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 all play an important role in your acceptance. Here are a few ways to make your application stand out:

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES
Perform well in your undergraduate classes. A minimum 3.0 (B) upper-level grade point average is required to be considered for admission.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS
Mention all of your leadership roles and extracurricular involvements; the admissions committee takes particular notice of these.

ESSAY WRITING
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.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
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.

WORK EXPERIENCE
Professional work experience is not required but is viewed positively in the application review. If you’ve got it, let us know!

TEST SCORES
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 MPA Admissions Committee considers only the score report with the highest total score.

FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
MPA students 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. The MPA program’s preferred minimum for the TOEFL is 105 overall and 24 for each individual section, or minimum IELTS band scores of 7.5. If your test scores do not accurately reflect your English proficiency, we recommend that you retake the test to increase your scores and consider submitting a video essay to demonstrate your speaking skills.

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