TRADITIONAL MPA ADMISSIONS FAQ

Please refer to the MPA admissions packet and the MPA admissions blog for detailed information on applying.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

I do not have an undergraduate degree in accounting. Am I eligible to apply to the Texas MPA program?

We welcome applicants who hold bachelor's degrees in any academic discipline. However, you should plan to complete the pre-enrollment courses before applying.

I have a three-year bachelor's degree. Am I eligible to apply?

All applicants must possess the equivalent of the four-year U.S. bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Many degrees conferred by institutions outside of the U.S., while referred to with the name "bachelor's" do not meet this four-year standard. The Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC) determines degree equivalencies. Please contact GIAC directly if you have questions regarding your particular degree.

Is work experience required to apply?

Work experience is not required but is viewed positively in the application review.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Is an interview required as part of the admissions process?

An interview generally is not required, and applicants cannot request an interview as part of the MPA admissions process. However, the admissions committee may request an interview on a case-by-case basis.

Most of my application materials will be in by the deadline except for my GMAT (or TOEFL) scores. Can the admissions committee accept a copy of my score report until the official scores arrive?

All application materials, including the official test scores, must be received before the admissions committee will review your file for an admissions decision. Applications completed after the application deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.

I have been admitted to another university and the acceptance deadline is approaching, yet I haven't received an admission decision from the Texas MPA program. Is there anything I can do to receive an earlier decision?

If you should receive an admission offer from another university and need to respond to the offer before you receive a decision from the Texas MPA program, please e-mail the name of the university and the admission response deadline to Keri Ledezma. Although the admissions committee cannot guarantee an earlier admission decision, we will do our best to accommodate your request.

If I apply this year and am not admitted, can I reapply next year?

We recommend that you consult with Keri Ledezma before deciding on reapplying. Most application materials are kept for one year. Applicants who reapply must submit a new online application, an application fee and an updated resume and transcript (if applicable). Additional letters of recommendation, a revised essay and updated test scores are not required but may be submitted at the applicant's discretion.
APPLICATION MATERIALS

How long should my statement of purpose essay be?
Although the average essay is approximately two pages long, applicants should focus more on the content than on the length of the essay.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?
Choose references who know you in an academic or professional context and are familiar with your academic or professional achievements, credentials, career aspirations and work history, if applicable. References should speak to your personal qualities, career potential, and potential to succeed in the classroom.

Can I submit more than two recommendation letters?
Although only two recommendation letters are required for the MPA application, applicants are welcome to submit more than two letters, if preferred. All recommendation letters that are submitted will be reviewed.

Can the GMAT requirement be waived?
The GMAT is one of many factors (including recommendations, resume, essay, undergraduate GPA, etc.) that we consider when reviewing an application. Therefore, all applicants to the MPA program are required to submit GMAT scores.

Can the TOEFL/IELTS requirement be waived?
Only applicants from English-only speaking countries are allowed to waive the test requirement. Please visit the GIAC website for a list of countries which qualify for the waiver. If you studied (or are studying) an undergraduate or a graduate degree in an English-only speaking country, your TOEFL/IELTS score requirement will NOT be waived. However, you may request that a copy of your expired Internet-based TOEFL or IELTS score report be used for your MPA application if the scores meet our minimum requirement. The MPA program prefers a minimum Internet-based TOEFL score of 105 overall and a minimum of 24 for each individual section, or minimum IELTS band scores of 7.5. If you qualify, please e-mail the following information to Keri Ledezma: a copy of your TOEFL or IELTS score report, the university where you studied your degree, the degree earned and major, your graduation date, and the total length of time spent in the English-only speaking country.

Do I need to submit high school or community college transcripts?
It is not necessary for you to submit your high school transcript for the MPA program application. Please submit transcripts from junior or community colleges if you completed our pre-enrollment requirements or any accounting courses at these institutions.

I studied abroad for one semester and the credit appears on my U.S. undergraduate transcript. Do I need to submit the transcript from the foreign university where I studied abroad?
If the study abroad was for one semester only and the credit appears on your U.S. transcript, you will not need to request a transcript from the foreign university. However, if you studied more than one semester abroad, you will need to request the transcript.

What GPA is calculated for MPA admissions? What if my GPA is below 3.0?
The Graduate and International Admissions Center calculates your GPA using only upper-division (junior- and senior-level) coursework and any non-professional graduate work. MPA admissions are highly competitive, and performance in upper-division courses is a strong predictor to performance in our program. As a result, applicants with upper-division GPAs below 3.0 typically are not admitted to our program.