

FALL 2023 TRADITIONAL MPA ADMISSIONS FAQ

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

I DO NOT HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO THE TEXAS McCOMBS MPA PROGRAM?

We welcome applications from those 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?

UT Austin requires applicants to have earned a bachelor's degree from a [regionally accredited](#)

institution in the United States or a [comparable degree](#) from a foreign academic 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. UT's 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.

I AM AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICANT. ALL OF MY APPLICATION MATERIALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE EXCEPT FOR MY OFFICIAL TEST SCORES. CAN THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE ACCEPT A COPY OF MY SCORE REPORT UNTIL THE OFFICIAL SCORES ARRIVE?

Unless you are exempt from the requirement, official TOEFL or IELTS test scores must be received before the admissions committee will

review your application 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 McCOMBS MPA PROGRAM. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO RECEIVE AN EARLIER DECISION?

If you receive an admission offer from another university and need to respond to the offer before you receive a decision from the Texas McCombs MPA program, please [send the MPA admissions team](#) the name of the university and

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the admission response deadline. 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 the MPA admissions team](#) before reapplying so that we can make suggestions for improving your application.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

HOW LONG SHOULD MY ADMISSIONS ESSAYS BE?

The written essay should be no more than 500 words in length. The video essay should be about one minute in length. That said, the quality of the content is more important than the length!

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. All recommendation letters that are submitted will be reviewed.

ARE GMAT OR GRE TEST SCORES REQUIRED?

Submitting GMAT or GRE test scores is optional. The MPA admissions committee considers all submitted application materials holistically, and previous academic performance, non-academic achievements, essays and letters of recommendation play an important role in the application review. Applicants who feel that their

test scores reflect their potential for success in graduate school can submit scores for consideration.

CAN THE TOEFL/IELTS REQUIREMENT BE WAIVED?

Only applicants from English-only speaking countries or those with a bachelor's degree from an institution in an English-only speaking country are allowed to waive the test requirement. Please visit the [GIAC website](#) for a list of countries which qualify for the waiver. This requirement is not waived for applicants who have earned a master's (but not a bachelor's) degree from a similar institution. Applicants who are exempt are welcome to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores to demonstrate their English proficiency.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT HIGH SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS?

Submit a copy of an official transcript for each college or university attended. It is not necessary for you to submit your high school transcript.

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?

Please contact UT's [Graduate and International Admissions Center](#) if you have questions about submitting transcripts from a study abroad experience. Typically, if the study abroad was for

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one semester only and the credit appears on your U.S. transcript, you will not be required to submit a transcript from the foreign university. However, if you studied more than one semester abroad, you will need to submit the transcript.

WHAT GPA IS CALCULATED FOR MPA ADMISSIONS? WHAT IF MY GPA IS BELOW 3.0?

The Graduate and International Admissions Center will calculate your GPA using grades earned in upper-division (junior-and senior-level) and graduate-level courses. 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.

Please refer to the MPA admissions packet and the [MPA admissions blog](#) for detailed information on applying.

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