

**The Berkeley MBA – Online Waitlist Chat  
March 7, 2011**

**Chat with the Haas MBA Admissions Committee**

Stephanie Fujii – Director of Admissions  
Corinne Kang – Associate Director of Admissions  
Kara Hayman-Assistant Director of Admissions  
Lee Forgue – Admissions Specialist  
Vina Ryan-Moderator

**Vina\_Moderator**

Hi and welcome to the Berkeley MBA Waitlist chat. My name is Vina and I will be moderating the chat today. Joining us will be Stephanie Fujii--Director of Admissions, Corinne Kang--Associate Director of Admissions, Kara Hayman--Assistant Director of Admissions, and Lee Forgue--Admissions Specialist. Please send us your questions!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Hi everyone -- I'm Lee Forgue, one of the Admission Specialists in the MBA Office. I hope I can help with some of your questions!

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Good afternoon! My name is Kara Hayman and I am Assistant Director of Admissions. I look forward to answering your questions.

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Welcome! My name is Stephanie Fujii, Director of Admissions. Thank you for joining us today. We look forward to your questions.

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Thanks for joining us today! I'm Corinne Kang, Associate Director of Admissions. What questions can we help with?

**ES4884**

Is there an opportunity to interview again if we have already interviewed once?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

ES4884, we are unfortunately not able to offer the chance for a second interview.

**Brian**

Hi Adcom, should we expect our interviewer to be familiar with our admissions file or is it blind?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Brian - All of our admissions interviews are blind. This means that your interviewer only has access to your resume. They will not be familiar with the other components of your application (essays, letters of recommendations, etc...). We want our interviewers to be able to weigh in with their unbiased perspective.

**Samantha**

Hi Vina and Lee - Thanks for hosting us tonight! I am wondering if there is a separate waitlist for joint-degree programs.

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Samantha, there isn't a separate waitlist for the joint degree programs. However, we do review the waitlisted candidates for the MBA/MPH program with the School of Public Health as we have a joint admissions process.

**Oski**

Can you describe the timeline and process for evaluating WL applicants?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Oski - clever name! Waitlist candidates are reviewed after each subsequent round notification deadline. For example, all round 1 candidates will now be re-reviewed since we have passed the round 2 notification date of March 3.

**Allen**

Will a final decision be given to everyone at some point, or is it no news unless we are offered admission?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Allen, we will keep you notified after every admissions round decision date. For example, people put on the waitlist in Round 2 will hear from us after the Round 3 deadline -- and if they stay on the waitlist, they will hear again after the Round 4 decisions are issued. After that, there will be semi-regular communication up to mid-August, when the final waitlisted applicants are released.

**GP**

I'm most curious about the quant courses that can help demonstrate quant proficiency. Is there more recognition given for either statistics or calculus? And, will I be given just as much recognition for taking the course at a community college as I would if I were to take it at a private or public university?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

GP - To help demonstrate quant proficiency, we strongly suggest enrolling in a statistics or calculus course. You're welcome to take these courses at any institution that is convenient for you - it could be community college, a private university, or an extension program.

**min**

How will the waitlist be processed? Will you be accepting the targeted number of applicants through the 4 rounds first and then going through the waitlist if not enough admits accept?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

min, we will actually review the candidates waitlisted from Round 1 next week. We review the waitlist, in its entirety, after each subsequent round of admissions. We evaluate where we are with the class; we look at how waitlisted candidates have strengthened their candidacy; and then we make decisions to admit, deny or keep candidates on the waitlist depending on the combination of those factors. For Round 2 waitlisted candidates, we will review the waitlist again at the end of April after we have released Round 3 decisions.

**Jay**

On the website it says that those waitlisted candidates will be provided feedback... in what format does this feedback come?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Jay - we offer feedback to waitlisted candidates and to those who have gone through the interview process. The feedback session is by appointment and occurs over the summer months between June and August. Note that feedback sessions occur only after a final decision is made.

**John**

Is there a specific date before which we should send in any additional materials (letter of rec, personal statement, interview, etc.)? Thanks!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

John, please have new material to us by April 21. The waitlist files will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee in late April.

**Yanker**

Hi, I've already been interviewed and waitlisted; will I be able to interview once more to enhance my application?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Yanker, we are not staffed to allow multiple interviews.

**BieniekM12011**

Hello. I have a question regarding options that waitlisted candidates have to improve their candidacy. In a professional capacity, is a new assignment/position with increased responsibility looked upon favorably in most cases?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

BieniekM2011 - yes, a new assignment/position with increased responsibility is a relevant update to provide.

**wiz\_ap**

Hi, If I want to submit a new statement to the Admissions Committee updating them about the changes in my professional life, to which email address should I send the update?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

wiz\_ap, please send all additional material to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu). That's the email from which you received the waitlist decision.

**Lisa**

What is the deadline to submit additional recommendation letters?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Lisa, we ask that additional material be submitted by April 21.

**Jay**

What is the historical success rate of waitlist to admit?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Jay, This is a tough question as it has really changed over the years. Last year we had our highest yield and did not end up taking as many candidates from the waitlist as we had in the past. This year it is still too early to tell. I will say that any candidate who is placed on our waitlist is considered a strong candidate and it could be the case that we would like additional information from the applicant; there are areas of the application that can be strengthened (see our list of suggestions in the email we sent out); and/or we're waiting to see with the rest of the pool and those who we've already extended offers to. The most important thing you can focus on is identifying how you might be able to strengthen your application.

**ab**

To whom should waitlist candidates direct additional information to?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

ab, all additional material sent via email can be sent to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu), and anything sent by post can go to MBA Admissions -- S430, Haas School of Business, Berkeley CA 94720-1902.

**Oski**

Kara, Oski is my real name (j/k). If we are interested in submitting an additional LoR, but our recommender is currently unemployed and unable to provide a letter on a company letterhead, does that warrant some sort of explanation?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Oski - the recommender can provide a brief explanation if the letter comes from a personal email address and/or not on company letterhead. They should say where they worked with you.

**Matt**

Hello all, thank you for hosting this chat. The waitlist e-mail mentioned submitting a new statement. Can you elaborate on this and possibly provide examples?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Matt - We encourage submitting a statement to provide us with an update on any changes that you think might help strengthen your candidacy. For example, perhaps you've recently received a promotion at work that's not reflected in your original application. Or maybe you just completed a significant project that highlights your leadership. Or perhaps you've had a chance to reflect more on your career goals and can share with us some more details on what you intend to do post-MBA... Think of the additional statement as your opportunity to make another case for why you are a strong candidate for the Berkeley MBA program!

**Ramkumar**

Thanks for organizing the Chat. My applicant status has changed from "international" to "Permanent Resident" How do I indicate that?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Ramkumar, that's the sort of thing you can let us know via email. You may wish to attach a scan of the "official documents"...

**Ryan**

Hello, with respect to the submission of a "new statement", is that restricted to one (and only one) update?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Ryan, you may send multiple updates -- please make sure that each adds something new to your application. Alternately, you can wait until just before April 21, when the files will be reviewed, and send a single update.

**GP**

Clarification question on an earlier question: so, Round 2 waitlist candidates will hear a decision no sooner than April 21, no matter what?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

GP - April 21 is the round 3 notification date so another waitlist review will be conducted at that time. That review will include any round 1 and round 2 waitlisted candidates. So, you are correct that round 2 candidates will not hear an update until after April 21.

**Lisa**

Might a peer recommendation be a good addition to our applications at this point? Or do you suggest that it only be from a supervisor?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Lisa - Supervisor recommendations are preferred, but if you feel that a peer recommendation will

add greater value to your application and overall candidacy, you can submit a peer recommendation instead.

**Meghan**

If we have not yet interviewed, should we try to interview as soon as possible? Is there a deadline when you will stop interviewing?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Meghan, I would advise completing your interview a few days before the April 21 date, to be sure that your evaluation reaches your file before the review begins.

**Oski**

With regard to new statements, should we follow a certain format? For example, are there word count restrictions?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Oski, there are no prescribed formats or word limits -- just make sure that you convey your desired information clearly.

**CC**

I would like to ask a question about the communication process that waitlisted candidates must follow. Let's say for example that I got a new promotion at my current job and decide to write and submit an essay about my new role and responsibilities. Later on, I decide to register myself in a quantitative course. Should I write another essay explaining this? Should I just send an e-mail to update you on the news? Thank you!!

**Kara\_Berkeley**

CC - you will want to try to consolidate your communication where possible. In the scenario you just shared, a personal statement update is appropriate to outline your professional progress - this also gives you an opportunity to describe the details further. An email is appropriate for a brief update like enrolling in a quant course. As I said, you want to try to consolidate updates when possible.

**Amaury**

If we haven't been interviewed yet, how fast can an interview typically be scheduled (I live in the UK)? Thank you.

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Amaury - an interview can be scheduled pretty quickly but depends primarily on you and your interviewer's mutual availability.

**Lisa**

I studied at a different university for 1 semester (part of a national school exchange), do I need the official transcript from them? Also, my name has changed (marriage) since I went there so should I make sure to get the name changed on the transcript before it is sent to Haas? Thanks!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Lisa, if your degree is from a US school, you do not need to include any study-abroad transcripts. If you received your degree from a school outside the US, we must receive academic documents from all the schools you attended. It is best if your current name appears on all academic records so that there is no confusion about whether a document pertains to you.

**Rita**

If the original letters of recommendation I submitted were from someone in a professional environment, should I provide an additional letter of recommendation from a different environment? Thank you!

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Rita - it's up to you! Your additional letter will be reviewed in conjunction with the two letters that you already submitted with your application. Professional letters are always helpful, but if, for example, your extracurricular involvement is closely related to your career goals, you may consider submitting a letter from that source instead. Go with whichever recommendation (professional or extracurricular) you feel will add most to your overall candidacy.

**CC**

Hello! Thank you very much for hosting this session! I would like to ask about the reasons why an applicant is placed on the waitlist. Could you explain to us if it is because... a) There are already some candidates with similar profiles that have been admitted, so waitlisted candidates will only be offered admission if the already admitted candidates do not accept it b) The admission committee thinks that candidates to come in future rounds will be stronger than the ones that have been waitlisted, so the admission of these waitlisted candidates depends on the strength of candidates that will be applying in the next rounds

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

CC, These are a couple of the possible reasons. Another possibility is that some areas of the application are not as competitive as the admit pool, and we are providing the candidate a chance to strengthen these areas.

**GP**

Can we submit more than 2 recommendations, if they all add new information? Is there a max?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

GP, you may submit 2 new on-line recommendations. If you wish to submit even more recommendations, please be sure that each illuminates a different part of your background. Additional letters may be sent via post or via email to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu).

**Kara\_Berkeley**

PeterD - We want to know why the program is a good fit for you and we think visiting is the best way to get to know Haas. We do, however, realize not everyone is able to visit so we do not require a visit to show interest. There are a number of additional ways to connect with the Haas community.

**JG**

Also - if I already have two direct supervisor recommendations, would two client recommendations be sufficient?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

JG, when you are on the waitlist it is appropriate to submit recommendations from clients and peers.

**Suyog Mody**

Clarification question on the feedback - can we or can we not get feedback between now and April 21?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Suyong Mody - feedback appointments are offered during the summer, typically in June and July. So unfortunately, no - you are not able to schedule a feedback appointment before April 21. Also, feedback is only available to those candidates who have completed an interview.

**Lisa**

How long should the statement be? Is there a word count/page max?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Lisa, take the space you need to convey what is important for you to relate -- there is no word limit, but the Committee has to read statements by many people...

**J**

I am an international student and I could not visit Berkeley before, but I would like to visit it in the following weeks to show my interest in the university. Will this add value to my candidature?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

J - please see my response to PeterD's question above. We ultimately want to know why the program is a good fit for you. While visiting is a great way to get to know the culture and community here, we realize not everyone is able to do so and we do not view this negatively.

**M10**

Will the admissions committee know that a new recommendation has been added online or do we need to notify you by email that we are submitting additional recommendations?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

M10, we will know if there is a new on-line recommendation through our system.

**Sid**

I am a R2 waitlisted applicant and I feel that my career requirements are equally serviced by both the full time and part time programs. Right now, I need to make a decision whether to stay on the waitlist for the full time program or withdraw my application and apply for the part-time program. Given this scenario, will you be able to provide me with feedback so that I can decide whether my application can be further improved by sending additional materials?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Sid - Unfortunately, we're not able to provide feedback in-season. Good luck with your decision.

**Noris**

Hi, in my status, you asked for my official transcript to be sent from my university as soon as possible. Is there deadline? Or is it okay to send it with other additional materials?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Noris, you should send transcripts by the April 21 review date.

**Tyler**

Are on-campus interviews conducted by admissions staff or alumni?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Tyler - on-campus interviews are conducted by current MBA students, selected and trained by the Admissions Committee.

**wiz\_ap**

I have been requested to submit my original transcripts and degree certificate in case I am invited for an interview. Since now I am able to schedule an interview is there any specific deadline by which you would need my original documents?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

wiz\_ap, the date by which we request that you submit material is April 21 -- Rd2 waitlist will be reviewed when Rd3 decisions are released.

**Samantha**

You've mentioned that I should focus on strengthening the weak parts of my application. How much would it help to add to sections of my application that I believe are strong?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Samantha - I suppose that can't hurt, but I would advise focusing on areas of your application that may not be as competitive first.

**ab**

Are waitlisted candidates encouraged to reapply? Is the reapplication process different - will this year's application material/interview feedback be used in anyway?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

ab, waitlisted candidates are absolutely encouraged to reapply. As a waitlisted candidate you are eligible to receive feedback from the admissions committee over the summer where we discuss strengths, weaknesses and specific re-application advice (if you'd like). Each year we have previously waitlisted candidates who are successful in gaining an offer of admission the following year.

**John**

What about recommendations from current Haas MBA students with whom we have worked? Should these also be in the standard format or can they be more informal?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

John - if you worked with the Haas student in a professional capacity and they are able to speak to all of the recommendation questions, it may be best for him/her to submit the formal recommendation letter. If you did not work with the student in a professional capacity, an informal recommendation is fine.

**Amaury**

For supplemental letters of recommendation, do you require a specific format? Word, email, other? The original LoR were answers to specific questions. Should the recommender answer the same questions?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Amaury, any recommendation submitted on-line will be in our usual recommendation format. Any letter submitted via email to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu) is not required to follow that format -- but those questions outline the information the Admissions Committee is interested in.

**Emilia**

Will all waitlisted candidates receive some version of their status - accepted, still on waitlist, or rejected - by April 21st? Or only accepted candidates?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Emilia - all waitlisted candidates receive another communication about their status regardless of admission decision.

**egrossi**

My wife was already accepted in the R2. Can I participate with her in the admitted student's day in April?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

egrossi - Absolutely! Partners are encouraged to join us for Days at Haas and, even though you're still in the application process, you're also a partner!

**Russ**

If submitting a peer recommendation or non-professional recommendation, can the recommender simply email the rec to Adcom or must they use the online format?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Russ, recommendations may be submitted on-line or emailed to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu).

**J**

I would like to know if the list of suggestions sent in the waitlist email is the same for all the waitlisted applicants?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

J, all waitlisted applicants receive the same letter.

**GP**

Will this chat transcript be available online somewhere?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

GP, all waitlisted applicants will receive an email with the URL for this chat.

**egrossi**

is the quant GMAT's score enough to prove the quant skills?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

egrossi - the quant sub score is a good indicator of quant ability. Coursework and/or any professional quant experience can help support proficiency if the GMAT quant sub score is weaker.

**OWilliams**

How might being on the waitlist impact financial aid opportunities?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

OWilliams, the two main awards available to admits are the Haas Achievement Award and the Berkeley MBA Grant. There are four deadline options for applying -- the 4th deadline is June 1st. Should someone be admitted off the waitlist after that deadline, we would consider an application given the timing. For other financial aid opportunities (e.g., student loans) you can contact our financial aid office for more details.

**james**

Would you welcome new recommendations from peers at work or outside? I volunteered at an organization where everyone was "equal" so I can only get a peer recommendation from there

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

james - I think I mentioned this earlier on the chat, but in case you didn't catch it - Recommendations from supervisors are preferred, but if you're only able to secure a peer recommendation, we will welcome that perspective as well.

**Jill**

Lee, just to confirm, you said it is OK to have a team peer submit a letter of rec this time around? thanks!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Jill, when you are on the waitlist it is appropriate to ask a peer to submit a letter on your behalf if they have something to say that will strengthen your application.

**Noris**

Even though on campus interviews are by current students, may I meet one of admission officers? I need to submit materials.

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Noris, the Admissions Committee does not meet with waitlisted applicants, but one of the admissions advisors will be happy to assist you. However, materials are better submitted via post or email rather than brought to the office.

**Oski**

Are candidates that were WL'ed with an interview viewed more favorably than candidates WL'ed without an interview?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Oski - we do not view candidates differently in this scenario. Ultimately, we are looking at overall candidacy in relation to the applicant pool. Candidates have been successful both ways - having interviewed and then offered a place on the waitlist or offered a place on the waitlist and then interviewed.

**Shattuck**

Thanks for offering this session. I wonder if you can offer some tools for evaluating the quant profiles we've put forward, since there was some emphasis on that in the waitlist e-mail. Is it more of a threshold issue--i.e., a good grade in an undergrad intro stats course meets the bar, or might someone in that situation still benefit from enrolling in a local course?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Shattuck - In evaluating quant proficiency, we're looking at a combination of factors including undergraduate quant coursework, strong quant performance on the GMAT, and potentially on-the-job quant exposure. If you feel that quant proficiency could be a weakness in your application, I would encourage you to address that by enrolling in a stats or calc course or retaking the GMAT to see if you can improve your quantitative percentile.

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Yanker, we will review candidates waitlisted in Round 2 after we release Round 3 decisions on April 21. We can't promise that you'll have a decision by the end of April, as in some cases, the decision is to keep the candidate on the waitlist. You can let us know your deadlines for other schools and we will do our best to notify you by the end of April if possible as we understand the pressure you're under and how anxious this process can be -- but we can't make any promises.

**Emilia**

Are merit or need based scholarship opportunities available to waitlisted candidates, if they are accepted?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Emilia, the two main scholarships available are by application -- the Haas Achievement Award

and the Berkeley MBA Grant -- and the final option deadline is June 1st. Should someone be admitted off the waitlist after June 1st, we would still consider the candidate, given the timing.

**WJD**

Would it be possible to set up a meeting with a member of the admissions committee for specific, targeted feedback on my application?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

WJD - we are not able to offer individual feedback at this stage in the process. Feedback sessions are offered over the summer to waitlist candidates and those who have interviewed, but only after a final decision. The suggestions we sent to you by email are the most common areas that can help strengthen your application.

**J**

I have already had my interview but with my new status of waitlisted, the web page gives me the opportunity to schedule a new interview. This means that I can schedule a second interview?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

J, we are able to offer each applicant only one interview. Please do not attempt to schedule a second interview.

**J.J.**

Hello and thanks for hosting. For Consortium applicants, does being on the WL affect the chances of Consortium Fellowship awarded?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

J.J., not necessarily. As with all of our scholarship awards, it will depend on the funds remaining at that time.

**SteffanieJohnson**

What email should we send follow up statement, to: [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu)?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Steffanie, please send all additional materials to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu).

**dtullo**

In the past, have the majority of WL decisions been made after R2, R3, or R4? Trying to gauge how long I might be on the WL.

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

dtullo - Oh boy, you could drive yourself crazy trying to figure that one out! While we really try not to keep candidates on the waitlist longer than necessary, we have accepted candidates off the waitlist as late as July and into early August. Again, it's rare and we try not to do it, but it's happened in the past. We understand that being on the waitlist can be nerve-wracking, but we really appreciate your patience with us throughout the process.

**Tyler**

How close to the first day of school will you admit waitlisted students?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Tyler, we try and make all of our waitlist decisions for international applicants by the beginning of June (mainly due to the time required to secure a visa and relocate from abroad). For domestic applicants, we try and make all of our decisions by the beginning of August to allow enough time for these candidates to get settled before classes start at the end of the month.

**Rita**

Waitlisted applicants may receive a final decision as late as August, so what happens in this case with the visa arrangements for international applicants that have to be done weeks before beginning the academic program?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Rita, we try and make all of our decisions for international applicants by the beginning of June for this very reason.

**Amaury**

This might have been mentioned already, but I might not have caught it. Whatever the outcome of the application, can we get a feedback on the application from the Admission Committee?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Amaury - Yes - any candidate who has completed an interview and is not ultimately offered admission to the program is eligible for a 15-minute feedback appointment over the phone, during the summer.

**BieniekM12011**

As a follow on to the questions regarding an additional letter of rec...the email that went out asks that new rec letters be sent only if the new letter adds information not provided in the original letters submitted. I'm trying to better understand how much the old & new letters should differ. Does a letter from a new professional recommender qualify as "new information", or do I need to ensure that the new recommender is not stating anything that might have already been mentioned in my initial recommendation letters. Sorry for the long question.

**Kara\_Berkeley**

BieniekM12011 - you want to consider what areas can be strengthened in your application and try to speak to those areas through your updates and additional recommendation letters. A recommender from the same company is fine and may have similar examples but will offer a new perspective on your work. Perhaps they are able to highlight a different side of your work that a previous recommender could not.

**james**

To clarify something mentioned earlier: Is it possible to submit more than 2 recommendations? Does the 3rd recommender just email you at decision@haas.berkeley.edu? Is it ok if they do not

follow the questions in your form but they all add something (although one dimensionally in different ways) to the application?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

James, you may have more than two additional recommenders -- but please remember that they must each add something substantial to your application. Two additional recommendations may be submitted on-line; any others should be sent to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu).

**Noris**

For international students, do you strongly recommend to update TOEFL score when it is below average?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Noris - Anything you can do to potentially strengthen your candidacy is encouraged. So if you're able to bring your TOEFL score up from below average, then that can only help! However, keep in mind that we also look to other components of the application to evaluate English language skills including the Verbal and AWA portions of the GMAT, your essays, and of course, your interview.

**Emilia**

What is the best way for applicants to evaluate their application weaknesses?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Emilia, I would take a look at our student profile -- do you fall within our competitive ranges? Look at your application with a critical eye (or ask someone you trust to be brutally honest to do the same) -- have you highlighted all of your leadership experiences? Have you clearly presented your career goals? If you haven't interviewed, interview as soon as possible! These are just a few suggestions -- take a look at the list of suggestions we provided and identify if there are any areas that could be strengthened.

**Shawn**

Will you require official transcripts from extension type courses if they are completed before April 21st?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Shawn, if you can submit transcripts for additional coursework, it can reflect favorably on you when your application is being considered.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Matt**

If we have already visited a class, would an additional visit show more interest?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Matt - not necessarily. While an additional visit could likely help you get a better sense of our

community, we realize not everyone can do so. Ultimately, there are a number of ways to connect with Haas and you should choose the one(s) that are best for you.

**Matt**

With regard to quantitative ability, if I work in a finance-related industry, would submitting one or two work samples help my admissions file?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Matt, we are looking mainly at your undergrad courses and your GMAT subscore. We also look at work experience and any post-undergrad courses (e.g., calc or stats)/qualifications (e.g., CFA). There is no need to submit work samples, but make sure you've addressed the areas I mentioned -- if necessary.

**\*\*\*With regard to how important the interview is\*\*\***

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Tyler - Very! The interview is just as important as any other component of the application!

**Amaury**

I am offered to schedule an interview, but am sent to a page where I am asked to log in again, and where my candidate login/pass do not work. Should I create another account for the purpose of scheduling the interview, or does it take an extra working day for the system to grant me access? Thank you!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Amaury, please contact our Interview Coordinator, Pam Maestas, at [maestas@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:maestas@haas.berkeley.edu) for assistance in scheduling an interview. Do not create another login -- you will not have access to the interview scheduler.

**Aaron**

If we wanted to take a quantitative course but the earliest we can do that is in the summer (since most registrations are closed for current semester), how should we indicate that in our profile?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Aaron, you can include that in a personal statement (or brief email if there aren't any other updates). You should also forward your enrollment information as soon as you have it.

**wiz\_ap**

I am unable to see an option to schedule an interview in my country (India). Is there a possibility that the list would get updated between now and April and I will be able to schedule an interview in India?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

wiz\_ap - Please contact our interview coordinator Pamela Maestas ([maestas@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:maestas@haas.berkeley.edu)) to schedule an interview in India. Thanks.

**Lisa**

Got it. I did already send in a scanned version of the official transcript as it does include a stats course, as well as an accounting course, but just to be safe, I might have an official sent to you as my quant on the GMAT was not amazing. Would you do the same? :)

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Lisa, given that situation, you may wish to send an official copy of the study-abroad transcript.

**egrossi**

I have pursued a career after college in one specific area and I believe I can present more information about my professional skills with a recommender from my undergrad internship. Even though it was many years ago, would you recommend?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

egrossi - we prefer to hear from people who have worked with you in a professional capacity after completion of your academic degree. You also want to consider the relevancy of the information they can provide. It really depends on how well they know you and how closely they can speak to your current skill set.

**J**

Can we contact with the interviewer to have a feedback about the interview?? Thanks!!!

**Lee\_Berkeley**

J, our interviewers do not offer feedback about the interview. If you are not admitted, you will be able to get feedback on your interview as well as the rest of your application, but the feedback will not be from the interviewer.

**Chad B.**

I would like make every effort to interview on campus. What is the scheduling process like for on-campus interviews?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Chad B - scheduling an interview is easy. Once you've accepted your spot on the waitlist, you will see the interview scheduler open for you. You can choose an on-campus interview and your date/time.

**OWilliams**

I'm contemplating submitting a recommendation from a former supervisor who attended Haas via EW MBA. Do you think that individual could adequately state why I'd be a good fit for the full-time program?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

OWilliams - An EW MBA grad would certainly understand our culture and defining principles but, as with all recommendation letters, their ability to speak to your fit with the program will depend on how well they know you.

**Chad B.**

Thank you for hosting this chat. It's very helpful. I'm going to try my best to interview on campus, though I noticed that there are only a few on-campus interview dates posted on-line--all in March. Is there an opportunity to interview on-campus in April?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Chad B. - Yes, definitely! Our online scheduling system shows three weeks out, which is why you're probably not seeing interview slots in April (our students are also on spring break the week of March 21st). If you'd like to go ahead and set up your interview for April, please contact our Interview Coordinator, Pam Maestas at [maestas@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:maestas@haas.berkeley.edu).

**dtullo**

Is there a network of Haas students that we can reach out to in order to get their input on how we can improve our candidacy?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

dtullo, you can write to the Haas Student Ambassadors ([hsa@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:hsa@haas.berkeley.edu)) to be connected to current students, but they will not be able to give you input on your candidacy.

**John**

Would it be appropriate to send in an updated resume along with our personal statement, containing new project work and elaborating on past accomplishments?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

John, many waitlisted applicants include an updated resume -- especially if your position has changed substantially since you sent your original resume...

**Amaury**

Are there any criteria on which candidates are evaluated during an interview, I mean specific questions interviewers are required to ask by the Admission Committee? Or is it up to the interviewer to assess who the candidate really is?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Amaury - no, we do not have specific/required questions for the interview. We have a feedback form all interviewers are required to submit but the questions are up to the interviewer.

**Sid**

I am planning on applying to the Haas part time program. Does the full time program share the admission committee feedback with the part time program? I am trying to gauge if my waitlisted status will be viewed negatively by the part time program admissions committee.

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Sid - if you decide to withdraw from the FT MBA program and apply to the EW MBA program, their admissions committee will have access to your FT MBA application. However, your being waitlisted will not be viewed negatively; the EW MBA program will do their own full evaluation of your candidacy.

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Many of you have been asking about waitlist numbers. They are about the same as the past couple of years, but it is still too early to tell how many spaces we'll have available this year since we're still in the decision cycle for our Round 1 (although we'll hear shortly) and Round 2 admits. There are a lot of numbers flying around out there and I think what's most important is that we regularly review our waitlist after each application round to make offers, release people from the waitlist if we know they're not going to be competitive this year, and keep candidates on the waitlist who we feel are still strong given the pool so far. Because of all of these factors, keep in mind that the size of the waitlist at any one time is smaller than the total number reported over the course of the cycle. If you have been placed on the waitlist, that is a good sign. The most important thing for you to focus on at this point is -- have you presented as strong an application as possible? Take a critical look at your application, at our class profile, at our list of suggestions for waitlisted candidates and identify how you can strengthen your candidacy.

**M10**

It was mentioned earlier that we can notify the admissions committee of other deadlines we may have for other schools, i.e. in April--should we include this information at the bottom of the statement we submit?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

M10 - Sure, you can feel free to include that information in your additional statement. thanks!

**egrossi**

what`s the address to send the physical original transcripts?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

egrossi, our address is MBA Admissions -- S430, Haas School of Business, Berkeley CA 94720-1902. If you are using a courier who needs a street address, it is MBA Admissions, Haas School -- S430, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley CA 94720-1902.

**Tyler**

If we take a quant class, is the expectation that we then re-take the GMAT?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Tyler - taking a quant course and re-taking the GMAT would be two separate steps and aren't always necessary to do together. Ultimately, you want to make sure your quant indicators are strong - in some cases, a candidate may strengthen their GMAT, some may choose to take a quant class, some may do both.

**Sid**

What is the process to withdraw from the waitlist?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Sid, if you have accepted a place on the waitlist and wish to withdraw, please send an email to [decision@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:decision@haas.berkeley.edu). For statistical purposes, we would appreciate knowing what your plans are...

**Ramkumar**

Should the additional material we submit only be in Essay form or do you allow "out of the box" ideas?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Ramkumar - it's recommended that you stick to relevant personal statement updates and/or recommendation letters when submitting updates.

**Shattuck**

Do the various "quant-helping" measures carry similar weight? For example, if my quant GMAT percentile is a bit low, would a calc course help remedy that, or would you really be looking for a GMAT retake as the main remedy?

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Shattuck, it depends on how low is a bit low and whether you've demonstrated quantitative proficiency in other ways (undergrad courses, work experience, etc.) If you felt that you could re-take the GMAT and significantly improve your score, we would encourage you to do everything you could to strengthen your candidacy (and the GMAT is one part of your application you can potentially change). We do look favorably on calc and stats courses if you felt re-taking the GMAT wasn't an option.

**Noris**

Thank you for your answer, can I change my interview schedule through the system after I confirm the date?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Noris, once you have scheduled an interview, you must contact our Interview Coordinator, Pam Maestas (maestas@haas.berkeley.edu; 510-642-1995) in order to make any changes.

**Ramkumar**

If I have a strong GMAT Quant Score (50) but an average score in Math in my undergrad, would it be a value add if I take any Calculus or Probability course?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Ramkumar - It sounds like you were able to demonstrate strong quant through the GMAT. If you feel that quant is still an area of weakness in your application, you can feel free to take a calc or stats course to strengthen that aspect of application. However, be sure to spend your time wisely and focus on strengthening the areas of your application that could be weaker in relation to the general applicant pool.

**J.J.**

Also, as Kara mentioned, instead of a class visit, if I connect with Haas alumni in my vicinity, would it be useful to the AdCom and my candidacy to share with you via an email update further thoughts of the program's good fit for me?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

J.J. - speaking with alumni could help you get a better sense for why the program is a good fit for you both personally and professionally. If you feel you have a relevant update that can highlight various aspects of your candidacy as well as your fit for the program, please feel free to share.

**min**

Would you accept a non-written media type for the new statement

**Lee\_Berkeley**

min, any non-written statement is difficult for our Admission Committee to view, and it cannot be included in your file. Please bear this in mind when you decide what to send.

**Art**

What's a good time to visit the campus before April 21st if we haven't done so?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Art - Mondays through Thursdays offer an opportunity to sit in on a class, go to lunch with current students, and attend a daily information session. Friday visits include lunch with current students and the daily information session. Spring break is March 21 - 25 so you want to avoid visiting that week. The last day for spring visitation will be posted soon.

**Allen**

In terms of demonstrating quantitative proficiency, do you favor a new GMAT score vs. a quantitative course?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Allen - Both could help demonstrate quant proficiency so it's really up to you and what you're able to do. Some candidates aren't able to enroll in a course, so taking the GMAT and improving the quant percentile offers a more immediate alternative that demonstrates quant proficiency.

**dtullo**

If we have a significant update (either professionally or personally) that we'd like to share after we have submitted an additional statement, can we submit a brief e-mail to provide an updated status?

**Lee\_Berkeley**

dtullo, as long as new material is submitted by April 21, it can arrive in one packet (which is preferable) or in several...

**Aaron**

In the email, the committee recommends candidate to retake the GMAT if it's below the average. My quant score is above average while my verbal is not and my overall score is lower than average by 10 pts, do you recommend me to retake the GMAT?

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Aaron - there isn't an exact answer to this question. From what you shared, your score falls

within the competitive range. It could potentially help to strengthen your GMAT but there could be other areas to strengthen which could have a bigger impact. Overall, you want to consider all of the suggestions and which one(s) you feel would to the most to strengthen your overall profile.

**WJD**

I am quite sure that I was placed on the waitlist due to concerns regarding my undergraduate transcript. I have already taken a number of courses since then, and scored well in those courses. Would there be any benefit to taking addition coursework and achieving high grades?

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

WJD - Tough to say. If you've already taken quant courses (particularly stats and calc) and performed well in those courses, in may not be as beneficial to enroll in more, just for the sake of it. If your GMAT/quant percentile is below average for our pool, perhaps retaking the GMAT would be better use of your time.

**Vina\_Moderator**

Hi all! Thank you for joining us and congratulations on joining the waitlist! The chat is wrapping up and shutting down. We appreciate your questions and we apologize if we didn't get to all of them. Today's chat transcript will be emailed to you within 1-2 weeks Go Bears!

**Corinne\_Berkeley**

Thanks for your questions, and good luck!

**Kara\_Berkeley**

Congratulations all for being offered a spot on our waitlist! Thank you for your time today and best of luck in the admissions process.

**Stephanie\_Berkeley**

Thank you all for your questions and for joining us today! We greatly appreciate your patience and continued interest in the Berkeley MBA Program.

**Lee\_Berkeley**

Thanks, everyone, for such great questions! Have a good evening...