ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

Beyond the Classroom

Each year, teams of students spend several days working on simulated cases for academic challenges hosted by McCombs. The teams make presentations to executives, who select winners and offer industry-specific feedback.

National Case Competitions hosted by McCombs

National Energy Finance Challenge

The National Energy Finance Challenge, hosted by the MBA Energy Finance Group at McCombs, challenges teams from the country’s top MBA programs to address real-world finance issues relevant to today’s dynamic energy industry. The challenge is sponsored and judged by companies from multiple facets of the energy finance landscape, including integrated oil and gas, commodities trading and consulting.

National Real Estate Challenge

Hosted by the Real Estate Finance Investment Center (REFIC) at McCombs, the National Real Estate Case Challenge is an invitation-only, case-based real estate competition among leading graduate business schools around the country. The event is judged by esteemed real estate professionals and is designed to give graduate students a taste of the challenges that face real estate professionals after graduation.

Texas MBA Case Competitions

Consulting Challenge

The MBA Consulting Challenge is organized by the Graduate Consulting Group and sponsored by Deloitte Consulting. This event provides MBA students a unique opportunity to showcase their talents to senior Deloitte Consulting practitioners and McCombs faculty by tackling a complex, real world business case in a competitive environment. By participating in the challenge, students have the opportunity to interact with Deloitte leaders, while developing their strategic thinking and executive presentation skills. The winning team is invited to Deloitte University to compete against top teams from other MBA programs across the country for national recognition and a cash prize.

Finance Challenge

Hosted by the Graduate Finance Association, the MBA Finance Challenge, gives students the opportunity to analyze and provide a solution to an in-depth financial business case. Students work in teams and present their conclusions to a panel of corporate and faculty judges.

Marketing Challenge

The McCombs Marketing Conference & Case Challenge is hosted each fall by the Center for Customer Insight & Marketing Solutions (CCIMS) at McCombs, the CCIMS Marketing Fellows, and the Graduate Marketing Network. The Marketing Challenge gives students the opportunity to analyze a “live case” and present to corporate sponsors and alumni who are leading marketers across multiple industries.

Operations Challenge

The MBA Operations Challenge is organized by the Graduate Operations Group and the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) at McCombs. Students analyze a supply chain and operations management business issue and present a creative solution to corporate judges and McCombs faculty. The competition exposes MBA students to industry challenges and helps them learn about ways to achieve operational excellence in business organizations.

National and Regional Case Competitions

Texas MBA students may also choose to participate in competitions hosted by other schools and organizations, focused on specific industries and/or functions. Recent Texas MBA participation includes:

Adobe Analytics Challenge, Alpha Challenge at UNC, Deloitte Human Capital Case Competition at Vanderbilt, First Pitch Case Competition at the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference, Grand Business Challenge in Digital Health at Boston University, Haas Tech Challenge, MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT), Renewable Energy Case Competition at The University of Michigan, Urban Land Institute (ULI) Hines Student Competition