Texas Full-Time MBA Chat for Domestic Applicants Transcript
November 21, 2011 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 12 pm CST.

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

Ramya Laxman: I would like to know about the visiting options to McCombs, as I believe a school visit is very important. But I see all the sessions during the weekdays. Is there a way I could do weekends or any other way I can visit without taking a lot of vacation days from work?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hello Ramya - campus visits are available via our website at http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Admissions/Visit.aspx. Unfortunately we do not offer weekend visits.

Steve: Hello. On the application, it has a space for you to upload unofficial transcripts. Can you copy and paste the unofficial transcripts from your schools into a Word Document? Can you just list them if I have older transcripts that are not online?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hello Steve - you could upload the unofficial transcripts via Word if you have that available. Excel would also work.

Ramya Laxman: Anything else I can schedule close to a long weekend or something?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Ramya - we have a Texas MBA Friday coming up - you could register here: http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Admissions/Visit.aspx.

Adam: I am a re-applicant that was accepted last year. In regards to the Essays, should I approach them as "amending/refreshing" from last year or 100% start from scratch? (I ask because the fundamental answer to the essay question hasn't changed for me since last year).
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hello Adam - it would be helpful if you would answer all of the questions again and add in any additions or changes that have occurred in the last year since you applied.

Todd: In the first essay, if you see yourself starting a business after graduating, is that time time/place to dive into the potential business plan? Or do you prefer to keep things at a higher level and simply discuss the prospects of entrepreneurship?
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Todd: Essays are a chance for you to really tell your story so it's up to you what you choose to include. Be sure to tell us your story in a natural and honest way. Your response should be descriptive, straightforward, and sincere.

Steve: I'm having some trouble getting transcripts from an institution I took only 44 credits at 10 years ago...is that an important part of the application even if most of my undergraduate work was in the last two years and accounted for in a transcript?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: If all of your grades are listed on one transcript then you could just upload that one transcript.

Shaila: In the work experience section of the application, there is an option to include employment history items. What does the field "Number of direct reports" in this list mean and why is salary information requested?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Shaila - direct reports refer to anyone who reports to you directly - so that means you supervise their work, give them their performance evaluations etc. For reporting purposes, we always have to provide pre-MBA salary information for our incoming students. Hope that helps.

Todd: I am planning on attending the Texas MBA Friday on 12/2, but also plan to submit my application by R2 deadline (12/5) so obviously my application will be mostly complete by the time I visit. With that context, how do you recommend I take most advantage of the Texas MBA Friday?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Todd - with the visit you will have the opportunity to talk with students and meet some other folks on campus so that you will hopefully have some personal insights into what is particularly attractive to you and/or helpful for your particular career goals.

Stefanie: Do you require transcripts from foreign universities for study abroad programs if each class taken abroad is listed on the transcript from my degree-granting institution? The study abroad program was arranged through my U.S. undergrad school. Thank you.
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Stefanie - If the study abroad program was sponsored by your undergrad institution, and the grades are on your transcript and calculated as part of your overall GPA, then you don't need to submit a separate transcript. Otherwise you do.

Ramya Laxman: Thanks Shelley for answering the previous questions. On recommendations - McCombs accepts 'two (2) letters of recommendation', so if I want to give a non-professional recommendation would you suggest I do a 2 official +1 or 1 official +1
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi again - we would prefer to receive 2 professional recommendations, so 2 official recommendations would be best.

Shaila: I wanted to confirm that the employment history items in the work experience section of the application are optional.
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Shaila: You should complete all requested information on the application form.

Shaila: Will recommenders have the chance to make any changes to their letters once they have submitted them if the overall application has not been submitted by the applicant yet?
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Shaila: Recommenders CANNOT make changes after submitting the recommendation via the online form, regardless of whether or not the applicant has submitted the application.

Todd: If I am interested in applying to the CCIMS Marketing Fellows, when would I do that in relation to the overall McCombs application process?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hey Todd - application to any of the Fellows programs happens after matriculation so you do not have to do anything in your application now. You are welcome to discuss how the program could fit in with your career goals etc in your essays.

Stefanie: Is there any way for current McCombs students or McCombs graduates to provide a recommendation or referral for an applicant? These people would not work well for the two

professional recommendation letters called for in the actual application, but they have offered to put in a word in on my behalf if there is a way for them to do so.
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Stefanie - We have a special referral form for current students or alumni to submit online. Here is the link: http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/admissions-referral-form

Stefanie: To elaborate a little more on my study abroad transcript question, the program was at a foreign school and arranged through my university. Each class shows on my undergrad transcript, but all classes were taken pass/fail so they do not contribute to my undergrad GPA. Am I still OK to only submit my undergrad transcript and not a transcript from the foreign school? Thank you.
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions(privately): Stefanie - McCombs doesn't make the final determination on your transcripts or on what transcripts are needed, so go ahead and submit the transcript from the institution that conferred the degree. You should monitor your GIAC status to see if they will require an additional transcript from the study abroad institution.

Shaila: Once an application is submitted in Round 2, when will applicants who are being invited to interview be notified of this?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Interview invitations are issued throughout the round via email. There is no specific cut-off date for interview invitations to go out.

Ramya Laxman: On the scholarship, is there anything in the application that you particularly look for - like leadership qualities or fit to school?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Thanks Ramya - there is no one particular factor that we focus on. We use a holistic review process.

Ramya Laxman: Thanks Shelley... Does McCombs need a recommendation from the current supervisor?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Ramya - we would prefer to have a current supervisor but if that is not possible, that should be explained in the optional essay.

Jenny: If GMAT scores are on the lower side, I know we can address this in the optional essay but what is the best way to attack that essay? If you are just not a good standardized test taker, is it best to just say that?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Jenny - that would be the place to mention that and also talk about any other ways that you could highlight your quantitative abilities either through classes or work experiences for example.

Emily J: Hi Shelley, I have a question in regards to the optional essay. Is there any particular type of response you are looking for, in terms of taking a quant course prior to matriculation? And/or does McCombs offer a preparatory course/quant camp prior to the start of the program?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Emily - the quant optional essay is for discussing any quant classes you may have taken, any quantitative analysis you do at work or anything related that you plan on doing before matriculation. There is a prep course offered prior to the start of the program for matriculants.

Todd: I see the curriculum listing on the website - is there a place to see which professors teach which courses? Or if there is no mapping courses to professors, is there a listing of professors somewhere?
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Todd - professors may teach several different courses over the course of your two years in the program. Here is a link to the Faculty Expertise Guide, which may provide deeper insight into specific faculty member specialities: http://acsprod.mccombs.utexas.edu/FEG/

Steve: My GRE scores were sent to the Interdisciplinary department as there was no specific MBA/McCombs department listed. Is there someone I should notify about this or do they all go in the same system? I am applying for the Interdisciplinary MBA.
Sharon Barrett, Associate Director MBA Admissions: Hi Steve - We will have access to your score as long as it's sent to the 6882 institution code.

Todd: Is there an average number of clubs/organizations that Texas MBAs get involved with while at McCombs?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Todd - there is no specific requirement for the number of clubs or orgs you have to be involved with. Students select based on their interests and/or availability. To learn more about student life, please check our student ambassadors at http://acsprod.mccombs.utexas.edu/prospect/results.aspx.

Kurt Mitschke: JUST WANTED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE HAVE 10 MINUTES LEFT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, SO KEEP THEM COMING. THE CHAT WILL END AT 1 PM.

Emily J: I reviewed some statistics on your website, and it seemed as though 30% of the student body are Texas residents, although ultimately about 60% of the class of 2011 stay in the region upon graduation for their full-time positions. Can you speak to that a bit/why that is? I am from the midwest and currently live in New York City and may look to return either the east coast or Midwest - not sure of the recruiting opportunities in those regions. Those two stats may not be totally linked, I just saw an interesting theme - perhaps students come to Austin and love it so much they want to stay?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Emily - you are right on target. People do come to Austin and love it here. There are also so many great opportunities locally. We do have many opportunities around the country as well so it is really up to what the students choose to do. To learn more, please visit:
http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Full-Time/Career/~/media/Files/MSB/MBA/Full-Time/Career%20Stats/Final%20Full%20Time%202011%20Stats%20for%20Printing.ashx.

JG: Do you require study abroad transcripts for programs that were not related to any undergraduate degree but were attended after the undergraduate degree was earned?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi JG - we would need any transcripts for any classes taken, so yes.

Emily J: Shelley, for the essay questions - how would you recommend differentiating the 200 word response within the online app about short term goals/plans upon graduation from that portion of Essay #1?
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: Hi Emily - the 200 character one is just a short synopsis. The essay should be a full description of your goals, work experience, etc.

Emily J: Or is it OK if they are more similar, in regards to that specific element of Essay #1 and the short response within the online app
Shelley Clifford, Senior Associate Director, MBA Admissions: That is fine.

Kurt Mitschke: 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 IS ON JANUARY 5TH.

Kurt Mitschke: If you have any questions that did not get answered today, please feel free to email them to TexasMBA@mccombs.utexas.edu.