MAKE YOUR APPLICATION STAND OUT

YOU ARE NOT A NUMBER

The MPA Admissions Committee takes all your application materials into account. Your essay, prior academic performance, letters of recommendation, and non-academic achievements will all play as important a role in your acceptance as your test scores. Here are a few ways to make your application stand out:

- Perform well in your undergraduate classes. A minimum 3.0 (B) upper-level grade point average is required to be considered for admission.
- Mention all of your leadership roles and extracurricular involvements; the admissions committee takes particular notice of these.
- Don’t skimp on your Statement of Purpose essay (make the essay topic pop out). MPA admission generally doesn’t include an interview, so this may be your best chance to show off your communication and presentation skills.
- Choose people who know you in an academic or professional context to write your letters of recommendation. They should speak to your personal qualities, career potential and ability to succeed in the classroom.
- Professional work experience is viewed positively in the application review. If you’ve got it, let us know!
- The admissions committee considers only your highest GMAT score; applicants with low GMAT scores can bolster their application in other areas and/or retake the test to increase their chance of acceptance. GRE is not accepted.
- For International Applicants: Your TOEFL scores play a large role in how likely you are to be admitted to the Texas MPA program. You will be expected to interact with employers and participate in class starting in your first semester, so only those with adequate English skills will be admitted to the program.

Find more tips on strengthening your application on our admissions blog and in our admissions packet.