

# Applying to Master of Business Administration

Trent Career Centre  
[trentu.ca/careers](http://trentu.ca/careers)  
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...a place to begin

## Thinking About Applying to Business Schools?

Each business school has their own online application system. The application process, requirements, and deadlines differ for each school. Most Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs are 2 years in length, but if you have a business undergrad degree, some can be completed in a year. An MBA can be a valuable credential; however, research into your future career path should be done, as not all career paths require or benefit from an MBA.

### Requirements for Applying

- Each school has different requirements for applying so it's important to determine what each school requires for the application. Your undergraduate degree does not have to be in business; however, if it isn't, some schools require you to take foundation courses when you start the program.
- Grades: Most of the Ontario business schools require a minimum average of 73-75% for your last two years of post-secondary education. Some schools require a specific score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Admission into business schools is often very competitive, so having higher grades and scores are always ideal.
- Work Experience: Some schools require 2 years work experience, while others allow you to start right after graduation. Each school asks for references, and depending on the school, they may want academic and/or workplace references.
- A lot of schools ask for a Statement of Interest or a Personal Statement outlining, for example, why you chose their school, how your skills and experiences make you a good candidate, and what your career goals are. Many schools also require an interview.

### Missing One Requirement?

Some students may be missing a requirement, such as having 2 years work experience, or they may have a GMAT score/grades lower than they would like. Many schools encourage people to apply anyway, as they sometimes accept exceptional students who don't meet all the requirements. Be sure to check with the school.

## GMAT

The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) is required for almost all business schools. It measures verbal, mathematical, analytical and writing skills. On the official GMAT website ([mba.com](http://mba.com)) you can find practice questions, helpful tips, and book the test. While the test is computer based, you still have to go to a specific location to write the test. Check what dates are available and plan on taking your test well before you are applying to schools. You will need a recommended minimum of 4 weeks to study for the test, so ensure you plan for that. Most schools do not care how many times you write the test; they just take your highest score.

## Choosing an MBA Program

### General Considerations

- Programs vary in which fields of business they target
- Schools vary in teaching styles, e.g. emphasis on group or individual work
- Research which school matches your career goals

### Specialized Programs

- Co-op programs are designed for people who do not have a lot of work experience
- For students with a business undergrad, some schools offer an accelerated program which could be as short as 8 months
- Some schools that offer international programs, allow you to earn your MBA in another country (fully or for part of the program)

### Areas of Specialization

- Accounting and Finance
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Agribusiness Management
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Science and Technology
- Management
- Human Resources

### Other Similar Programs (not MBA)

- Master of Finance
- Master of Human Resources Management
- Master of Management & Professional Accounting

**Tuition:** varies between schools, and ranges from \$20,000 to over \$85,000 for the entire MBA process.

## Ontario Business Schools

- Master of Finance
- College of Management and Economics – Guelph
- DeGroote School of Business – McMaster
- Queen's School of Business
- Telfer School of Management – U of Ottawa
- Ted Rogers School of Business Management – Ryerson
- Rotman School of Management – U of Toronto Scarborough
- U of Toronto Mississauga (MMPA)
- Goodman School of Business – Brock
- Odette School of Business – Windsor
- Richard Ivey School of Business – Western
- School of Accounting and Finance – Waterloo
- Schulich School of Business – York

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### Deadline to Register:

Different schools have different time periods for applications, so it is important to research when the deadlines are. Most schools have information sessions about their programs – dates and times will be noted on their websites. Don't hesitate to call the admissions office of any school to ask for more information.

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