

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SMEAL)

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Science (M.S.)

Applicants to the Ph.D. program are required to take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) (<https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/>) or the Graduate Record of Examination (GRE) (<https://www.ets.org/gre/>). The program does not admit applicants for the terminal Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

Criteria for evaluating applicants for the Ph.D. program include professional and academic accomplishments, GMAT/GRE scores, recommendations, and personal data from application forms that provide indications of future academic and professional accomplishment.

Ph.D. candidates may begin either the fall or spring semester. However, only rarely are admissions for the Ph.D. programs granted for spring semester. Individuals from all undergraduate disciplines are encouraged to apply.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Applicants must:

- Submit a completed online Graduate School Application for Admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>), including short admissions essay, resume, and three professional references with complete contact information.
 - Résumé reflecting relevant professional experience including internships and co-op experiences.
- Submit official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>).

GMAT and/or GRE scores will not be required for admission. Accordingly, these scores will not be accepted.

Students who do not have foundational quantitative backgrounds may be required to take MBADM 811 and/or MBADM 813 (or equivalent course work) prior to entering the program. The program faculty director will assess the background of each applicant.

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[gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/](https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/)) for more information.

Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.)

Criteria for evaluating D.B.A. applicants include professional and academic accomplishments, and personal data from application forms that provide indications of future academic and professional accomplishment. Applications for the DBA degree are only accepted for Fall semester admission.

The student cohort should reflect today's international business environment, with selective admittance. With this in mind, the following admission requirements are required:

- A master's degree or equivalent experience
- Approximately ten years of relevant experience
- Evidence of a foundational background in statistics and/or analytics
- Submission of the required components of the online Graduate School Application for (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>) Admission, including resume.
- A 2-3 page essay describing career goals and how the D.B.A. will help achieve these goals.
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>)
- A non-refundable application fee.

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An interview will be required of all applicants which will be conducted via Zoom or other conferencing technology. Individuals without foundational statistics/analytics may be required to complete additional education prior to starting the DBA program.