



Texas Full-Time MBA Virtual Chat Transcript
October 5, 2011 12-1 p.m.

Angela Zerda: Welcome to the Full-Time MBA Admissions chat. Please review the notes to the left side of the screen. We will start accepting questions at 12pm CST.

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

cq: Is it not advisable to submit an application before attending an information session?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Attending an info session can give you a deeper insight into the program beyond what you can find on the website. If you are not able to attend one, we recommend reaching out to current students and alumni via the online directory. Anyone who is registered with our site can access these directories when logged in.

CuriousKid: How good is McCombs for people looking to pursue post-mba careers in hi-tech with a general management focus...from what I have read, McCombs continues to be finance, consulting and marketing focused primarily

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Our program is designed to be a general management MBA that offers flexibility and customization for your future career goals. While we do have many students who choose to pursue post MBA careers in Finance, Consulting, and Marketing, we offer over 20 different concentrations and have students who pursue careers in a wide range of functions and industries.

Aditi: What particular information are you looking for in the last optional essay?

Angela Zerda: The last optional essay is a place for you to communicate anything that you want the admissions committee to know that you couldn't find an appropriate place to share elsewhere in the application. You only need to use this essay if you have specific information that would add value to your application. Do not feel pressured to put something just to put something.

Liz: What is the difference in a MBA+ Project, a Marketing Challenge, and the Marketing Fellows?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Hello Liz, the MBA+ Projects are micro-consulting projects that are designed to give students an opportunity to gain hands on experience working on a project for a company. MBA+ projects are optional and take place over the course of 4 - 10 weeks depending on the scope of the project. The Marketing Challenge is a case competition that takes place over the course of two days. You work with a group of 4-6 students on a simulated case created by a corporate sponsor of the challenge. The teams make presentations to executives, who select winners and offer industry-specific feedback. The Marketing Fellows is an organization designed for students who are committed to pursuing a career in the marketing industry. There is an application process to become a member of the Marketing Fellows, and the program entails a two-semester course (2nd semester of your 1st year and 1st semester of your 2nd year) that you receive course credit for.

Jonathan: How much emphasis do you put on undergraduate GPA. Assuming every other aspect of my application is strong, and the fact that my undergraduate courses were difficult, would I still be a strong candidate for admission?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: McCombs evaluates upper division coursework when looking at the GPA. The university and degree program are taken into consideration when evaluating GPA. To some degree, test scores and/or recent coursework can mitigate a borderline GPA. If you feel your GPA is not representative of the type of student you will be in the MBA program, please feel free to use the optional essay to explain why.

Lisa: Does McCombs review applications on a rolling basis?

Angela Zerda: This year we are using rounds. We have four rounds with specific deadlines and decision release dates. You can view those on our admissions website. The first round deadline is October 24 and all applicants who apply by that deadline will receive their admissions decision the week of December 19.

Aditi: If we are asked to interview, when do you usually have those interviews?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Aditi, after you submit your application, interviews will be done by invitation only after your application is reviewed. If you receive an interview invitation you will have the option to interview on campus with a 2nd year student who is a member of our McCombs Admissions Committee (MAC) or off campus with an alumni in your area.

Nila: I had a question regarding re-applications.. do you also consider the previous year's application and compare the differences/improvements since last time

Angela Zerda: If you applied the previous year and are a re-applicant we will look at both your previous year's application and your new application. And yes, we will be looking for differences/improvements since the original application. The optional essay is a great place to highlight those and address yourself as a re-applicant (that is recommended).

Javier: Is the third round more competitive for prospective international applicants? Do you recommend to apply the second round even if GMAT score can be improved by the third round?

Angela Zerda: We recommend applying when your application is at its strongest so if you feel you can improve your GMAT score and apply in Round 3 that would probably be the best way to go. We don't have a certain number of spots allotted to international students in any particular round.

Cody: Why is it recommended to submit your application by the first two deadlines?

Angela Zerda: Applying in the first two rounds allows you to have your admissions decision in time to attend our Preview Weekend for admitted students. It also guarantees consideration for our admissions scholarships. Obviously we are admitting people in each round as we go along so the longer you wait to apply, the less seats are left in the class to offer admission for, and the more competitive it will be to receive one

of those seats. Overall, you should apply when your application is at its strongest because you'll be more competitive in Round 3 with a stronger application than in Round 2 with a rushed application.

David: Do you need to have paid the application fee and uploaded your transcripts to GIAC by the 24th for R1 consideration?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Information about the application fee is located in Step 3 of the instructions and reposted here for your convenience:

STEP 3 - AFTER APPLICATION

Pay Application Fee (non-refundable): Payment of the \$175 application fee is required in order for your application to be accepted and evaluated. Within two business days of submission of your application you will receive an email with instructions on submitting payment of your application fee in the UT payment website "What I Owe". Your application fee status should reflect "Paid" within five business days of submission. If you apply to more than one Texas MBA program or to an MBA and MSTC, you are required to pay the fulltime Texas MBA application fee and the other application fee will be waived. Please contact us AFTER you have submitted both applications. Dual Degree candidates will pay the fee after submitting the Apply Texas Application.

ebere: Would the review be done in addition to the scholarship award and will the decision on both be communicated to students in December?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: When possible, scholarship awards are communicated at the same time as your admission decision; however, there may be instances where scholarships are not communicated until after the admission decision is given. Regardless, you will be given your scholarship status prior to having to accept your offer and make an enrollment deposit.

Josh McConnell: Texas is a favorable state in which to do business. As a business owner currently outside of Texas, I'm curious what proportion of graduates remain in the state of Texas? Which other geographic areas maintain the strongest network of McCombs alumni?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Josh - From last year's graduating class, 57% accepted offers in the Southwest, which includes Texas. Typically only 25 - 30% of students in the class are Texas residents before starting business school and choose to stay in Texas post MBA for many different reasons including business opportunities (there are more Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Texas than any other state), cost of living (no state income tax), and the fantastic weather (over 300 days of sunshine per year). However, there are many opportunities outside of Texas for our graduates who would like to work in other parts of the country. The McCombs School of Business has over 84,000 alumni around the world. Two of our largest U.S. alumni groups outside of Texas are New York and San Francisco.

ds: What kind of approach are you looking for in the goals essay? Is it best to include anecdotes folded into your overall goals?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Essays are a chance for you to really tell your story. Be sure to understand the questions that are being asked and answer them. Tell us your story in a natural and honest way. Your response should be descriptive, straightforward, and sincere. Take time to think, then write -- these are not easy questions to answer.

While business school is a time for exploration, we do expect an applicant to have a strong sense for why they want an MBA and what they hope to do once they graduate. Applying to business school is an introspective process, and we want to make sure a candidate has a good sense for what they want from a program, where they hope it will lead them, and why our school in particular is well suited to help them attain their goals. This is a core of your "story" and it should come across well in your essays. Once you have written your essays, ask someone who knows you well to read them, but then also have someone who is less familiar with you and your background review them.

Nila: I had another question on re-applications. Will it be possible to receive feedback on last year's application?

Angela Zerda: We usually do not provide feedback on individual applications, however, if you email TexasMBA@mcombs.utexas.edu we can provide general information on what to consider when putting together your strongest application and identifying your weaker areas.

Hanna: Are you specifically looking for rec letters from employers? Can they be former professors?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: McCombs prefers professional recommendations. These are individuals who can speak directly to your professional character traits and work experience. If this is not possible, we suggest seeking references from organizations you may be involved with. McCombs utilizes an online recommendation form with specific questions. It can be difficult for professors to complete this form since it's geared toward a professional recommendation. All recommenders are provided the option to upload a letter as well as completing the form.

John: Could you talk a little about the application process for the MBA Investment Fund? How competitive is it? And is it open to 1Y & 2Y?

Angela Zerda: It is a competitive process that involves an application and interview. Each year about 20 first-year students are selected in the fall semester. They are trained by the second-year fund leaders in their spring semester and then manage the Fund throughout their second year (then training the next group). You are welcome to email TexasMBA@mcombs.utexas.edu and ask to connect with one of our MAC students who is on the Fund.

Nithin: With regard to TOEFL waivers, does the waiver have to be requested of and granted by McCombs before the round deadline for the application to be considered complete?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: TOEFL waivers are requested within the application at the time of submission. Specific instructions for requesting the waiver can be found in the Application Instructions, but are too long to post here. You can find the instructions at this link below the page fold:

<http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Admissions/Apply.aspx>

Nithin: Does McCombs offer off-site or phone interviews?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Interview information can be found in the Application Instructions and are reposted here for your convenience:

Admissions Interview Policy: McCombs utilizes an invitation-only interview system. This means that the Admissions Committee will review completed applications and invite selected candidates to interview. Interview invitations are sent via email and can arrive at anytime during the application round. Applicants who are invited to interview are requested to log in and schedule an interview within a week of receiving an invitation. Interviews can be conducted on campus or with alumni in locations around the world.

Sandeep Gulati: What approximate percentage of students end up working in Energy firms after graduation, and what type of job functions are offered to students in Energy sector?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Sandeep, last year 9% of the graduating class accepted full-time positions in the Petroleum/Energy industry (<http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Career/~media/Files/MSB/MBA/Full-Time/FT-2011-prelim-stats-05262011.ashx>). ConocoPhillips, Chevron, and ExxonMobil Corporation are some of the energy related companies that recruit at McCombs, and we have students who accept jobs at other energy related companies as well (traditional Oil & Gas in addition to CleanTech). There are a range of job functions including general management, investment banking, corporate finance, marketing, and public affairs.

Joseph Salerno: My school does not offer electronic transcripts. I photocopied my official undergraduate transcript and attached it to the application. Is this acceptable?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi Joseph! Great question - for the application, you may attach the scanned copy of your transcript. If you are admitted, we will need an official copy of your transcript from your undergraduate institution. This would be a sealed, official paper copy from them.

Joseph Salerno: I did not see any spot in the application for undergraduate GPA. I only found "upper level" GPA. Did I miss this spot in the application?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Joseph - For admission purposes, the Graduate and International Admissions Center at UT calculates a G.P.A. using undergraduate, upper-division coursework. You can calculate your upper division GPA typically by using your junior and senior level courses.

CuriousKid: What is the scholarship policy for international students? What's the max school available to international students?

Angela Zerda: International students are eligible for the same admissions scholarships as domestic students and will automatically be considered for those based on the application submitted. Those are merit-based and focus mostly on the strength of the GMAT, GPA and work experience. There is no additional information needed. We recommend doing research on your own as well, as there are various organizations and scholarships available outside of McCombs-offered scholarships.

Kate Davies: If we are admitted to McCombs in Round 1, when will we be required to make our decision to attend?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi Kate. For Round 1 admitted students, the deadline to make your deposit is January 27.

cq: If you are already getting one rec from a high level professional, from your current employer would it be advised to get the second one from another organization?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi CQ - It's best if both of your recommenders have recent experience with you - so if it's been a few years since you've worked for the other organization, it may be better to get another recommendation from someone in your current organization. One idea is to get a recommendation from someone who worked with you in a different capacity or saw you in a different role than your other recommender.

Arisa: Can I ask on GRE score? How it is evaluated compare to GMAT?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi Arisa. Great question - we started accepting the GRE as of last year, and we don't assign preference to the GRE or the GMAT. There is no minimum score; however, the averages for the first year MBA Class of 2013 are 691 GMAT and 1370 GRE.

ds: Regarding those with non-traditional professional backgrounds, how diverse is the current mix of students?

Angela Zerda: Many of our students are from non-business backgrounds. In fact, only about 30% of students have a traditional business undergraduate background. You can view the Class Profile online at <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Admissions/Class-Profile.aspx>. It will be updated shortly with our Class of 2013 stats.

Nithin: If a student has a graduate degree and an undergraduate degree, would the GPA of either degree be given greater preference?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: If there were a vast difference in undergrad vs. grad GPA, then we would evaluate the recency of the last degree earned, to give an idea of the type of student you are. Test scores are another indicator of academic success.

David: Could you give some information about the CleanTech Fellows Program? Is this new, because I saw it listed in the brochure, but I couldn't find anything on the McCombs site.

Angela Zerda: To get the best information about this, I'd recommend emailing the CleanTech Group student organization at CleanTechGroup@mcombs.utexas.edu. I'm sure they can provide more insight in this area or connect you with a Fellow.

Arisa: On the fee payment, if submit the application on 24th, meaning payment will be later than that. Is this still valid?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Payment must be RECEIVED within ten business days of receiving the fee notification email or application is subject to being moved to next round. See payment website for acceptable payment methods.

Liz: Once accepted into the program, is there any type of mentorship program in place between the second and first years, and potentially alums and second years (is this what Texas Exes is about?)?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi Liz - we have several opportunities for mentorship once you are admitted to McCombs. If you attend our Preview Weekend in the spring, you will have a current student as a mentor for the weekend. Once you accept your invitation for admission, you will have a current student as a mentor for the summer to answer any questions before you start the program. We also host Summer Coffee Chats in various cities throughout the country so you have the opportunity to meet with current students and alums in person. Once you begin the program, you will continue your mentor relationships, and also select a Peer Advisor to help you with career-related questions and activities.

Lisa: In the 'Biographical Information' section of the online application, each time I try to save my 'Emergency Contact Phone Number' it does not save and defaults to a 214-area code phone number - could this be a bug in the application or am I not saving correctly?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: The Emergency Contact Phone Number is a technical issue that has been logged and should be resolved soon. Thank you for your patience.

cq: Are all applicants invited to be interviewed prior to being accepted or are some students accepted without an interview?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Offers of admission are made only to candidates who have completed an interview. Admissions Interview Policy: McCombs utilizes an invitation-only interview system. This means that the Admissions Committee will review completed applications and invite selected candidates to interview. Interview invitations are sent via email and can arrive at anytime during the application round. Applicants who are invited to interview are requested to log in and schedule an interview within a week of receiving an invitation. Interviews can be conducted on campus or with alumni in locations around the world.

Mu: Is there any way to confirm that McCombs has received my recommendation from my recommenders?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Mu - when you log in to your application, click on the application tab at the top of the screen. Section 4 will

show you which of your recommendations are complete and have been submitted. If you click on the "Resend Recommendation" button, it will only resend the email to your recommender(s) who have not submitted yet. More detailed instructions and screen shots can be found on the recording of our "Tips and Tricks to the Application" webinar - <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Admissions/Online-Events.aspx>.

ds: I have heard about the Math Boot Camp before the first year starts. Is this optional or mandatory? Is there an extra cost to attend?

Angela Zerda: In past years the Quant Boot Camp has been an optional part of the activities leading up to the mandatory Orientation and there is an additional cost associated with it. The Orientation team is still in the planning phases for Fall 2012 Orientation events so the details have not yet been determined.

cq: I understand that if admitted in R1 a deposit would be required by Jan 27th, what would this be for R2? (I know that decisions will be available by Feb 20th)

Kristina, MAC member: Hi CQ - the deposit deadlines for the remaining rounds are as follows: Round 2 - April 6; Round 3 - May 4; Round 4 - June 1

Sandeep: Is there a formal faculty advisor assigned to students, who can guide, with elective course selections once you are in the program?

Angela Zerda: There is not a faculty advisor assigned but your academic advisor is able to provide guidance on the best electives to meet your goals. Additionally, the faculty participate in an Elective Fair to demonstrate what the electives they teach are about and answer questions from students about them.

Sandeep: Another question, are there some courses (more popular-in demand) that get filled up, leaving students not being able to attend them, or do all students able to attend any elective they wish?

Kristina, MAC member: Hi Sandeep - At McCombs, we use a bidding system to sign up for elective courses. Each student is assigned a certain number of points for each registration period (points do not roll over), and it is up to the individual to decide how to assign priority to courses through the points. For example, if there is a course that you really want to take, you may bid more points for that course. Historical "market clears" (how many points were necessary to win a class) are available so you can gauge how many points were used in the past. In addition, if you are flexible in your schedule (e.g. being willing to take an 8am class or a 4pm class), it is rare that you would not be able to get a class you really want.

Kaoru: What kind of resources does McCombs have for students interested in non-profit management?

Shawn, MAC Member: Hi Kaoru, the McCombs Net Impact chapter is a gold star chapter that offers many resources to students interested in non-profit management. The Social Enterprise concentration offers several courses focused specifically on non-profit management and you also have the opportunity to take classes in the LBJ School of Public Affairs. The Board Fellows program is another great way to be involved in local non-profit organizations.

Javier: What is the difference from the Full Time MBA and another degree such as MBA and Mechanical Engineering? If I choose the latter, do I have to apply to Engineering school too? Is it a one more semester study?

Jolene Ashcraft, Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Javier - we offer several Dual Degree programs, including the MBA/Master of Mechanical Engineering. If you are interested in a Dual Degree, you would apply to both programs separately - the full-time MBA program and Master of Mechanical Engineering. If admitted to both programs you would be enrolled as a Dual Degree student. All of our dual degree programs are three years (with the exception of the JD/MBA, which takes four years). You would do your first year in the non-business school (Engineering), second year in the business school, and third year taking classes in both programs. A full list of our Dual Degree programs can be found at <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Program-Information/Dual-Degree.aspx>.

Angela Zerda: WE'RE GOING TO WRAP UP THIS SESSION NOW. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING. WE HAVE SOME GREAT EVENTS COMING UP BOTH ON AND OFF CAMPUS SO BE SURE TO CHECK THEM OUT ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER THE ADMISSIONS SECTION. OUR NEXT ONLINE CHAT WILL BE NOVEMBER 21ST. If you have any questions that did not get answered today, please feel free to email them to TexasMBA@mcombs.utexas.edu.