

Texas MBA Working Professional Programs Virtual Chat Transcript March 7, 2012 12-1 p.m.

Kurt Mitschke: Welcome to the Texas MBA for Working Professionals Admissions Office Hours Chat. Please review the notes on the left side of the screen. We will start accepting questions at 12 pm CST.

Kurt Mitschke: We're ready to get started. Please use the Q&A box to enter your questions.

Nick: I was previously applying to another MBA program that did not require/waive a GMAT score. I have 10+ years experience and wanted to know if I should wait to study enough to post a competitive GMAT or go ahead and take the GMAT to finish my application and then work to raise that score before the deadline? I would hate to miss out on a spot while studying. **Trent Thurman, Director:** Hi Nick. Thanks for the question. My advice would be to go ahead and apply and continue studying for the exam. That way, we at least know you are out there and can let you know about events or other activities. By the way, we only take the highest score and do not average test scores.

Hugo: For international students, are the transcripts required to be translated, during the application phase?

Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions: Hi Hugo - transcripts are translated internally with our Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC). We will require your original transcripts. For more information on transcripts, please contact GIAC: http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/about/personnel/contact.html

Sheryl Byrd: I was first interested in the PMBA Houston program last year. I spent the time to attend an information session, social event, and a class session in 2011. I was very impressed and comfortable with the "feel" of the program. Has the level of the professors or class discussion changed dramatically enough to warrant another class visit before applying this year?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Sheryl. Thanks for the question. I'm glad to hear you did such a thorough job last year with the Houston program. While nothing has changed dramatically, I would suggest sitting in on another class, time permitting, just to meet some of the students who started this year I'm sure that will generate some additional questions. It's a big decision, so definitely want to ensure that you have everything answered and feel comfortable before applying.

Faith: What is the minimum amount of work experience you need to have to apply? **Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions:** Hi Faith - the minimum years of work experience for our working professional MBA programs is 2, and the average years of work experience among current students is about 6 years.

Molly: If I begin the Texas Evening MBA program and my company relocates, is it possible to then transfer to another Texas MBA program (Houston or DFW)?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Molly. It's not ideal, but it can be done. All three programs have the same curriculum, but because DFW & Houston take 3 classes per semester and the evening program takes 2 per semester, sometimes it is not a "clean" transition, but we can make it work. In fact, we have several students currently in our programs who have done just that. Our goal is to work with you to ensure you finish your degree.

Faith: Should all of my recommendations be professional or should I mix it up between professional and personal (like someone who could speak to my volunteering)? **Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions:** Hi Faith - generally speaking, we recommend that your references be strictly professional. However, depending on the level of your volunteer efforts (ie, sitting on the board of an organization) a recommendation from that organization could count as a professional recommendation.

Benipal: Is TOEFL a requirement along with GMAT score for someone with a Master of Science degree from a US university?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Benipal. We can waive the TOEFL based on English speaking skills as determined during the interview process.

Faith: Is it possible to meet current students in the program? Do they attend info sessions? I'd love to talk to someone about their experience in the TEMBA program.

Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions: Hi Faith - great question! At all of our info sessions we have both alumni and current student representation for the Q&A portion. We also have some upcoming events that will give you an opportunity to hear from students and experience what it's like in the MBA program. For all of our working professional programs, we will be hosting Women's Forums on Saturday, March 24. The links are below:

Houston - http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Houston/Info-Sessions/Womens-Forum.aspx
http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Temba/Info-Sessions/Womens-Forum.aspx
http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Temba/Info-Sessions/Womens-Forum.aspx

We are also hosting the Texas Evening MBA Webinar on April 4 which will give you the opportunity to hear from a panel of current students. Here is the link: http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/TEMBA/Info-Sessions/Online-Events.aspx

Molly: Thank you, Trent. I am fairly certain that I will not need to relocate, but wanted to know what that might look like if it was necessary.

Trent Thurman, Director: I completely understand. I met with a current student about this very scenario this morning.

Nick: How much interaction is there between Evening, Full-time, and Executive MBA candidates?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey Nick. Good question. We have made some good strides in this over the last few years and I anticipate more interaction going forward. On the social/networking front, Evening students are invited to the Full-Time Think n Drinks on Thursday nights. Also, the Evening Graduate Business Council is working with their counterparts on the Full-Time GBC on other cross-program initiatives. We have also had cross-program teams on our MBA + projects (consulting projects). In the last few years, we have opened up the initial fall with an all-program luncheon and reception to encourage more interaction and I see that improving every year.

Faith: Do students in these programs (non-full-time) have access to career services? **Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions:** Hi Faith - yes, we offer career management services to all MBA students, including those in our working professional MBA programs. For more info, please visit: http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Dallas/Career.aspx

Guest123: I recently submitted my application without the GMAT score and recommendations. Do you think you might process the application before everything is complete? If yes, would it be like a conditional acceptance like you will be accepted if you get at least 620 etc. **Trent Thurman, Director:** Thanks for the question. We will not process the application until it is complete. In some cases, we will invite candidates in for an interview prior to having all material in, but a decision will not be made on any application until we have thoroughly reviewed the entire application.

Benipal: What kinds of opportunities are available for MBA at Houston professionals if they are interested in switching careers? What is the trend in the past few years? Do you see majority of students switching careers post MBA at Houston or is it more prevalent in full time program only.

Trent Thurman, Director: In recent years, we've seen a little more than half of our Houston students embark on a career shift either during or after the program. As a result, we do offer a very systematic approach to career management that starts with an assessment of where you are and where you want to go. There are a series of modules that mirror what we offer in all of our programs to prepare you to either take the next step with your current organization or go through on-campus recruiting here at UT. As far as industries, management consulting has been the path taken by many of our working professional students who make a change.

Guest123: I got 780 from GRE back in 2003. Would that be enough for the application? **Bethany Thomason, MBA Admissions:** We will accept the GRE or the GMAT for the application. GRE scores expire after 5 years, so you may not be able to use the score from 2003. While we have not received enough GRE scores for the application to calculate an average among admitted students, we do have an average GMAT score of about 660 for the GMAT for the working professional programs. You can convert your GRE to a GMAT in order to determine where your score falls in the average using the tool found here: http://www.ets.org/gre/institutions/about/mba/comparison_tool.

Kurt Mitschke: JUST WANTED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE HAVE 10 MINUTES LEFT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THIS CHAT WILL END AT 1 PM.

Guest123: My last question. If I receive acceptances from other universities before UT's decision, is it possible to expedite the application process?

Trent Thurman, Director: We will try our best to work with your other deadlines....we can't guarantee you'll hear from us before other deadline dates, but we will try our best.

Kurt Mitschke: WE ARE GOING TO WRAP UP THIS SESSION NOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THAT DID NOT GET ANSWERED TODAY, PLEASE EMAIL US. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ONLINE CHAT!