



Texas Full-Time MBA Chat for Domestic Applicants Transcript January 5, 2012 12-1 p.m.

Kurt Mitschke: Welcome to the Full-Time MBA Admissions chat for domestic applicants. Please review the notes on the left side of the screen. We will start accepting questions at 9 am CST.

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

Kyle Forrest: Hey Kurt - Can you provide more insight into the Global Connections study tours?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: The Global Connections study tours are semester long electives that you can take in your spring semester. Each year the MBA program has 6 different Study Tours, and you can choose one of them. The class is taught by a professor and meets weekly to learn about the business, culture, and history of the region you will be traveling to. You may also be working on projects for companies you will visit. Then for 10 days in March you travel with the group of students and the professor to visit your particular region. During the 10 days you will visit historical and cultural sites, and make visits to some companies. This year the Global Connections Study Tour destinations are China, India, SE Asia, Middle East, South Africa, and Brazil. More information about all of our International Opportunities can be found here - <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Program-Information/International.aspx>.

Noelle Frazier: Hi I am interested in knowing a little bit more about the resources available for students with families/young children? I know there is the Students & Significant Others Network, but I was wondering if someone could expand more. Thanks.

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: The Students and Significant Others Network provides a network of students and families who can provide you assistance in transitioning to Austin and the Texas MBA program (advice on areas to live, schools, child care, job search for significant others, and generally to act as a network socially for students with significant others and/or families). If you are admitted to the Texas MBA program you will receive a Resource Guide which includes information about Student Life and Transitioning to Austin, which will also include information relevant for significant others and families.

Bhushan: Hi Kurt. I am located in Chicago. I am interested in the DFW part-time program, which comes highly recommended by my past colleagues. Do out-of-town students travel for this program?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Bushan - We have had out of town students travel to attend the working professional MBA programs. For more information on this program, please contact Shannon.Chapman@mcombs.utexas.edu.

Anjelica: How has the career services helped you in obtaining internships/FT jobs? Does the career services or student organization play a bigger role in obtaining job/FT position?

Eric, MBA Class of 2013: Career Management is extremely involved and helpful in our job search. During your first semester in the program all MBA students take a career management class led by one of the career management advisors. In this class they provide a very in depth look at the job search process and provide guidance on interviews, networking, cover letters, etc. Career Management and student organizations are both important parts of the overall job search process. While many students may only go through career management to find their job, a large number of students will find job opportunities via networking through the student

organizations they participate in. However, while the student organization may be the enabler for finding certain job opportunities career management helps guide the students through the actual interview process, writing cover letters, resumes, etc.

Kyle Forrest: Also following that, how many students typically participate in study abroad/exchange programs?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: In 2010-2011, 186 students went abroad (this includes Global Connections, semester exchange programs, and Double Degree).

AMK: Historically, what % of accepted applicants apply to round 3?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hello AMK - historically McCombs has operated on rolling admissions. This is the first year we are operating under rounds. The admissions committee manages enrollment throughout the rounds to enroll approximately 260 students in the incoming class. We do not publish the number of admission slots for each round.

Bhushan: To re-phrase my question, does the program have students that are out-of-town and travel 2 times a month.

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Bushan - there is a chat for working professionals programs on January 11th. Here is the link to register:

<http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Dallas/Info-Sessions/Online-Events.aspx>

Noelle Frazier: I know there are a number of dual degree programs offered, is there a possibility to create your own? I am interested in combining marketing, technology, and design into my career. So my question is basically can you perhaps do a dual degree in MBA and MFA Design? Or is it a possibility to take some courses in the MFA Design program along with the MBA electives?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Noelle - Creating a dual degree program requires cooperation between the two different schools and also must be approved by the University of Texas. The process can take a very long time. Also, it's based on demand from incoming students. The type of program you are inquiring about currently does not have a broad enough appeal to be considered.

The curriculum at McCombs is very flexible and we encourage students to take elective course work outside the school of business, as long as it makes sense for what you want to do.

AMK: Is there anything the UT admissions committee looks for that might be different than other programs?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: AMK - Business schools rarely disclose the details of the admissions and evaluation process, so I am unable to provide a comparison.

The Texas MBA admissions committee carefully considers each completed application, with particular attention to personal essays, work history, post-MBA goals, undergraduate performance, letters of recommendation, extracurricular and community activities, honors and achievements and test scores.

Personal characteristics that add to the diversity of the class may also be considered, such as country of citizenship, gender, family background, multi-lingual skills, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic history.

Strong applications convey careful research on McCombs and enthusiasm for the program.

All of these components are considered holistically; no specific weight is assigned to any criterion and no formulas are used.

Anjelica: Sharon/Jolene, as the associate director of admission, what is one thing you wish prospective students knew about McCombs?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Anjelica - there are many exciting things going on at McCombs so it is difficult to narrow it down to just one thing. However, it's good to know that our students are incredibly engaged and active in the MBA, UT, and Austin community. They are consistently looking for ways to leave the program in a better place than when they started, and the program administration is very open to taking feedback from students. For example, we have a number of student organizations and even some academic concentrations that were student initiated within the last few years.

Bhushan: Sharon, does the same apply to healthcare concentration as well? I am interested in Marketing, Strategy and Finance with a few electives from healthcare concentration as well.

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Bushan - McCombs doesn't require you to choose a concentration. The flexibility allows you to combine concentrations and coursework to meet your educational and professional objectives.

John T. Stem: Hi, is it possible to take foreign language classes during the MBA program? Either in Austin or abroad?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: John - Some students choose to take Business Language Tutoring courses through UT's Center for Business Education and Research (CIBER). Those classes do not count towards your MBA credit but are a good option for many of our students. More information can be found here - <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/Centers/CIBER/Students.aspx>.

Noelle Frazier: For someone who is changing careers and wants to go into marketing but has no previous experience, how difficult would it be to get into the Marketing Fellows Program?

Eric, MBA Class of 2013: I am currently a member of Marketing Fellows and I would say about 2/3rds of the students in our program have no previous marketing experience.

Kyle Forrest: How do clients get selected for the MBA+ projects? Do students choose from a pre-approved list or have the opportunity to find a company they want to work with?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Kyle - MBA+ consulting projects can be sourced either way. We have a list of projects available for students to choose from. If a student wants to work with a particular company, the student will form a team and coordinate with the MBA+ Director, who will contact the company and arrange the project.

Kyle Forrest: How do the communications coaches work? Are they part of the career center or an outside group?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: The communication and executive coaches are separate resources outside of Career Management. Our Texas MBA+ Leadership Program coordinates the communication coaches, and you have free access to coaching 4 hours each semester. Students use coaches for a number of things, including, but not limited to, mock interviews, elevator pitch, networking, PLUS project presentation prep, and coaching for Academic Challenges. The coaches come from a number of different backgrounds and each of them have different specialties. More information about the Texas MBA+ Leadership Program and the Communication Coaches can be found at

<http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Program-Information/Hands-On-Experience/MBA-Plus-Program.aspx>.

Bhushan: Do recommendations from McCombs alumni have greater weight? I have heard that top MBA programs encourage students to submit alumni recommendations.

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Bhushan - Student and alumni referrals can be submitted in addition to professional references. Referrals can add value to your candidacy as it's an additional external perspective from someone familiar with the program.

Kyle Forrest: Following on John's question, how does CIBER's Business Language Tutoring typically fit into a student's academic schedule?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: If you participate in the Business Language Tutoring program, you will work out the schedule with your tutor. Tutoring can be done one-on-one or in small groups, and you will set up your language tutoring schedule based on a time most convenient for you and your tutor. Our MBA students do not have classes on Fridays, so often times, this is a day that works for students to set up meetings outside of class.

Bhushan: Does McCombs have any entrepreneurship challenge programs to take advantage of?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: We have several different resources and events for aspiring entrepreneurs such as our annual Pitch Party (networking event where students pitch their business ideas to professors, local entrepreneurs, and VC's), Texas Venture Labs (incubator program that our MBA students have an opportunity to be a part of) & the Texas Venture Labs Investment Competition (Global Business Plan competition), Venture Fellows (student organization where you have the opportunity to intern at a local Venture Capital or Private Equity firm), and 3 Day Startup local business plan competition (<http://3daystartup.org/>). We also have a very active student Entrepreneur Society that puts on different workshops and networking events throughout the year.

Kyle Forrest: Can you talk about the academic challenges? Are these case competitions with a specific focus or something else?

Eric, MBA Class of 2013: Kyle, there are a large variety of challenges available to students almost immediately once they start school. There are challenges with more specific focuses on marketing, finance, IT, etc. and there are also more general consulting/business challenges as well. The scope of these challenges also vary as some may be specific only to McCombs Students and held here locally while other challenges may be national where the McCombs school and other top MBA programs send teams to compete against each other.

Jawnathan: Are there still scholarships left for R3 applicants?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Jawnathan - Merit scholarship funds will be available in Round 3. There is no additional information required to be considered, it's based on the application as a whole. Recipients are notified via email at the time of admission.

Noelle Frazier: What are some examples of the Student Treks?

Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Noelle - Treks vary from year to year but last year Career Management led 13 treks to New York, the San Francisco Bay area, Houston, Dallas, Seattle and to local companies in Austin. While some treks are open to all functions, others are focused on specific areas including consulting, investment banking, marketing, clean tech or energy.

John T. Stem: Does applying for a dual degree affect the decision for admission?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: John - Applying for a dual degree does not affect the decision for admission. You would apply to each program separately, and then each school evaluates your application as if you were only applying to that program. If you are admitted to both programs, you would be enrolled as a dual degree student. You would do your first year in the non-business school, your second year in the MBA program, and third (and fourth if you are a JD/MBA) in both schools. If you are admitted to only one of the programs, your offer of admission still stands for that individual program.

Kyle Forrest: Do most students live on or around campus or are they spread throughout Austin?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Most of the students live off campus. There are a few different areas where a large number of MBA/graduate students are concentrated, but there are many different options (high rises, apartment complexes, duplexes, houses with yards) and different price ranges. The Admitted Student packet includes information about neighborhoods in Austin and resources for finding a place to live.

Jawnathan: How many people are in each class(room)? Or more or less the student to faculty ratio at McCombs?

Eric, MBA Class of 2013: Jawnathan - All students start out the MBA program in a cohort, with which they take all but one of their classes with during the first two quarters (first semester) here at McCombs. Each cohort has 64 people. However, once you start moving into classes more specific to your concentration and upper division classes the class sizes start to reduce significantly to usually about 20-35 people. The student to faculty ratio here at McCombs is approximately 4:1.

Kurt Mitschke: JUST A REMINDER THAT WE HAVE 10 MINUTES LEFT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THIS CHAT WILL END AT 1 PM.

Kyle Forrest: To Eric - based off your time at McCombs so far, is there anything you've been pleasantly surprised about that you were not expecting prior to starting?

Eric, MBA Class of 2013: Kyle, I would say that the collaborative atmosphere here at McCombs has been the most pleasant surprise. While I already knew prior to starting school that McCombs had a very friendly atmosphere, I had no idea how collaborative the student body would be. For example, within the first week of class I had 4 second year students offer to put me in touch with contacts at their companies to start networking for internship recruiting.

John T. Stem: Are the hands on experiences part of the classroom curriculum?

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: Many of the classes will include hands on projects where you will be working on live projects for companies, but things like the Academic Case Challenges and all of the hands on experiences offered through the Texas MBA+ Leadership Program (such as the PLUS projects) are in addition to the classroom curriculum.

John T. Stem: Venture Labs for example

Jolene Ashcraft - Associate Director of MBA Admissions: There is an application process to become a Texas Venture Labs student associate, but if accepted, you will receive course credit. More information can be found here <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Texas-Venture-Labs/Students.aspx>.

Kurt Mitschke: WE'RE GOING TO WRAP UP THIS SESSION NOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THAT DID NOT GET ANSWERED TODAY, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO TEXASMBA@MCCOMBS.UTEXAS.EDU. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ONLINE CHAT!