ADMITTED MPA STUDENT FAQS - FALL 2016

Additional information regarding MPA degree policies, McCombs resources, registration, and other topic areas are available on the current student web page.

COMMIT TO THE MPA PROGRAM
I am ready to accept my offer of admission. What do I do now?

1. Accept your offer in our online admissions system.

2. Submit the enrollment deposit to lock in your spot in the incoming class.

3. Complete all of the applicable items in the New Student Checklist.

How long will enrollment deposits be held?
Enrollment deposits will be held until you register and initiate payment for fall classes. At that time, your deposit funds will be applied automatically toward your fall tuition bill.

START DATE
How do I know if I need to start the MPA program in the summer or fall?
All incoming students must enroll in ACC 381 unless they qualify for a course waiver. If you qualify for a waiver, you will start your MPA coursework in the fall. If you do not qualify for a waiver, you will be required to enroll in ACC 381 and ACC 380k.11 in the second summer session.

I need to start in the summer, but my admissions letter indicates I was admitted for the fall. Will this be corrected?
If you are not eligible to waive ACC 381, you will be required to start in the summer. We will backdate your admission to the summer after you submit your enrollment deposit. International students will be issued an I-20 based on the new summer start date. The Office of Student Financial Services will create a financial aid package for the summer if you submitted a FAFSA to UT.

ADVISING AND ORIENTATION
Can I schedule my initial academic advising appointment as a phone appointment?
Due to the large amount of information covered during the advising session, we are unable to schedule phone appointments.

Am I required to attend MPA Orientation?
Yes. Attendance at MPA Orientation is mandatory because important information about our program is disseminated at Orientation and because it provides an opportunity to meet your fellow classmates, alumni, faculty, staff and employers.

Which classes will I be taking each semester?
Each student's degree plan is customized. Your class schedule will be determined during your initial advising appointment.

REGISTRATION
How and when do I register for classes?
The registration process is explained on the Registrar's website. Registration dates and payment deadlines are listed on the "Important Dates" section of the Newly Admitted MPAs webpage.
Where can I purchase textbooks?
Textbooks can be purchased at the University Co-op, but there are other book stores around campus and different websites where you can rent or buy textbooks.

FINANCIAL AID
How do I apply to for departmental scholarships or an out-of-state tuition waiver?
All admitted U.S. applicants are automatically considered for possible departmental scholarships and out-of-state tuition waivers; no separate application is required. Our merit-based awards are offered to U.S. applicants who demonstrate a superior record of academic accomplishment in their application materials.

When will I find out if I received a departmental scholarship or out-of-state tuition waiver?
Scholarship decisions are made and awardees are notified via e-mail prior to their admission response deadline.

Are international students eligible to receive departmental scholarships or teaching assistant (TA) positions?
International students are not eligible for federal loans or departmental recruiting scholarships and therefore should be prepared to meet all expenses from their own resources. However, international students who completed an undergraduate degree in accounting are eligible to apply for a TA position in accounting. Additional details are available on the MPA financial aid website.

How do I apply for a teaching assistantship (TA) position in the Department of Accounting?
A very limited number of graduate assistantship positions are available through individual academic departments across the campus. Interested students should request application information directly from the department(s) of their choice. Details regarding the Accounting Department TA positions are available on the MPA financial aid website.

Who should I contact with questions about my financial aid package?
Financial aid packages for graduate students automatically assume the enrollment of 6 hours in the summer and 9 hours in the fall, unless the financial aid office is notified otherwise. If you plan to enroll in more or fewer than 6 hours in the summer or 9 hours in the fall, you will need to contact the Office of Student Financial Services (512-475-6282, option 4) so that your financial aid package is adjusted accordingly.

Do I qualify as a Texas resident for tuition purposes?
For detailed information, please visit the UT residency website.

HOUSING AND CAMPUS RESOURCES
Where do most MPA students live?
The Graduate School website describes the various housing options that are available to students. The majority of MPA students choose to live off campus, as Austin offers a moderate cost of living. Generally speaking, the most popular graduate student neighborhoods are:

- **Hyde Park** - Older rustic houses and apartments close to campus
- **Far West** - Apartments further from campus and serviced by the UT Shuttle System
- **The Enfield/Tarrytown/Lake Austin area** - Older houses, duplexes, and apartment buildings along 15th street and serviced by the UT Shuttle System
- **South Congress/Riverside** - Apartments farther from campus but still serviced by the UT Shuttle System
- **West Campus** is closest, but this area tends to be populated by undergraduates

Where can I find apartment listings?
You can start your search on the UT Housing page, but be sure to look on various other websites for more options.
Am I required to purchase a laptop?

Purchasing a laptop is completely optional. Students interested in purchasing hardware and software for school can get special educational discounts, promotions, and pricing through the Campus Computer Store. The Campus Computer Store also sells a range of applications at special educational pricing. Certain applications, including antivirus software, are available for free download from the BevoWare website.

Please note that ITS provides the campus community with both wired and wireless access to UTnet (the university’s network), as well as the external Internet. Business students also have the option to check out laptops (and other media equipment) through the McCombs Media Services for occasional use.

How can I get my student ID card?

You can get your UT ID card at the ID Center located at the Flawn Academic Center (FAC). After you receive your card and before the first class day, the MPA Program Office will program your card for access to the MPA Lounge (CBA 4.352) and MBA/MPA study rooms (GSB 3.140) in the McCombs School of Business. Also note that when you pick up your ID card, your EID will also be upgraded to "high assurance. Highly confidential information and transactions are only available with a high assurance EID, such as accessing student loan information and viewing your grades online.

Will I receive a UT email account? When can I set up this email account?

UTmail provides UT-Austin students with a university-affiliated email address for life. Those who opt in to the free service can choose their email address and have 30+ GB of email storage.

- Sign up for UTmail after enrolling in and paying for your first semester’s classes.
- Be sure to keep your email address current in UT Direct at all times.

What student organizations should I consider joining?

The Master in Professional Accounting Council (MPAC) and the MPA International Connection (MIC) are the student organizations specifically designed for MPA students and offer you great opportunities to make friends, gain leadership experience, and network with peers and business personalities.

INTERNSHIPS

Am I required to complete an internship as part of the MPA degree program?

Internships are an optional component of the MPA curriculum. The internship program is designed to give students an opportunity to combine their formal academic preparation with an exposure to the accounting profession.

I am interning this summer and starting the MPA program in the fall. Can I receive MPA degree credit for this internship?

Degree credit cannot be granted for internships completed prior to entering the MPA program.

EMPLOYMENT RECRUITING

What types of career fields can I enter with an MPA degree?

Employers from various industries recruit our students to fill a diverse range of internship and full-time positions. Detailed information about career opportunities and recruiting will be covered during MPA Orientation.

What are the placement statistics and starting salaries for MPA graduates?

Please visit our website for information on placement and salary statistics.