Lizzy: Welcome to the Berkeley MBA Admissions chat. My name is Lizzy Hazard, Admissions Marketing Manager, and I will be moderating the chat today. Joining us are Cindy Jennings Millette, Senior Associate Director of Admissions; Candace Gonzalez-Tumey, Associate Director of Admissions; Talin Abrahamian, Associate Director of Admissions; Sandra Cruz-Lezama, Admissions Manager; Andrea Brougher, Admissions Manager. Please send us your questions!

Daniel: Besides the potential for higher competition, is there any other difference at Haas in applying for Round 3 instead of Round 1 or 2 (I know some schools have things like you miss Incoming Students day, accepted without knowing what your financial aid will be, etc.)?

Answer: Hi Daniel, if you are a strong candidate it does not matter in which round you apply. Historically, we have accepted candidates in all rounds including round 3.

Renderac: My background is in Design, with a BFA in undergrad. Would it be helpful to take a community college class in statistics or calculus to show my quantitative proficiency? Would taking a course on Coursera be of similar value to a local community college night class?

Answer: Hi Renderac, if you did not take a statistics or calculus class in undergrad it would be a good idea to take a community college class to demonstrate your quant proficiency. A Coursera class similarly will demonstrate that you are working to enhance your quant skills.

Jiayu: When does the fall quarter start?

Answer: Hi Jiayu! Mandatory student orientation typically begins in mid August. The exact date varies year to year.
Daniel: Hi Cindy, wonderful, thank you! And, to clarify, there is no other difference, like the examples I listed at some other schools?
Answer: True. Due to the timing, R3 admits will not be able to attend our Days at Haas weekend. R3 admits are still eligible for scholarships.

Anonymous: How profound has been the impact of recent political changes on international students’ hiring scenario?
Answer: Hello, there are too many unknowns at this point so no impact as of yet.

Margarita: Hello. I have seen that the students have on average 5 years of professional experience... I am older, I have 11 years of experience. Is that a problem?
Answer: Hi Margarita! This is not at all a problem. Please know that 5 years is only an average. We admit students with various backgrounds all the time. You would simply need to tell us why you need an MBA at this time in your career.

Kyle: Are there supports for veteran applicants throughout the application process or is support available only after an offer?
Answer: Hi Kyle! We offer a fee waiver for the application for veterans. We have a webinar for vets planned for 3/7 and plan to host a Veterans Visit day. Stayed tuned for more info. We also have a wonderful Veterans Club on campus and they are happy to assist with any questions you may have during the application process. Their contact information is on the website.

Anonymous: Hello! What is the average GRE score for accepted candidates? And also, does the writing score matter as much as the Quant/Verbal section?
Answer: Hi, while we accept both the GRE and GMAT, we don’t have an average score for the GRE due to less applicants choosing to take this test. The Admissions Committee views your application holistically, so we will seek both qualitative and quantitative strength indicators throughout your application including scores, resume, and essays.

Kelly: Are there scholarships/fellowships available for minorities? Also, is there a minimum GPA and GRE/GMAT requirement for prospective applicants?
Answer: Hi Kelly! We do not have scholarships that are specifically allocated for minorities. But we have many scholarships available. The average scholarship award per student is $68,702. Berkeley Haas awarded $7.9 million in scholarship funds last year. We do not have minimum GPA or GRE/GMAT requirements – please know that Haas is a very competitive program so we are looking for students who can support that they
will be successful in the classroom either through work experience that has quantitative aspects or by taking additional college level course work, if they feel that their transcripts are not an adequate representation of their capabilities.

Nic: In regards to GMAT scores, can we submit applications based on our unofficial scores, and what is most heavily weighted within the program?
Answer: Great question Nic. For the first initial review process we only go off self-report scores. If an application is moved forward for verification, we will contact an applicant if any official scores are missing. We review each applicant’s professional experience, academic aptitude, GMAT or GRE examination results, TOEFL or IELTS examination results (if applicable), and letters of recommendation.

Michael: I've read a lot about SkyDeck and the Berkeley Incubator. How easy is it for students to get involved with these Berkeley programs?
Answer: Hi Michael, there is some level of competitiveness as not all start-up ideas are accepted into Skydeck. For example, many start ups that win the LAUNCH business plan competition are part of Skydeck and use the resources. Needless to say there are a number of resources through our Entrepreneurship Center at different levels to move into Skydeck.

Daniel: What is the rough proportion of each class that are foreign?
Answer: Each year about 40% of our student population is international.

Anonymous: Does taking relevant MOOCs increase chances of acceptance?
Answer: Hi there! It honestly depends on your entire application. If the admissions committee feels that you lack quantitative skills, for example, taking a quant MOOC could help the admissions committee understand your skills in that area. However, it also depends on the strength of your application in general.

Nikolaos: Hello! Do you know already the intake dates for 2019? Will the round deadlines be the same as for 2018?
Answer: Hi Nikolas. We haven’t finalized yet and will do so this summer. We don’t anticipate a big change, but stayed tuned.

Kyle: When do the application requirements for class of 2021 (application for fall 2018/spring 2019) come out?
Answer: Hello Kyle, you want to keep an eye out for our Fall 2019 application sometime in August. We will update our website with the application once it is available.
Nina: Speaking of scholarships and financial aid, when are those deadlines vs the acceptance timing for round 3? And what % of accepted students receive scholarships or financial support?

Answer: R3 applicant notification is May 10. May 17th is the 3rd round deadline for scholarship applications. We also award merit scholarships to applicants without an application as well. The average scholarship award per student is $68,702. Berkeley Haas awarded $7.9 million in scholarship funds last year. More details on scholarships are available here: http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html

Kalyan: Is full financial aid possible?

Answer: Yes, full financial aid is possible! The average scholarship award per student is $68,702. Berkeley Haas awarded $7.9 million in scholarship funds last year. A complete list of Haas scholarships and outside scholarships are listed on our website. http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html

Anonymous: What is the average scholarship amount? Would you recommend a place to find additional scholarships?

Answer: Hi, the average scholarship award per student is $68,702. Berkeley Haas awarded $7.9 million in scholarship funds last year. Additional scholarships can be found listed on our website. http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/outside-scholarships.html

Anonymous: Hi, I have taken the GRE over 4 times and I simply am not scoring above 530. This is after taking several GRE courses. How does Admission look at this situation? Or how can I better showcase my application?

Answer: Hi! We understand that GRE/GMAT fatigue and plateau does definitely happen, and I’m sorry that you’re struggling. We view each application holistically, so we’ll want to see that you’ve excelled in an academic setting from your undergraduate degree.

Renderac: Thank you Cindy! Coursera is much easier to fit into my schedule, do you think that would be looked at with the same credibility?

Answer: Renderac, we prefer a course that has a grade so you can demonstrate your quant skills. We prefer courses from accredited institutions. Some universities now do online courses through Coursera I believe.

Kyle: Are there specific preferences for references; i.e., direct supervisors, people in high positions, coworkers, etc.?

Answer: Hello Kyle, we require two letters of recommendation and prefer that at least one come from a current employer. Select individuals with whom you have had considerable professional interaction, such as your supervisor or a major client. The
title or status of those you select is not important. What does matter is how closely your letter writers have worked with you and whether they can attest to your value as an employee, your professional accomplishments, and your personal qualities and interpersonal skills in an organizational context. For this reason, we strongly discourage academic references. Letters of recommendation from co-workers, someone you have supervised, relatives, or personal and family friends are inappropriate and can be detrimental to the review of your application. Please do not submit more than two letters, and if you choose not to obtain a letter from your current supervisor, be certain to explain why.

Luis: Hi Admissions Staff, thank you for hosting this chat. I was wondering if you could shed some light into applying for round 3. Do you think it is a prudent option or would it be much better to wait for round 1?

Answer: Hi, we recommend submitting your application when you’re confident that it is the strongest. Historically, we have admitted students from all rounds and from the wait list.

Anonymous: I read on the website that recommendation letters may be sent after the deadline—how long after the deadline will it be accepted? 1 week? 2 weeks? 3?

Answer: Hello Anonymous, recommenders are able to submit their letters after the deadline. The most important thing is that you submit your application by our deadline. We will begin to review your application once all recommendation have been received.

Josh: Hi. I would like to know if I have a green card, can I get the Federal financial aid? And if there are some part-time positions for students to work on campus? Thanks.

Answer: Hi, international students are eligible for Haas scholarships. International loan options can be found here - http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/loan-repayment-options.html. International students are eligible to apply for campus positions. More information can be found here - http://groups.haas.berkeley.edu/ASE/students/qualifications.html.

Jiayu: I was in the military while I complete the last two years of college. I don't have a top notched GPA. Would Haas evaluate my work experience and GPA differently like in a more objective stand point?

Answer: Hi Jiayu, we will take all of that into account.

Anonymous: Are last round candidates disadvantaged compared to other applicants?

Answer: Hello Anonymous, there is no disadvantage applying to round 3. A strong application will show regardless of what round you apply to. What you have to keep in mind is
Maria: Hello! What is the most important aspect that 3 round applicants must pay attention?

Answer: Hello Maria! Round 3 candidates must submit their applications when they feel that they are most prepared. My suggestion would be for you to prepare your recommenders and your essays with the same care and reflection that you would otherwise.

David: Hello, I applied last year and I didn't get in, but upon phone call review of my application, I found I could use a higher gpa. Would Haas consider new classes and gpa if I were to enroll in a community college and take courses (engineering) to raise my gpa?

Answer: Hello David, we encourage you to self-reflect and review the online class and student profiles to determine where your application can be strengthened. The Admissions Committee strongly values students who are able to perform such self-reflections as a demonstration of their judgement and maturity. We will review all academic courses that you have taken; however your GPA cannot be raised since it is based off where you received your undergraduate degree.

Lauren: Hello! Is it common for dual degree students to submit GRE scores in lieu of the GMAT? I understand that Haas prefers to receive GMAT scores.

Answer: Hi, we are happy to accept either GRE or a GMAT score. We have no preference for either test.

Anonymous: Hi I have taken the GRE over 4 times and I simply am not scoring above 530. This is with taken serval GRE courses. How does Admission look at this situation? Or How can better showcase my application

Answer: Most people take the GRE or GMAT an average of 3 times, so taking it more than that is not unusual at all. I’d make sure that other aspects of your application truly showcase your potential, like your undergrad GPA, letters of rec, and work experience.

Matthew: Cindy, what course of action would you recommend to someone who comes from a quantitative background that wants to demonstrate their qualitative traits—that they are well-rounded and not just ‘numbers guys/gals’?

Answer: Hi Matthew, we are always looking for applicants that can demonstrate qualitative skills including soft skills like Emotional Intelligence, team skills, resilience, grit. If you come from a quant background the way you can demonstrate this well-rounded qualities is through your presentation (essays) and letters of recommendation (that will discuss such traits). Hope this helps!
Rabeet: Is BH open to applicants with MBA degrees? Looking to pursue a 2nd MBA?
Answer: Hello Rabeet, University policy prohibits awarding of duplicate degrees. If you have an MBA or comparable degree from an institute of higher education, your application will be ineligible for consideration.

Anonymous: Are last round candidates disadvantaged compared to other applicants?
Answer: Hi, we recommend submitting your application when you’re confident that it is the strongest. Historically, we have admitted students from all rounds and from the wait list.

Drew: What is the acceptance rate for round 3 applicants?
Answer: We actually don’t publish our acceptance rates by round (because they honestly change every year based on the strength of the pool). What I can say is that every year we always accept many students from round 3, as well as off the waitlist.

Ashruth: Hello! My boss has me deeply integrated into our 3 year plan and informing him of my intention to pursue my MBA would create an uncomfortable work environment for me. Would not having him as a reference hurt my chances of being considered?
Answer: Hi Ashruth, we have candidates apply in confidence quite often. Please let us know your particular situation in the optional essay and we certainly understand that you do not want to jeopardize any employment opportunity. It will not hurt your chances.

Tahira: Hi, if we write the GMAT more than once, are both scores evaluated or only the highest?
Answer: We can see all scores that you send us, but we only consider the highest overall score that you earn, along with those subscores.

Danielle: What are the disadvantages of applying in Round 3? Are you less likely to receive financial aid?
Answer: Hi, we accept strong candidates from all rounds including from the waitlist. To note, if you are interested in financial aid, we begin allocating during first and second round, so there may be less by the third round.
Cmatsch: Do you feel there is a good spectrum of students, ranging from full financial analysts to those who want to be in the non-profit sector?

Answer: I do feel we have a great range of students! We do get a lot of financial analysts, investment bankers, research associates, etc. but we also get a ton of students from non-traditional backgrounds like education, healthcare, and real estate. We’ve got it all!

Anonymous: I have a low overall GPA, 2.9, that increased steadily over the course of my Undergrad, mostly due to struggles with a health condition. I also switched majors more than halfway through my college career. My GPA in major is high (>3.5) and my GMAT scores are very high (98th percentile). With around 4 years of career experience at the start of the Fall 2018 term, would my GPA situation disqualify me as a strong candidate for Round 3?

Answer: Hello! We really view each application holistically. Your overall GPA is lower than our average, but that doesn’t mean at all that you’d be disqualified as an applicant. We don’t have any reading “minimums”.

Tianyang: I’m an MD and PhD, planning to apply to 2019 with only one year of working experience. Would it be possible to consider the experience as a PhD as work? I do clinical intern and lab research during that period.

Answer: Hello Tianyang, for work experience we review full-time paid professional work experience following the completion of their undergrad degree. The average years of post-university work experience is 5 years. More important than quantity, however, is the quality of that experience. When reviewing applications, we are particularly interested in the progression and milestones of your career, as well as your supervisor’s assessment of your value as an employee and potential as a leader. See our Application Tips for more information.

Hui: Hello! How competitive is Round 3 admission for Fall 2019? Also, echoing kalyan’s question, is full financial aid possible for international students?

Answer: Hi, we recommend submitting your application when you’re confident that it is the strongest. Historically, we have admitted students from all rounds and from the wait list. To note, if you are interested in financial aid, we recommend applying in Round 1 or 2 as less financial aid will be available for Round 3 admitted students.

Anonymous: What is MOOC?

Answer: A MOOC is a Massive Open Online Course, or just an online course.

Thomas: Can I concatenate more than one scholarship?

Answer: You are able to apply to more than one scholarship, yes.
Aaron: I have a question about the dual degree MBA/MPH program. I know that applicants have to apply through the Berkeley MBA application then choose the concurrent program. If the applicant only gets accepted to the MBA, but not MPH, or vice versa, will the applicant be turned away by both programs? Or will it be possible to be enrolled in one of them only and reapply for the other at a later date?

Answer: Both programs have to agree on the decision. You cannot start at one program first and then reapply for another at a later date. This only applies to the MBA/MPH.

Kelly: Is it possible to choose a technology concentration in the MBA program or could we take tech classes from a different department to count as electives?

Answer: We are a general MBA program, so you will not have to choose a concentration. You are able to focus your classes in a particular area however and if tech is your area of interest, then you can focus your curriculum and activities there. You are also able to take courses in other departments while a students at Berkeley-Haas.

Anonymous: HI Cindy, following up on the question on political climate, more and more companies seem to be very reluctant to hire internationals. So, do you expect employment report of internationals of recent graduates to be at par with those of previous graduates?

Answer: Hi Anonymous - we simply do not have enough insight into the future to answer this question. They have been on par up to this time.

Anonymous: I know undergrad GPA matters in the application — but do you look at the last 3-4 semesters of the applicants grades in terms of improvement?

Answer: We look at the entire transcript. Looking for trends, dips, spikes, etc. Everything is evaluated holistically.

Nikolaos: Hello again! I am currently working full time and there is a chance I switch job shortly before I apply for the MBA. In that case, is it ok if I ask my previous supervisor/Manager?

Answer: Hi Nikolaos. Yes, you can ask a previous supervisor.

Maria: Hi! Is there a possibility to have a track on the MBA? I really want to focus it on transport. Thank you!

Answer: Hi Maria. We do not have tracks at Berkeley-Haas. You can focus on your area of interest. However, our degree is a general management degree.
Nikolaos:  Apologies, please see w/ correction: Hello again! I am currently working full time and there is a chance I switch job shortly before I apply for the MBA. In that case, is it ok if I ask my previous supervisor/Manager for a letter of recommendation?

Answer: Yes. You do not have to have a current supervisor write your letter of rec, but please do let us know your situation in your application when we ask why you can't have a letter from a current supervisor.

Elizabeth: Hello! Thank you for this session! I have a MS in Management Studies degree from Kellogg. I know these 1-year pre-MBA type programs are new and growing across business schools but I'm not sure to what extent. For my degree, I took Kellogg's MBA core classes but I don't know how many of those classes would be accepted as credits to your program. If I were to return to Kellogg, I know all those classes would be accepted as credits for the MBA and I would be able to start immediately in year 2 but what would it look like for Haas? It would be unfortunate if I would have to retake those classes. Thank you!

Answer: Hi Elizabeth, unfortunately we do not accept transfer credits. Because we emphasize our cohort experience and other outside of the classroom opportunities, we want the students to be together for the two year transformational MBA experience.

Renderac: Is it better to do a MOOC or an online course, or find a course at a community college?

Answer: It's honestly up to you. We don't have a preference.

Cameron: Can you please comment on the competitiveness of R3 versus previous rounds?

Answer: We have less spots available in the class come Round 3 but we always admit candidates from Round 3. In fact, we end up going to the waiting list each year.

Anonymous: Is there a disadvantage to apply during the 3rd round compared to the 1st and 2nd round?

Answer: We have less spots available but a strong candidate will always rise to the top and we always admit from Round 3 and even from the waiting list, for that matter. You have plenty of time to prepare and submit your strongest application. We even have financial aid available for candidates who are admitted in round 3.

Anonymous: Is there a dual degree option with the Computer Science department?

Answer: We do not have a dual degree option with computer science at this time.
Daniel: Do most first year MBAs live on or off campus?
Answer: Most live off campus within a 7 mile radius (walking, biking, bus distance).

Priyanka: Hello, I wanted to ask if I have to the option to complete 2 year MBA program within 1.5 years or less?
Answer: No, you will not be able to accelerate the degree. It is designed to be completed in 2 years.

Karen: I am a head of audit in mid size company. Who should give me recommendation letter? My direct supervisor is the shareholder.
Answer: You can ask your direct supervisor if you'd like. You can also ask a previous supervisor.

Matthew: Are Haas students able to take courses at other Berkeley colleges, like the college of sciences or language for example? Does the course load allow for that sort of exploration?
Answer: Yes! You can take up to three elective courses at other Berkeley colleges to apply towards your MBA.

Kvn: What percentage of students on your waitlist is admitted?
Answer: Kvn, this varies year to year so I’m afraid that I do not know the answer.

Tianyang: For the international students in class, how many of them are with US degrees?
Answer: We don’t have that statistic readily available. We admit students from all over the world and have about 39% of our students who are international (country of education is not included).

Perry: Geographically, where do most alumni head to work after the program?
Answer: Most alumni actually stay in the Bay Area. The Bay Area is the #2 most popular destination for recent MBA alumni, so even when people have originally planned to go back home, they’ve stayed for a year or so. That said, the second most popular would be NYC historically. Our career management group can really work to place you wherever you want to go geographically.
Julian: Good day, My background is engineering, sales and management in automotive industry. I'm interested in pursuing development in this same industry, specially to link with what is happening the bay area. I've already spoken with some ambassadors from the links provided and most of them are on consulting and private equity. Is there someone I can talk to who is in this industry (or something related?)

Answer: Hi Julian, I recommend reaching out to our Haas Student Ambassadors. You can find their profiles on our website and if they aren’t from engineering, sales and management in the automotive industry, they can connect you with someone that is by emailing them with your request.
https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/hsateam.html

Parth: Are there any school grants provided? Does the school provide some collateral for student loans?

Answer: We do have grants available. Please feel free to check out our financial aid website for more information.

Eric: For applicants that are older with 8+ years of work experience, should they focus on professional successes as some accomplishments from university were over a decade ago?

Answer: Hi Eric! We’ll be able to see your transcript and grades from undergrad. I think focusing on recent accomplishments over your career sounds like a great idea, but it depends on the overall picture you’re painting of yourself and your own personal story. For example, something formative happening in undergrad still may have an effect on you.

Kvn: Do you currently have students working full time while enrolled full time in your program?

Answer: Students do not work full time in the full time program.

Anonymous: In terms of recommendation letters—what if your past manager/supervisor knows your better than your current one (since you prefer current supervisor/manager recommenders)?

Answer: You can ask your previous supervisor if you feel that they know you better and will provide a better reference.
Ashruth: Hello! I cannot get a recommendation from my manager as informing him of my decision to leave would create an uncomfortable work environment. Would not having his recommendation hurt my chances of being accepted?

Answer: Hi Ashruth, no. Please just indicate on the application the reason for not selecting your current supervisors as a recommendation. We certainly understand if you are applying in confidence.

Karen: Do I have to convert my German university grades into the US version?

Answer: You do not have to convert your grades. We are familiar with all institutions and their grading systems. Thanks.

Josh: Hello. If I hold an MS degree, am I eligible to apply for an MBA from Haas?

Answer: As long as you don't have an MBA, you should be fine.

Anonymous: How soon after I am told that I am not admitted can I re-apply again?

Answer: You can re-apply for the next admissions cycle starting in August.

Anonymous: Hi, thanks for hosting this event. I have a question about the opportunities to get involved in Hands on Project while pursuing the MBA degree. I am interested in the Energy Industry, more specifically in Energy Finance. I also would like to hear about degrees concentration in the energy field. Thanks a lot!

Answer: Hi, Berkeley Haas offers several areas of emphasis including finance (https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/finance.html) and Energy and Clean Technology (https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/energy.html). The Energy Institute would also be a great resource in this area.

Anonymous: Thank you, Candace. I know we can submit an application with unofficial scores both in GMAT and TOEFL. Is there a particular deadline when we have to take the exams, or can we use all the application time available?

Answer: Hello. Yes, you need to have taken the GMAT or TOEFL on or before the deadline for which you apply.

Parth: Are there any scholarships or grants available?

Answer: Yes. See more details about scholarships here: http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html
**Priyanka:** Hello, I wanted to ask if I have to the option to complete 2year MBA program within 1.5 years or less?

**Answer:** Our program is designed to be completed in 2 years. Unfortunately, you are not able to accelerate it.

**Karen:** Do you have electronic access to our GMAT scores, so they can be seen within 24-48 hours of your exam, and then you will receive the official ones?

**Answer:** Hi, if you have chosen to report the score to us, we can receive the official score. However, to complete your application, we ask applicants to self report their scores, and have it validated once received.

**Anonymous:** What qualities stands out in an applicant? Is it their vision? Leadership? Ideas? Grades? I know all of this matters, but what is the most important quality in more UC Berkeley students?

**Answer:** You answered your own question - they all matter! Not everyone will have every single quality we’re looking for, but we look for excellence in work experience, good GMAT and GPA to make sure you’d excel in our classes, along with how you’d get involved with our classes based on our four defining principles. There is honestly no one thing we’re looking for over another.

**Akshat:** What is the approximate intake of foreign applicants for round 3 on an average?

**Answer:** We do not have an average or quota. We can admit as many as are qualified and we have room for. Hope that helps.

**Parth:** Are there any experiential learning programs?

**Answer:** Yes, we have a great experiential program. In fact, it is a requirement for all of our students to take one experiential learning course during their MBA.

**Anonymous:** How do you evaluate the 3 year degree for International Students? Will I still be eligible to apply if I have considerable amount of work ex along with a good GMAT score etc?

**Answer:** Hello Anonymous, with a three year Bachelor’s degree, you are welcome to apply to the program, however your application might not be as competitive as individuals who have completed a four year Bachelor’s degree. We usually suggest for applicants in a similar situation to complete a one year Master’s degree or certificate program to have the same number of study as the majority of the applicants. Keep in mind we have a holistic overview process.
Cindy, I love this question from Matt, how would you answer it the other way around for this of us that have a strong qualitative background? Cindy, what course of action would you recommend to someone who comes from a quantitative background that wants to demonstrate their qualitative traits—that they are well-rounded and not just `numbers guys/gals`?

Answer: Hi Cmatsch, You want to demonstrate that you can handle the quant rigor. We take many poets as well as quants! One way is to take a quant class to demonstrate your initiative as well as skills (with a grade). This usually means that you’ve taken the course before you’ve applied. Other ways is to have your recommenders note any quant experience. Just some ideas.

Anonymous: Hello, I applied and didn’t get in and my gpa was a factor. If I took classes at a community college to boost my gpa, will it be considered/re-evaluated?

Answer: Dear Anonymous, the Admissions Committee strongly values students who are able to perform such self-reflections as a demonstration of their judgement and maturity. I would suggest reviewing our Reapplicant website for any additional information at: http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/reapplicants.html. You are welcome to take additional courses to show us your growth. However, your undergraduate GPA cannot be boosted, since that cannot be altered.

Parth: What are the unique features of Haas MBA that no other school can boast of?

Answer: We are very proud of our culture and find that to be unique to Berkeley-Haas. Feel free to connect with our community and students to learn more.

Kvn: What is your advice for students who wish to work 50% to 75% time, in addition to enrolling full-time?

Answer: You are highly discouraged from working while in school as the full-time program keeps you quite busy. You may discuss your options with the student affairs department once you enroll.

Priyanka: Do we get CPT and OPT for this program?

Answer: Hello! Yes, students are eligible for CPT and OPT.

Anonymous: I have only 2 years experience in a startup environment. Will it jeopardize my chances since most applicants have around 5 years experience?

Answer: Our average is 5 years but we have a range of 2-8 years of experience in our candidates. It all depends on your experience and impact that you’ve shown.
Anonymous: I am a Brazilian citizen and I got my bachelors degree from a University in Brazil. However, I am a USA Permanent resident and therefore, I will not apply as an international student. Do I have to present the TOEFL test result?

Answer: Hi, if you completed your bachelor’s degree in Brazil, will will ask for a TOEFL or IELTS test. An exception would be if you completed a one year full-time program in the US. More detail can be found here. https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/index.html#English-Proficiency

Parth: I have taken my GMAT, do I also need to take TOEFL even though the medium of instruction was English for my bachelors?

Answer: If you were educated in a country that is a non-english speaking country (predominately), then yes, you will have to take the TOEFL.

Anonymous: Hi there - what do you consider a high undergrad GPA? If my GPA is 3.43 but I received a low grade in Business Calc, would that hurt my chances?

Answer: Our averages are posted online in addition to our GPA ranges. We evaluate everything holistically so one bad grade doesn’t mean that you will not be considered.

Giovani: I have an intermediate level of English and I would like to know if they have a previous English course to strengthen the language before starting the MBA?

Answer: Hi Giovani, we do not. We do offer a communication skills workshop for all entering students early in August, as well as a math workshop.

Anonymous: Does it weaken the application if the applicant is an entrepreneur and is not currently “working” however, is working on a startup and etc?

Answer: Hello! We look at applications holistically so it will not hurt your application.

Nikolaos: If I may ask, and according to your opinion, what is the unique point that differentiates Berkeley Haas from other Uni’s MBA’s?

Answer: We are proud of our unique culture. Feel free to connect with current students through “Meet the Team” on our Admissions page to learn more.

Ashish: Hi Cindy / Talin -- is the GMAT absolutely a MUST for applying to HAAS Berkley?

Answer: You must either take the GMAT or the GRE.
Parth: What is the split of students joining consulting, tech, marketing etc?
Answer: Hi Parth: Please take a look at our Class profile: 
https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/class-profile.html

Manpreet: What are the career counseling services like? How do they handle students who wish to take on novel career paths?
Answer: Hi Manpreet, I’d suggest that you look at our Career Management Group website which discusses more of the resources. 
http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/groups/careercenter/index.html

Parth: Does school provide hostels/dorms?
Answer: We have graduate student housing available, yes.

Matthew: Can Haas MBA students participate in research or studies that the school is conducting? Asking as someone who might see themselves on the other side of the classroom someday...
Answer: Yes! Students can definitely participate in research. I’d suggest reaching out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at HSA@Haas.berkeley.edu to see if they can put you in touch with someone that is involved with on-campus research.

Rachel: If I’m not able to visit Haas before applying, what are other helpful ways to figure out if it’s a good fit?
Answer: You can connect with our community remotely and attend information sessions that are coming to a city near you. Feel free to find that information on the Admissions page.

Elizabeth: Hello! Thank you again, resubmitting my question because I think it was missed the first time. Does Haas accept classes/credits from "pre-MBA" type programs such as Kellogg’s MS in Management Studies where students take the MBA core? http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/programs/ms-management-studies.aspx
Answer: Hi Elizabeth, unfortunately we do not accept transfer credits. Because we emphasize our cohort experience and other outside of the classroom opportunities, we want the students to be together for the two year transformational MBA experience.
Anonymous: How do you deal with GPAs from other countries? My Bachelor’s and Master degrees are from two different European countries. Could you tell how different GPAs from different countries are processed?

Answer: We read by country of undergraduate education, so the person reading your application will be able to understand your country’s transcripts. It’s always helpful, if possible, to tell your overall university ranking for example if your were 68th out of 300 students.

Anonymous: How many years of experience is too long to be considered for a MBA program?

Answer: Honestly it’s never too late to get an MBA! We don’t have any cut-offs for years of work experience.

Crystal: Regarding recommenders, I saw Sandra’s response earlier that individuals with significant professional interaction are preferred. I have a mentor in an extracurricular sport that I am passionate about, and I feel that he knows me and my personal ambitions well. Would he be viewed as complementary in addition to a rec from my current supervisor? Or would such a person be viewed as “too personal” and therefore discouraged?

Answer: Hi Crystal! Please choose the recommender that you feel will describe you best. We do have a preference for professional letters but it is up to you ultimately.

Ricardo: Hi team, many thanks for hosting. Question is related to international students: if I have undertaken a full year study abroad at an English-speaking university, would it suffice if this is shown in my official university transcripts? Or do I need to provide a separate proof of study / academic certificate?

Answer: Hi, as an international student, we will request a copy of your official transcript from degree granting institutions along with exchange programs.

Giovani: I have an intermediate level of English and I would like to know if they have a previous English course to strengthen the language before starting the MBA?

Answer: We look at your language exam scores when evaluating your application. If we admit you, we are confident that you will be fine with your language skills once a student. We don’t have an English course to point you to before starting the program unfortunately. Any course that you choose will probably be fine.
Daniela: Hi, I would like to know if a foreigner who has a bachelors degree from an university abroad but is a permanente resident of the USA must present TOEFL Test Score. Thanks a lot!

Answer: Hello Daniela. The Graduate Division requires all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement is education-based, and we are unable to make an exception.

Julian: Is BH in touch with the automotive companies (Tesla, MB, BMW) from around the bay area? Are there joint projects and/or collaborations?

Answer: Yes, we have various internships and opportunities. As a student, you will be working with our career management group to participate in those opportunities.

Perry: I’m interested in gaining more hands-on experience in high-impact entrepreneurship during the MBA. Other than the opportunities through ISBI, do you have any other career resources, classes, extracurriculars, etc. that I should look into as I research Haas further?

Answer: Great question. We have a number of great hands-on applied innovation courses. Check them out here: https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/applied-innovation.html

Michael: Thanks so much for fielding all these questions! Does applying earlier than the deadline provide any benefits, like rolling scholarship awards or rolling decisions?

Answer: Hi Michael! We do not have a rolling decision process. Applications for a particular round are all reviewed at the same time post-deadline and all decisions are released at the same time for each round. Scholarship awards are granted through a separate application process following an offer of admission.

Anonymous: What is the average GRE score for accepted applicants?

Answer: We don’t yet publish average GRE scores.

Danielle: Are there faculty members available to guide you through the application process?

Answer: Hi Danielle! Unfortunately not. Our faculty members are here primarily to teach and support existing students.

Kelly: Does this program have some electives tailored to technology management?

Answer: Yes, we do. You can see our curriculum and courses online.
Manpreet: Are Graduate Assistant teaching positions competitive or can interested students find positions easily?

Answer: Hi Manpreet, there is an application process. But we have a good number of current students who are graduate assistants. There also is more info on the website about this, so you can research the application process.

Anonymous: Is it possible to join with only 2-3 years experience? Or should I apply later?

Answer: Hi! Yes, definitely. We normally say that we hope candidates have at least 2 or 3 yrs work experience by the time they matriculate. Most students have between 3-7 yrs work experience by the time they become students. That sounds fine to me!

Kurt: Hello! Can MBA students take or survey courses that are offered at UC Berkeley? I'm looking at the elective course list on your website and if I wanted to learn about something like (for example) machine learning, could I pursue that?

Answer: Hi Kurt, yes you are able to take 6 units outside of Haas in other graduate programs (about 3 elective courses).

Anonymous: For career changers, what resources would the school have to help students to launch their targeted careers?

Answer: Yes! We have relationship managers who are industry specific who work with your students who are pursuing an industry track (and many are career changers). The student industry clubs are also a very integral part of the career search.

Parth: What is one differentiating factor of Haas as compared to other B-schools

Answer: I'd say our location in the Bay Area (hub of innovation and #2 most popular destination for recent MBA grads), our small class size compared to peer schools, and our four defining principles!

Parth: Is there any experience based learning program?

Answer: Yes! We have many applied innovation classes to be found here: https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/applied-innovation.html
Anonymous: Is there a formal dual degree program with the Computer Science department? If so, how does the admissions process work?
Answer: No. We have a number of cross registered courses that you can take (open to MBAs and Computer Science students). You also can take up to 6 units outside of Haas. So the MBA is flexible in that you can take CS classes. The only formal dual degree programs we offer are MBA/Masters in Public Health and JD/MBA.

Cameron: In addition to participating in the campus visit program, independent research and networking with the Haas community, can you suggest any additional resources to learn more about your program?
Answer: Hi Cameron, those are great ideas! I certainly would connect with the Haas Student Ambassadors (hsa@haas.berkeley.edu). If you are applying for the next cycle, admissions will be traveling across the globe (July - Sept 2018) and host info sessions with alumni and current students.

Anonymous: Will work experience in a startup be an advantage or disadvantage for applying?
Answer: Good question! We view startup work experience the same as non start-up work experience. It’s more about the impact you’ve made and the responsibilities and leadership you display than the type of company you work at.

Parth: How does the H1-B work in the current scenario? Do companies reject students just on basis of the fact that they are international students?
Answer: Hello! Our international students do find employment after the MBA. I can not speak to the reasons that some companies reject students.

Anonymous: What should an applicant do if he/she barely has any work experience — but has worked?
Answer: We recommend that students have at least 2 years of work experience under their belt before they apply to ensure that they’d be able to fully participate and engage in our classes.

Ashruth: Hello! Resubmitting a question, I am unable to get my managers recommendation as informing him of my intentions for an MBA would create an uncomfortable work environment, will this negatively affect my chances?
Answer: No, you can ask a previous supervisor. That will be fine.
Eric: Is Haas able to accommodate students that are serving in the military reserves or National Guard?

Answer: Yes - If you get an approval to be in class FT.

Kyle: When you do a class visit is it possible to meet with student and admissions office?

Answer: Yes! If you sign up for our class visitation program, you have an admissions Q&A and you have lunch with current students.

Parth: Are there any dual degrees for non Berkeley Students joining MBA?

Answer: Hello Parth, I am not quite sure I understand your question. However, our MBA program does offer dual degrees. Feel free to review our website for the overview of the programs.

Nic: Where can we sign up for class visit?

Answer: https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/visit.html

Marc: Hello, I have over 15 years of work experience and a solid GPA from my undergraduate degree, but I am struggling with the GRE/GMAT since I have been away from school for so long. Is that something that I can address in the optional essay?

Answer: Yes, please do. Keep in mind that we evaluate everything holistically, so one thing is not going to be a barrier to your admission.

Julian: Hi, does BH have development opportunities /joint projects / internships collaborations with automotive companies in the bay area?

Answer: Hi Julian, yes, we do have students that intern and receive FT offers to join automotive companies (ie Tesla).

Karen: I studied masters program in Germany (entirely in English). Do I have to take TOEFL?

Answer: Hello Karen, The Graduate Division requires all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement is education-based, and we are unable to make an exception. Therefore a TOEFL is needed for your application.
Naomi: Is there any opportunity to create our own dual degree program with MBA? I.e. MBA and MS analytics?

Answer: We currently have a partnership with the Law School and the School of Public Health to offer dual degrees. You would be more than welcome to take courses with any other UC Berkeley departments during your time here, but these would not count towards a dual degree.

Kelly: Does HaaS team up with companies in the Bay area, particularly tech companies, for recruiting MBA students?

Answer: Yes, our CMG teams up with local companies for tech recruiting.

Karen: Is your MBA program STEM qualified program if I take mostly quantitative oriented courses? International students get 3 years of visa.

Answer: As a student, you can get a student visa. We do not, to my knowledge, qualify to get your visa via STEM qualifications. Hopefully I understood your question correctly.

Anonymous: Would you consider hosting a virtual class visit for out-of-town prospective students?

Answer: Interesting idea! We haven’t yet offered this. We do have virtual webinars that are open to prospective students.

Kelly: Is there any advantage if I take an Evening Certificate Program in Business Administration before? Could credits be transferred?

Answer: Hello Kelly - we do not accept any transfer credits. We take all coursework into consideration.

Cameron: Thanks so much for the helpful insight here. Are you able to comment on the domestic geographic areas the current class came from?

Answer: We do not have a breakdown available other than what is on our website at this time. 39% international with 42 countries represented.

Michael: Would an individual with a lower than average GPA need an above average GMAT Score and/or extracurriculars in order to be in an okay standing to apply?

Answer: Not necessarily. It depends on the entire strength of your application, as we read applications holistically. You can definitely stand out in other ways on your application that just those two factors.
Karen: Will you accept cryptos for tuition fees?
Answer: No, thanks for asking.

Kurt: When are the interviews for round 3? I see on the application deadline page decisions are posted May 10. I am currently deployed to Afghanistan and if my online application advances me to the interview, can I interview over Skype or a similar service?
Answer: Hi Kurt. We will send out invitation out all through early May. If you are invited, yes, you can interview online.

Rhonda: I minored in Business in my undergrad—Would that minor GPA strengthen my GPA than my overall GPA?
Answer: Your GPA is the full GPA of all courses taken in undergrad. We look at your coursework and your total GPA.

Anonymous: Does Haas offer any one-off courses to take over the summer prior to applying that you’d recommend to strengthen the application?
Answer: We unfortunately do not.

Ricardo: Is there any advantage if an applicant includes evidence of, for example, summer school studies or professional qualification / certificates? To this extent, how much would you value an applicant with academic or professional experience across different countries? Thanks
Answer: Hi Ricardo! We take all of your professional experience into account. We very much value global experiences.

Karen: But chief accountant is not my direct supervisor, is it still ok? the other fur sure I will get from my previous supervisor.
Answer: That is fine. Some folks submit their clients’ letters. Someone who has worked with you in a professional setting is fine if you are unable to get a direct or former supervisor.

Anonymous: I thought there was a program called Berkley Extension?
Answer: Yes, we do not operate that at Berkeley-Haas. That is through the main campus.
Naomi: Can we create our own dual degrees? If not can we focus our MBA in something like analytics? How is the analytics program and partnership with computer science/engineering schools?

Answer: No, we only offer our formal dual degree that are posted online. You are able to take courses at other departments though as a Berkeley-Haas student.

Michael: I don’t believe there are specific classes designed for product (or I didn’t see them), if there aren’t specific classes designed for a field you’re interested in, what would you recommend students to do?

Answer: If we do not offer a course in an area you’re interested in, you can the course at another department here on campus.

Kyle: What advice do you have for repeat applicants?

Answer: We always appreciate our reapplicants! I’d just say try to look at your previous application from a birds’ eye perspective and see where you may have been lacking. Was it your GMAT? Your leadership displayed at work? Are you involved in your community? Are you confident your letters were positive? Look at everything. We can’t give specific advice because it varies by application.

Danielle: Thanks for hosting this session. It was very helpful. I’m especially excited to hear about the concentration in Energy and Clean Technology. I would be very interested in that.

Answer: Please feel free to reach out to the department specifically or you can write to our Haas Student Ambassadors and ask to be connected with a current student who is studying in that area at this time.

Kelly: Do you have active networks in HAAS, for Women, Hispanic or LGBTI communities?

Answer: Yes, we do! Please check out our student clubs on campus for more information and contact information for our students!

Karen: Do I have to report extracurricular activities?

Answer: Hi Karen, Yes we ask that you provide us with your community involvement and extracurricular activities in the application. As our current students are involved in our community we like to see evidence of this in an applicant’s past history.
Matthew: Who’s the Haas mascot—is it the haas avocado? Who’s your rival school? That one school across the bay or that other school in that city with the bad traffic? Healthy rivalries are always fun and a good way to broaden your network, in my experience.

Answer: Hi Matthew. We just looked you up on LinkedIn because your question was so funny! Feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding admissions or the program.

Kelly: How is the level of collaboration between the students? Is it a high competitive environment or not?

Answer: Very collaborative, actually.

Karen: Do I have to submit certificates of extracurricular activities or just go through them in essay?

Answer: Yes, there is an essay question that asks you to provide these details.

Marc: If I were to get accepted, does Berkeley offer internships with Bay Area companies, or help with finding summer employment for an international student? I’d prefer to stay in Berkeley during the summer instead of going back to Canada. Thank you.

Answer: Hi Marc! Yes, we are a well-established and well regarded institution; you will be able to find summer employment locally.

Dan: How is the integration of Haas with the Engineering school? Primarily to network and collaborate with engineers/ computer scientists for future ventures into entrepreneurship. Thank you!

Answer: Hi Dan. We have a great relationship and network with other programs on campus. Many of our experiential courses actually have students from different departments in them who work on the same projects. Please feel free to reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors for more information on this.

Sara: I’m interested in learning more about sustainability and social responsibility focuses that your program might have -- across different industries. Personally, I’m interested in starting my own business but also would love more experience learning about/working with young companies that have social responsibility at the core of their business model.

Answer: Hi Sara! I’d look into social sector solutions, one of our Applied Innovation courses! http://socialsector.haas.berkeley.edu/socialsectorsolutions/students.html
Daniel: Hello, I have been a long time California resident but recently moved to another state for work. Will I be eligible to pay the resident tuition or will I be considered a non-resident?

Answer: Hi Daniel. Our residency office will determine your residency for tuition purposes. There is an FAQ page on their website. Hope that helps!