

The Full-time MBA Program Round 3 Admissions Chat March 27, 2017

Chat with Berkeley-Haas

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Lizzy_Moderator:

Welcome to the Berkeley MBA Admissions chat. My name is Lizzy Hazard, Admissions Marketing Specialist, and I will be moderating the chat today. Joining us are Cindy Jennings Millette, Senior Associate Director of Admissions; Angela Fleekop, Associate Director of Admissions; Candace Gonzales-Tumey, Assistant Director of Admissions; Sandra Cruz-Lezama, Admissions Specialist; Gabrielle Calderon, Admissions Specialist; and Jamie Hayden, Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Please send us your questions!

Candace_Berkeley:

Hello! I look forward to your questions today.

Cindy_Berkeley:

Good morning! We look forward to answering your questions.

Sandra_Berkeley:

Good Morning! I am Admissions Specialist Sandra Cruz-Lezama. I look forward to chatting with you all today.

Angela_Berkeley:

Hello everyone! Thanks for joining us! Looking forward to speaking with you all!

Gabrielle_Berkeley:

Hello everyone! Looking forward to answering your questions this morning.

Jamie_Berkeley:

Hello! My name is Jamie Hayden and I am an Assistant Director in the Haas Financial Aid Office. Please feel free to submit any questions you have regarding financial aid such as questions regarding scholarships or loans.

Andy:

Thanks to everyone from the admissions team for making the time to be here. I'm applying to the Full-time program 3rd round this year. My first question is: **What type of feedback (if any) do we receive after submitting our application?**

Angela_Berkeley:

Hi Andy, thanks for your question! We do not provide formal feedback regarding your application, but we will be in touch with you on a consistent basis while you are awaiting a decision. We will let you know if you are missing any documents and what is happening behind the scenes as your application moves through the review process.

Jenny:

Good morning all! Thank you for your time this morning. **Are you able to comment on the number of acceptances you have received thus far from Rounds 1 and 2?** I am debating applying to round 3 this year or round 1 in the fall. Thank you!

Candace_Berkeley:

Hi Jenny! Thank you for your question. We encourage applicants to apply when they feel that their application is ready. So if you are prepared to apply to in round 3 and have your letters of recommendation lined up, please apply. We accept applicants in every round.

Laura:

Hello! Thank you for the space to solve our questions. **I would like to know if there is a "standard" GMAT test score that is acceptable or if you know what the average score has been in previous years? Also, do both the quantitative and the verbal sections have the same weight?**

Candace_Berkeley:

Hello! We have no standard score or minimum score. Our average over the past few years has hovered around 715 with most scores falling between 680 and 750. We consider all aspects of the score.

Maryangel:

Hello. I have 2 questions. **(1) What are you looking for in GRE/GMAT scores? (2) What is considered a great essay? What "wows" admissions?**

Angela_Berkeley:

As we take a holistic view of your application, we do not have a set GMAT/GRE score and we admit applicants with a wide range of scores. For your reference, the average GMAT score of our last incoming class was 717. For the essay, a great one is an essay where your personality shines through! We want to learn more about you from your essays--what makes you unique and why is now the time for an MBA. Be yourself and be authentic!

SK:

Good Morning! Thank you for setting up this chat! **In the essay about career plans, how specific should we get about the roles and responsibilities that are of interest to us?**

Angela_Berkeley:

We love specific examples of where you want to work, what skills you want to develop and the steps you plan to take to get there. Feel free to call out specific companies and roles.

HigashiyamaN12017: Hello! I watched some videos about the admission posted on the Berkeley website. **I heard that the Admissions Committee values a high quantitative score on the GMAT. How about the score of Verbal section?** I guess that for the international applicants, the most challenging part of GMAT is Verbal section. **How do you see an applicant with a high quantitative score and a low Verbal score?**

Candace_Berkeley: Thank you for the question. Yes, we value a high quant score but not in isolation, the verbal section is important as well and also predicts success in an MBA program. In answer to your question, it really depends on how low the verbal score is, as you know there is more to the academic experience than just quant courses. If you are concerned about your verbal score, you may consider retaking the exam. We will also look at your TOEFL scores to assess English proficiency so please don't feel that the GMAT is the only place to demonstrate that.

SK: **Are R3 applicants automatically considered for scholarship opportunities?**

Jamie_Berkeley: Hello! While we do have some scholarships that do not require supplemental information (list towards the bottom of the page at <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>), the majority do require that you complete our online scholarship application.

Temeca: Good morning! **I am re-applying to Haas this round from last year, and I'd like to know how you recommend approaching the essays as a re-applicant. How much does my application from last year factor into the decision process (if at all), and are there any other tips you have for people re-applying to the program?** Thanks so much!

Angela_Berkeley: Great question! We're glad you're reapplying! We will have your application from last year and will be able to reference it while we are reviewing your new application. How you approach the essays and whether you re-write them all, etc. is up to you. I would suggest focusing on what's changed since your last application and what new information you want to shed light on for us. We want to know how you've grown and how your candidacy has improved since your last application.

Maryangel: I also have a question about scholarships. One of the greater challenges about an MBA at Haas-Berkeley is the cost. **As an international student, are there any scholarships that I can apply for?**

Jamie_Berkeley: Hello! Our scholarships are open to both domestic and international students.

Laura: Hi Jamie! **I would like to know if you offer specific financial aid or scholarship options for international students, and if those options are still available for Round 3 applicants.** Thank you!

Jamie_Berkeley: While we do not have scholarships specific to domestic or international populations, we do have a significant number of international students who apply for our Berkeley MBA Grant, which is need based. This option typically remains available for Round 3 admits. We also have international loan options for those who do not have a US citizen cosigner. More information on those options is available here:
<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>

Maryangel: Hi! **What is the average GRE score you receive?**

Cindy_Berkeley: Hi Maryangel: We have only been accepting the GRE for the last couple of years so we do not have statistics on averages for the GRE.

Zoe: Good morning all! My name is Xiaoxiao. **I applied for Round 2 and was put on the waitlist. Will I be notified of the final decision on the decision date of Round 3? If I want to retake GMAT, what is the deadline for updating the test score? Do you have any suggestions for me to enhance my candidacy?** Thank you!

Candace_Berkeley: Hi Xiaoxiao! Waitlist applicants are reviewed on a rolling basis after the update deadline so we cannot guarantee that you will receive your decision on the Round 3 notification date. I would notify us in written form that you are planning to retake the GMAT and take it prior to the Friday, April 28th deadline. If you are unable to do that, let us know the test date, so that we can look for the scores to come in. Then, please send us the scores as soon as you can. Please also take advantage of sending additional letters of recommendation and updates.

Ksenia: Hi Jamie, thank you for your time. **Is Financial Aid merit or need based?**

Jamie_Berkeley: Financial aid is a broad term used to describe all forms of financial assistance. For instance, scholarships, loans, departmental awards, outside scholarships, etc. For Haas, our entering student scholarships (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>) have a variety of criteria including need, leadership and industry. These opportunities require that you first be admitted and then apply via our online scholarship application.

JacksonJ12017:

Hello! I saw on your website that Berkeley normally doesn't accept incoming students with less than five years of work experience. However, if you had a significant amount of part-time work experience plus full-time work experience, would that help?

Cindy_Berkeley:

Hi JacksonJ12017: There actually is a range of number of years of work experience. We accept candidates with just 2 years to over 8 years of post-university professional work experience. The average number of years students have is 5 years of post-university work experience. The quantity is not as important as the quality. For example, have you demonstrated progression, taken on more responsibility over time, and demonstrated leadership potential? These are things we'll be considering.

WongJ52017:

Hello, I am ready to submit my application for the 3rd round but one of my recommenders hasn't submitted her recommendations yet. Should I wait until she submits her recommendations before submitting my entire application?

Thanks

Sandra_Berkeley:

Hello! You are more than welcome to submit your application before your letters of recommendation are submitted. While your recommenders are able to submit their letters after April 6th, please note that your application will not be reviewed until we have received both of your recommendations.

Jenny:

Can you comment on the timing of interviews and decisions after the Round 3 application deadline?

Angela_Berkeley:

Sure, Jenny! You can be offered an interview anytime from after you submit your application, to right before the notification date. The timing of your interview offer does not indicate how strong your application is, it just depends on when we get to read your file. All decisions will be posted on May 11. If you are offered a spot on the waitlist and have not yet been offered an interview by then, you may opt into an interview at that point.

SK:

What do you think will be the biggest change to the experiences of class of 2019 compared with previous classes? In other words, what experiences will a Haas 2019 graduate have that previous alums may not have had?

Cindy_Berkeley:

Hi SK, What comes to the top of my mind is our new building which is set to open soon! I think this will certainly be an added benefit to the incoming class. Additionally, in answer to your question, there are always changes to the program that often take place based on student feedback. We listen very much to the students. This is why the program is constantly evolving and changing each and every year.

HigashiyamaN12017: **Do you recommend applicants much older than the average age of class profile of Haas, like mid-thirties, to apply for an EMBA program? How can I determine if I am eligible for an MBA or an EMBA? By age or a position?**

Cindy_Berkeley: Hi HigashiyamaN: Thanks for your question. I'm afraid that there is no easy answer and it really depends upon your needs and what you want in an MBA program. We do not consider age in our application process. We look at the quality more specifically than the quantity in years of post-university experience. We do accept applicants with a range of just 2 years to over 8 years of professional experience in the FT MBA program. My suggestion would be to investigate both programs and consider what your needs are. For example in a FT MBA program you devote 2 years full time to the experience which also means you are taking 2 years out of the workforce to devote to your professional development. In a PT program you are working FT while attending school. Definitely, there are challenges to managing your time. However, you can apply all that you've learned directly to your current professional experience to see immediate results. Both the FT and PT program have visitation days and information sessions to learn more. My advice would be to attend one for each program and determine for yourself what you need in an MBA program. We also do discuss benefits of both programs on our website as well as during our Diversity Symposium day in the fall. Hope this helps!

Laura: **A lot of websites and consultants who specialize in MBA admissions state that it is always better to apply in Rounds 1 or 2 because there is a higher chance of getting accepted. Do you think this is true for Berkeley? Would you advise someone applying for Round 3 to wait to apply in Round 1 for next year?**

Candace_Berkeley: Hi Laura! Please know we admit students from every round. We often say if you are prepared early then, yes, apply early. If you have a strong application, it will stand out in any round.

Lizzy_Moderator: Hi everyone! We'll be wrapping the chat up soon. Please send us your final questions!

Olga: **Hello, I am a single mom with 7 years old son. We both have a dual Russian and Canadian citizenship. If I'm admitted, will my son be able to attend elementary school in US?**

Cindy_Berkeley: Dear Olga: We have international students who come to the US on a student visa every year. Many students come with their school age children. My suggestion would be to reach out to the partners club or the Berkeley International Office for more information.
<https://haas.campusgroups.com/partners/about> or
<http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/>

WongJ52017:

If accepted in the 3rd round, would you know if there are still space for family housing in the University as well as availability for childcare?

Cindy_Berkeley:

Hi Wong, I am afraid that I do not know the answer. We have one university family housing unit called University Village in Albany. Admitted students can apply. Most MBA students actually live in houses and apartments in the surrounding area.

Syed G:

Hello all! I have a question about the program. I am working as an IT manager in one of the largest private schools in Pakistan and a highly reputable school around the world, Beacon House School System. My job involves a lot of project coordination and technology management. **If a person was working, let's say for Facebook or some other top tier organization in the same line of work as I, would he be more likely to be accepted assuming that all the other experiences, GMAT scores and the compelling reasons for pursuing an MBA are the same.**

Candace_Berkeley:

Hi Syed - This is a difficult question as it is extremely rare that all other aspects of any application are the same. I don't think I have ever seen it! All of our applicants have different scores, types of work experience and extracurricular involvements. That is why we employ holistic reviews of applications. Please feel confident that if you present your job responsibilities and experiences in your resume that is understandable, it will be impactful and considered equally.

Lizzy_Moderator:

Thanks again for joining us! Our chat is wrapping up and shutting down. We really appreciate your questions and apologize if we didn't get to all of them. Please check back on our website for a transcript of today's chat. Go Bears!

Angela_Berkeley:

Great to speak with you all! Best of luck on your applications!

Candace_Berkeley:

Thank you for your questions!

Sandra_Berkeley:

It was great chatting with you all. Best of luck, and Go Bears!

Cindy_Berkeley:

Thanks for your questions and for joining us today. Go Bears!

Jamie_Berkeley:

Thank you for joining us! Please do not hesitate to contact the Haas Financial Aid Office directly with any questions at finaid@haas.berkeley.edu