

Texas MBA Working Professional Programs Virtual Chat Transcript January 11, 2012 12-1 p.m.

Kurt Mitschke: Welcome to the Texas MBA for Working Professionals Admissions Office Hours Chat. 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.

James: I am applying to the Houston program. Do part time students have the ability to participate in programs such as the National Energy Finance Challenge? Are there other competitions or challenges for the Houston program students?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey James. Thanks for the question and glad you are applying. Houston students can participate in some challenges...often it is based on the schedule of the event. Honestly, I don't think we have had a Houston team in the Energy Finance Challenge (though our full-time team won it last year and the year before). Shoot me a note offline at trent.thurman@mccombs.utexas.edu and I'll check on next year's dates and eligibility requirements.

Anthony: I believe that I read on your website that you are supposed to have a job in order to be selected for the MBA at DFW weekend program. Is this true?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Thanks for your question, Anthony. Yes, students in our programs for professionals are required to be fully employed. We have made a few exceptions to this rule due to the current economic conditions, but for the most part, all of our students in these programs are fully employed.

Ronnie: Concerning the DFW program, are the same type of outside clubs/groups available as the full-time Austin program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey Ronnie. Good question. We have several student organizations in DFW, including a Graduate Business Council, consulting club, entrepreneurship club and are about to launch a marketing club just to name a few. We don't have as many clubs/orgs in DFW as the full-time program does, but I always encourage students to start one if they see a need. The process to be an official student organization is simple and I have worked with a number of students to get them off the ground. Some are stand alone while others are "chapters" of one started in the full-time program.

David: Good afternoon, what is the timeline for the 5 payments for the program? **Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions:** Hi David, thanks for your question. Tuition for the programs is broken down by semester and payment is due approximately one month prior to the start of each semester. That would roughly mean a payment would be due: July, December, May, July, December.

Nurhan: I am holding an L2 Visa, & it authorizes me to study in the US. So what are the fees for the MBA in Houston and when is the deadline?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Nurhan. There is no difference between in-state tuition and out-of-state, so the tuition would be the same regardless of residency or visa status. For 2011, Houston tuition was \$86,000 (not set for next year yet) and includes tuition & fees, books & materials, residency component for the Austin Intensives and the residency component for the global trip. The application deadline is May 25th.

Trent Thurman, Director: A quick follow-up/clarification on Nurhan's question. He referenced the Houston evening program and I didn't want there to be confusion on the tuition. The 2011 tuition rate for Houston was \$86,000 and the Evening program in Austin was \$88,000. Tuition for next year has not been set yet.

Crystal: I was planning to attend the TEMBA info session tonight that starts at 6:30pm but I probably won't be able to get there until 6:45 or 7pm. Is it ok to come a little late? **Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions:** Crystal, yes of course, we welcome you at any time! The Q&A portion with current students and alumni will start at about 7:00 so I suggest you at least try to make it for that part so you can hear about their experiences in the program.

Anthony: I am considering transitioning from the military and will still be in the military when I apply. I hope to have a job immediately upon leaving the service but obviously that is no guarantee. Would I need to wait to apply until after I have civilian employment? **Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions:** Anthony, you can still apply prior to finding employment. We just ask that you keep us updated in regards to your employment circumstances and that you plan to be fully employed by the start of the program.

David: Are the regional part-time programs considered the same degree as the UT Austin full-time program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey David. Absolutely. There is no distinction on the diploma...same rigor, quality of classmates, quality of faculty, etc.

guses 2: I am applying from CA and will look for a job in Austin once I get an admission. My question is I can't afford MBA without a job. Assuming I am getting an admission and won't be able to find a job until the school start, may I ask to defer in this case?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Hello and thanks for your question. We do look at offering deferred admits on a case-by-case basis. Just keep in mind that there is a \$2000 deposit to secure your seat in the program that is due one-month after you've been admitted. This deposit is non-refundable but if you are deferred, it will apply as your deposit to hold your seat in next year's class.

Ronnie: I will be applying for the DFW program, as someone who is a bit older than the median class age, and who has been a stay at home parent for the last 7 years, what is more important work experience or undergrad work?

Trent Thurman, Director: Great question, Ronnie. While we look at every aspect of the application, personally, I'm going to look at work experience more, particularly if you have been out of undergrad for a while. My goal is to admit a class that will contribute to their classmates learning by bringing their individual work & life experiences to the classroom.

Crystal: I'm considering applying to both the Evening MBA and Executive MBA. Is it ok to do that or should I decide which one would be my top choice and apply to that one - and then only apply to the other if I don't get into the first one?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Crystal, we prefer that you research both programs before applying by attending an information session for each as well as a class visit for each. If you are still interested in both, you can apply to both and will need to submit a 3rd essay letting us know your reasons. We are also happy to talk with you prior to applying to help you decide which would be a better fit for you.

Anthony: Your website states that veterans may receive a waiver to cover the costs of the program that aren't covered by the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Other than the 100% benefit eligibility, are there any other factors that go in to this waiver? Are these costs normally waived for veterans? **Trent Thurman, Director:** First, thank you for your service Anthony. Yes, veterans can receive a waiver for what is not covered by the post-9/11 GI Bill. There were some changes that took place this past fall that changed the formula a bit, so I can't say in all certainty what all would be covered. Send me a note this afternoon trent.thurman@mccombs.utexas.edu and give me your specific situation (eligibility level, etc.) and I'll find out more.

James: Do the Houston program students have the same access to career management resources as the full-time students? Do you know roughly what percentage of students are trying to switch careers versus pursuing advancement in the same field?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: James, yes the Houston

students have full access to the career management resources including on-campus recruiting. Roughly 50% of Houston students are considering a career switch. You can check out our career management webinar on our "Online Events" page of the website for more information.

David: How rigorous is the workload outside of class and what expectation is there for in person group exercises outside of class?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: David - Students usually spend on average 10-15 hours outside of class either studying, reading or meeting with group members. Study Groups are assigned at the beginning of the program. Groups vary in their meeting habits - some meet weekly, some meet only on class nights, some meet entirely virtually. Students can usually find a group that works best with their study habits/schedule. Also, most classes will require some sort of group work or project.

guses: Is there a waitlist? If yes, how soon do you give a further notice since TEMBA uses a rolling system?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Yes, we do wait list candidates. Final decisions after an applicant has been placed on a wait list may vary and some may not hear until after the last deadline has passed (though some may hear earlier than that).

David: I have the opportunity for full funding from work for the program but only up to 30 thousand each year. Given the payment schedule is two payments in the fall and 3 in the next year that might pose a problem to obtain all my available funding. Is it possible to make the spring payment for year 2 Jan 1 or is that too late?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Hi David, I don't think that would be a huge deal but it's up to our accounts payable department here in the school. I can put you in touch with them off-line if you want to talk directly with them concerning the specifics. My email is: Shannon.Chapman@mccombs.utexas.edu. Just send me an email and I will forward you the contact information.

Ronnie: Is full-time employment required for the DFW program?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Ronnie, while being fully employed is a requirement for all professional MBA programs at McCombs, we have made a few exceptions due to extenuating circumstances given the current economic conditions. However, since being fully employed and bringing those experiences back into the classroom will enhance everyone's learning, we expect our students to remain fully employed throughout the program.

Anthony: After acceptance to the program if I were to be unable to attend due to my military commitment being extended involuntarily would there be a way to guarantee acceptance for the following year?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Anthony. Yes, in a situation such as this, we would likely be able to offer you a deferred admission to the following year.

Crystal: I live in Waco and would be commuting to Austin for classes if I did the Evening program. Do many students in that program do that or are they all local?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Crystal. While most of our students do live in the greater Austin area, we do have a number of students who commute on the Monday and Tuesday evenings. Currently, we don't have anyone from Waco, but we have quite a few from San Antonio, one from Belton and a few others from the surrounding area.

guses: DAE JIN: How does a student manage if he or she misses a class due to business travel? Does TEMBA record the class for any reason?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hi Dae Jin. Attendance is very important, especially since classes are offered in three-hour blocks instead of the traditional hour or so. This means that missing one class is fairly significant. Having said that, it does happen. It is the student's responsibility to make-up any missed work and typically you will work with your study group to catch up on information you missed. Some professors will ask you to do an additional assignment and, in some cases, it could impact your grade. My advice would be to try to work around it if at all possible, but if not, let the faculty and your study group know as soon as possible.

Anthony: Are there any concentrations for the DFW MBA? Or are all of the courses the same for all students?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Anthony - there are not concentrations and the professional MBA programs are broad management MBAs. The classes are cohort-based, meaning every class is taken with the same group of students.

Ronnie: Shannon - While I'm not fully employed I do have a 10+ year body of work experience, would that be taken into consideration as I transition from a stay at home parent back into the business world?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Ronnie, yes we will definitely take that into consideration!

David: How large is each class cohort in the DFW program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey David. Last year's class was in the 70s and we then divided that into two cohorts...so each has roughly 35 students. I would anticipate cohorts to be in the same 35-40 range next year.

Crystal: How many students in the working professionals programs do the MBA+ projects? **Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions:** Crystal, The MBA+ miniconsulting projects are open to all students. I believe around 40% of our students across the programs participate in at least one project.

David: How are the facilities at the DFW Medical Center vs. the facilities at Austin? **Trent Thurman, Director:** Hey David. The DFW facility is at UT-Southwestern, typically the McDermott Building if you are familiar with UT's campus there. Honestly, it's an older facility than what we have in Austin, but does provide several large tiered classrooms, solid technology/AV support, a program office and ample space for group meetings and study. There are some things I would like to improve with the space, primarily related to its age, and am

talking to our colleagues at UT-Southwestern about those now. In Austin, the evening program meets at the fairly new AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center (completed in '09).

guses: Dae Jin: Thanks for the answer. My other question is if the career management service team offers out-of-state job offer as well?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Yes, companies from all over come to recruit our students. Usually about 50% end up taking an offer in Texas due to the booming economy here and the rest go elsewhere.

Anthony: How many hours per semester do students in the DFW program take? **Trent Thurman, Director:** Hi Anthony. You take three 3-hour classes per semester in the long semesters (fall, spring) and two 3-hour courses in the summer for a total of 48 hours.

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

David: How many hours during the class weeks at DFW are spent in class vs. group meetings or other work? 3 x 3 hours = 9 hours every other week?

Trent Thurman, Director: Hey David. I would estimate you're looking at an additional 15-20 hours per week outside of your class time. Obviously, some weeks will be less and some more, but I would think 15-20 would be average.

guses: Dae Jin: Thanks again. Can career management teams also help a student for international opportunities?

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: A number of companies that recruit here do have international operations. While the majority of our students will take domestic positions, there are usually a handful each year who pursue an international role.

David: What is the strength of the alumni network and relations between alumni and the DFW program?

Trent Thurman, Director: Very strong. I always say the Texas name "travels well." Truly global in nature. As far as the relationship with the DFW program, we started a speaker series last year to bring that connection closer. One of our current students sits on the McCombs DFW alumni board and events have been well attended by current students...there is an event tonight in fact.

Kurt Mitschke: WE'RE GOING TO WRAP UP THIS SESSION NOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THAT DID NOT GET ANSWERED TODAY, PLEASE EMAIL US. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ONLINE CHAT!

Trent Thurman, Director: Thanks everyone. Cheers!

Shannon Chapman, Senior Associate Director of Admissions: Thanks to everyone for joining us today! Feel free to email me at any time if you have additional questions: Shannon.chapman@mccombs.utexas.edu