

Texas MBA Working Professional Programs Virtual Chat Transcript October 28, 2011 12-1 p.m.

Kurt Mitschke: Welcome to the Texas MBA Working Professional Programs Online Chat. Please review the notes on the left and enter your questions in the Q&A box at the bottom.

JD: Texas MBA at Houston: Cost

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: JD - Thank you for your question. The program cost for the Houston program can be found here:

http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/MBA/Houston/Program-Information/Program-Cost.aspx

JD: How is the Curriculum different from the UT Business Honors Program?

Trent Thurman, Director: While the BHP curriculum is modeled after the MBA core curriculum, the MBA curriculum includes the core plus courses that students, faculty and recruiters all agree provide the tools and skill sets needed for an MBA graduate. Another advantage will be the viewpoints of your classmates and their perspectives from their work experiences & background. You can find the curriculum on the website.

Rod: Which round gets the more applications?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi Rod, great question. We typically receive more applications in the spring time-frame. I'm estimating the March/May timeframe will be the biggest deadlines.

Rose: Is it better for me to apply earlier in the application season or does it make a difference? **Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions:** Rose- great question, thanks. Yes, it's better to apply earlier in the season due to the fact that more seats are available early on. However, our biggest deadlines tend to be the final 2 deadlines.

Rudy: Can I apply to round one with unofficial transcripts?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi Rudy, yes, you can apply with your unofficial transcripts. Actually, we won't require official copies of transcripts until admission is granted and the applicant decides to enroll.

JD: Are there any scholarships or accelerated programs for candidates who already have the BBA Honors? Is that any different from the Austin program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi JD. We don't have an acceleration option. One of the most important aspects of the program is the "cohort structure" in which you are taking all of your classes together. This provides a strong network and support structure, so this would be lost with an accelerated option. Unfortunately, we do not have any scholarships for the program. How does it differ from Austin? Assuming you are talking about the full-time program, the biggest difference would be the ability to concentrate in a certain academic area instead of the lock-step curriculum. The professors, quality of classmates, rigor and opportunities are equal. I suggest attending one of our upcoming information sessions in Houston for a lot of these questions. We will have program staff, alums and students there and you can get a good feel for the program and all of your questions answered.

JD: How long does it take to complete?

Trent Thurman, Director: 24 months for the Houston program.

Arun R: I am planning to apply for TEMBA program at Austin. I haven't taken my GMAT yet and hoping to take it beginning of March. Should I still go ahead and submit my application now?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Arun. Yes, I would go ahead and apply without the GMAT. That way, we know you are in process and can let you know about events, such as class visits and opportunities to meet with staff and current students.

JD: If you are not working at the same time, is there an expedited way to complete the degree? **Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions:** JD - it is a requirement to be fully employed in all of our working professional programs. There is no way to expedite the program. The Houston program takes 24 months to complete and is a cohort-based program (students come in and take every class together as a group).

Rudy: The McCombs website provides a GMAT average in the class profiles, but does not include GRE. What is the average GRE score?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi Rudy, we don't really have an average GRE since we have very few data points (most people have taken the GMAT since we recently just started accepting the GRE). I would aim for an equivalent score to our average GMAT which is usually 650-660. You can find a conversion table online that will help you with a target GRE score.

Rose: Are there any/many people from San Antonio who commute to Austin for the TEMBA program?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rose - yes, every year we have about 3-4 students from San Antonio in TEMBA. Most end up car-pooling to make the trip up easier.

JD: Will the degree granted be the same as if you attended in Austin?

Trent Thurman, Director: Yes, we offer one degree, so regardless of which of our programs you join, the end result is an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Arun R: Thanks Trent. So should I just submit my application with transcripts alone now and when I have the GMAT scores, submit my references, SOP etc?

Trent Thurman, Director: Sure, Arun. Sending things in on a "piecemeal" basis is fine.

JD: How is financial aid determined?

Trent Thurman, Director: JD, for your financial aid questions, the first step is the FAFSA application that will trigger the federally-backed Stafford loans and supplemental loans. We have a great team that will aid you in that process once the FAFSA app is complete.

Rudy: Is it ok to transition jobs while in the program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Rudy. Yes, this actually happens frequently.

Julie: I'm applying to the Houston MBA program. For the second essay about telling something unique about ourselves, what type of responses are you looking for, how have people addressed this question in the past, or how can we best share something that will help with your evaluation? **Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions:** Julie - this is a new essay question and we're looking at it as a way to get to know applicants a bit better. There really isn't a formula and we're leaving it up to the applicant to get creative on how to answer it. Anything goes!

Bhavin: If you apply by Round One deadline, is your application considered for other rolling deadlines?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Bhavin - yes, we really operate on a rolling admissions policy. The deadlines are to encourage early applications. We review applications and make decisions in order of receipt. If you apply by Round 1, you will get feedback from our office within 4-6 weeks - it could be a final decision or it could be a request for more info or a wait-list decision.

Rose: Is it better to attend an info session before submitting my application or is it still beneficial to attend one after?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rose - yes we recommend that all applicants attend an information session prior to applying. We also recommend a class visit as well. This helps you get to know the program a lot better which will help you when preparing your application. Hope to see you at a future session!

Arun R: Is there an option for transferring to the full-time program from TEMBA, lets say after the first year in TEMBA?

Trent Thurman, Director: Given the cohort structure, course sequencing, etc., transferring to the full-time is not possible. Since the curriculum in TEMBA is the same as in DFW & Houston, it is sometimes possible to transfer to those programs in the event of a job relocation or something like that.

Rudy: How will credit hours earned after a completion of a Bachelor's be considered? Will it help my undergraduate GPA?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rudy - they won't be calculated into your official UT Graduate Admissions GPA, but we will look at those courses subjectively to give us additional insight into your application.

Rod: If I apply on the first round, how long would it take to get the result?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rod - we can usually get decisions out within 4-6 weeks after receipt of a completed application.

Abhi: Hi, I have bachelor's degree in engineering from India. Do I need to produce the certified copy of mark sheets/degree certificate?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi Abhi, when you apply, you can send in electronic copies of your mark sheets and diploma document. If you are admitted and wish to enroll, we will need to see your original copies of transcripts/mark sheets and diploma document prior to registration.

Bhavin: Is TEMBA geared more towards progression within the same career field or also for students trying to change careers, as in move from IT to Finance.

Trent Thurman, Director: Bhavin, actually both. Roughly 60% of our current students are looking to transition to another job or industry. We have a dedicated team of career management professionals to help you if you want to make a transition or take the next step with your current employer.

Rose: Is the faculty in the TEMBA program the same as those who teach in the full-time program? What about Houston and Dallas programs?

Trent Thurman, Director: Good question, Rose. Yes, we use the same faculty in all of our MBA programs. Incidentally, the McCombs business faculty was just named the #1 business school faculty in the nation by Princeton Review.

Abhi: Thanks Shannon! I am with my current employer since May 2011. Is it advisable to get recommendation from my current manager or from my manager in the previous organization where I worked for a longer duration?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Abhi - actually, you could do both if you wanted. You can submit up to 3 recommendations, so you could do 2 from your previous and 1 from your new employer.

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rod - The TEMBA program size is usually about 75. We'll typically receive 150+ applications.

Rose: Are students in the TEMBA program able to participate in MBA+ projects? If so, when do I need to apply for that?

Trent Thurman, Director: Yes, TEMBA students are - and do - participate in MBA+ projects and activities. The projects are a way to gain experience, perhaps in a different industry, and in a way is our answer to the traditional summer internship. Obviously, if you are working full-time, you can't take the summer off for an internship, so the projects give TEMBA students the opportunity to work on high level consulting projects. These occur during the summer semesters, so you would apply in the spring prior to the summer project. TEMBA students also have full access to the other MBA + opportunities, such as workshops, seminars and coaching.

Guest: How long is the MBA course? Is it 24 months or 33 months?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi - The Evening Program in Austin is 33 months long (2 classes per semester). The Dallas and Houston programs are both 24 months long (3 classes per semester)

Bhavin: How many pages should an ideal resume be? Do we include extracurricular activities as part of the resume?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Bhavin, we recommend the resume be no longer than 2 pages and be chronological in order and as much as possible, results-oriented (how each responsibility impacted the organization). Yes, feel free to add extracurricular activities.

Guest: Why is there a difference in length in the Austin program vs. Dallas/Houston programs? **Trent Thurman, Director:** In the evening program, you are taking 2 classes per semester while in the DFW/Houston programs you are taking 3 each semester. The additional class each semester results in the difference.

Abhi: I have attended one class, which was a 7th semester class (legal contracts). I was wondering if I could visit one class in first or second semester... Please advise.

Trent Thurman, Director: Sounds like you attended Christopher Meakin's Legal Environment of Business course. A great course and professor! Sure, we would welcome you to attend an additional class. There are class visit options on the website, but if you want something specifically, we can likely arrange that too.

Kurt Mitschke: JUST WANTED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE HAVE 10 MINUTES LEFT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THIS CHAT WILL END AT 1 PM.

Guest: In the full time program there are International Travel opportunities. Does part time have this opportunity?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Hi, yes, all of our programs have a required international component to the program (a for-credit class that includes a one-week international tirp).

Guest: What is the most common goal that separates students who go to full time vs. part time? **Trent Thurman, Director:** Students who are looking to make a significant career transition, e.g. engineering to investment banking are likely better served in a full-time program because those students have the opportunity to take targeted, specific electives in their potential field of interest. That's probably the main goal difference.

Rod: Do the different requirements for the admissions process have the same importance or are there some that have more importance than others (Resume, GMAT vs. Transcripts, Recommendation letters)?

Shannon Chapman-Sr Assoc Dir-Admissions: Rod - we look at the application holistically, each piece is important and we don't have a "weight" system like some schools (where a certain % is assigned to each piece). We review each component to determine overall "fit" with the program.

Kurt Mitschke: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ONLINE CHAT. WE'LL HAVE OUR NEXT TEXAS MBA WORKING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS ONLINE CHAT ON JANUARY 11, 2012. HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!