MAKE YOUR APPLICATION STAND OUT

YOU ARE NOT A NUMBER

The MPA Admissions Committee takes all your application materials into account. Your essay, previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, and non-academic achievements will all play as important a role in your acceptance as your test scores. Here are a few ways to make your application stand out:

- Perform well in your undergraduate classes. A minimum 3.0 (B) upper-level grade point average is required to be considered for admission.
- Mention all of your leadership roles and extracurricular involvements; the admissions committee takes particular notice of these.
- Don’t skimp on your Statement of Purpose essay. An interview typically is not required in the MPA admissions process, and the essay is your chance to let the admissions committee know about your unique aspirations and achievements.
- Choose people who know you well in either an academic or professional context to write your letters of recommendation. They should speak to your personal qualities, career potential and ability to succeed in the classroom.
- Professional work experience is not required but is viewed positively in the application review. If you’ve got it, let us know!
- The GMAT or GRE test scores are an important element of the application. Applicants with low test scores can bolster their application in other areas and/or retake the test to increase their chance of acceptance. In the case of a retake, the admissions committee considers only the score report with the highest total score.
- For International Applicants: MPA students are expected to interact with employers and participate in class discussions starting in the first semester. Therefore, it is important to demonstrate strong English skills with your TOEFL or IELTS test scores.

Find more tips on strengthening your application on the Texas MPA admissions blog and in our admissions packet.