. Check with each school you are applying to before you select your recommenders. Each program requires a specific number of recommendation letters, usually two

or three. *Don't exceed th* Recommendations are v from people with impor

Resume

There is not a special for esume templates on the experience as well as yo

Interviews

Many schools conduct a Admissions website. Ear admissions interview pr your interest in the pros

Financial aid

You can find information resources at the official to you through grants and employers may offer to for them. Total costs inc \$110,000 per year.

ns staff.
s. Avoid getting letters
r work.

ool. Use the OCS size your leadership

w to prepare on their riew. Generally, an plishments relative to

ell as financial aid Il aid may be available me cases, pre-MBA ce you return to work \$90,000 to over

PRE-MBA CHECKLIST

Le	earn on the job		
_	industry.	with anning managers and only about their	
	During your summer internship(s), take time to talk v backgrounds.	with senior managers and ask about their	
	Identify mentors who have completed an MBA progra	am and ask how their program influenced	
_	their career.	an and aon now enem program initiaencea	
Le	earn about yourself		
	Read the Wall Street	other industry-specific	
	publications regular		
	Connect with people	a way of gaining	
	knowledge about th	S.	
	Assess how your day	o school to help you	
	decide which lifesty		
Vi	isit and evaluate		
	Visit some of the bu	you were applying to	
	college. In some cas	lass.	
	Talk to students wh	career services office	
	to find out what the		
	Learn about what di	aching style or put	
	greater emphasis or	ement, or	
	entrepreneurship.		
Τe	est preparation		
Mo	ost students report th	ı. In general, we	
	ggest that you:		
	Give yourself time to	ur math skills.	
	12/1	le on their respective	
	websites.		
	Purchase a test prer	mplete multiple	
	practice tests.		
Αŗ	pplication prepa		
	Your application ess	tand your strengths as	
	a candidate as well as your cureer occures, for pursuit	up un ribin	
	Ask your mentors and professional advisors to read them to assess how clearly you present		
	your candidacy once you complete a draft for each es		
	Have your resume reviewed, including your most up-to-date information.		

It's important to bear in mind that you are a "prospective customer" as well as an applicant. Don't be afraid to ask questions to ensure that you make an informed decision about which program you ultimately choose according to your academic, career, and educational community needs!