Welcome to the Berkeley Evening & Weekend MBA Admissions Chat! We will be starting shortly.

Welcome to the Berkeley Evening & Weekend MBA chat. Answering your questions today will be Marjorie DeGraca, Executive Director, Molly Kihanya, Senior Associate Director, Tammy Soulsby, Assistant Director, Courtney Chandler, and Sarah Thompson, Admissions Assistant. This chat is moderated. Your questions are put into a cue to be answered, so do not be alarmed if we do not respond to you immediately. It is best if you send one question at a time and please do not resend your questions multiple times. They will not be answered more quickly and it may slow us down. Please send us your questions!

I am interested in applying for Fall 2012. What are the Fall 2012 application due dates? Also, what is the difference between the three application due dates?

Please check back with us over the summer when we post our deadline dates for the Fall 2012. As for which round you should apply in, the difference is when you are notified of your decision (the earlier you apply, the earlier your decision).

I would like to know how much GMAT scores play a role in admission. I have strong work experience; will a low GMAT score (under 600) ruin my chances?

In the recently admitted Class of 2013, 80% of the students had a GMAT between 640-750. We look at your application as a whole, but to be competitive I would try to have your GMAT score fall within the 80% range.

Is there any tuition discount for UC employees?

Unfortunately, there is no employee discount for the EW MBA Program because it is a self-supporting program.

We typically receive between 700 and 900 applications each year and we accept 240. So, our acceptance rate ranges between 25 to 35%.
Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:06:56 PM)
Will taking the GMAT more than once hurt your score?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:06:56 PM)
No, we will use your best GMAT score when evaluating your application.

Rao (Oct 26, 2010 3:07:13 PM)
What general qualifications are required to apply for the EW MBA Program?

Admissions_Tammy (Oct 26, 2010 3:07:13 PM)
In order to apply, you need to have taken the GMAT and received a four-year bachelors degree (in addition to submitting the application fee, 2 letters of recommendation, etc. with your application). You can find more details on the EW MBA application requirements at http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/requirements.html

Amelia (Oct 26, 2010 3:07:50 PM)
Aside from test scores, what characteristics do you look for in candidates to the program?

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:07:50 PM)
We have a holistic approach to selecting candidates. While we do look at academic abilities, based on a person's past performance in college and his/her GMAT, we also look at work experience and leadership, and we look at personal qualities and fit with our culture. If you haven't seen our Dean's strategic plan (on the Haas website) you may want to review it. It includes four defining principles/characteristics we look for in our candidates.

Tdroy (Oct 26, 2010 3:08:36 PM)
What is the impact of age on admission rate?

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:08:36 PM)
Typically the age range of our students are between 25 and 50 years old. In the class that just started this past fall, the median age is 32.

Vanessa (Oct 26, 2010 3:08:39 PM)
Do you offer the possibility for alumni to come back and audit classes?

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:08:40 PM)
Yes, alumni are allowed to audit one course per year, space permitting. This is a great benefit to our alumni and their lifelong learning.

ram (Oct 26, 2010 3:10:02 PM)
What percentage of admitted students have fewer than three years work experience?

Admissions_Tammy (Oct 26, 2010 3:10:02 PM)
First, make sure that you are projecting out to August of the year of your application when calculating your experience. It is extremely rare that we would admit anyone with fewer than
three years of work experience, but not impossible. Admission of this candidate would depend on the quality of the work experience and, of course, the rest of the application.

Sara (Oct 26, 2010 3:10:48 PM)
As almost all of my work experience has been in not-for-profit organizations, I don't have "annual sales" figures for that section of the application. What information (if any) should I include in that text box?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:10:48 PM)
If you could add an operating budget or some other metric to give the admissions committee an indicator of the size of your organization, that would be helpful. However, you can simply put "NA" if you wish.

bob (Oct 26, 2010 3:11:50 PM)
For reapplicants, if we have new letters or recommendations, are the old ones still considered?

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:11:50 PM)
We do quickly review your letters from last year but more emphasis is put on your new letters.

Amelia (Oct 26, 2010 3:13:15 PM)
How do you assist graduates with career opportunities? What companies recruit from graduates of Haas?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:13:15 PM)
Evening & Weekend student have full access to career services. We also have customized programs. For a list of recruiters, check out http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/groups/careercenter/corplinks.html

kj (Oct 26, 2010 3:13:23 PM)
how much do the letters of recommendation play a role in the application process?

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:13:23 PM)
Letters of recommendation are very important to us to help us evaluate a candidate's managerial potential. Ideally, you should your letters of recommendation from current or former supervisors.

Rao (Oct 26, 2010 3:14:47 PM)
I have a three-year degree completed in India instead of a four-year degree. Am I still qualified to apply?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:14:47 PM)
You are welcome to apply with a 3-year degree. However, the UC graduate admissions office does require a 4-year degree program. In the event that you are recommended for admission by our staff, we would have to petition on your behalf to the graduate admissions office. We have successfully requested this exception in the past, however, we cannot guarantee that your petition would be approved.
Sara (Oct 26, 2010 3:15:54 PM)
Is it typical for EW MBA applicants to apply to other (non-Haas) MBA programs, as well? Will it impact my chances for admission if I do?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:15:54 PM)
It really depends on the person and their specific situation. If you apply to other programs, it does not impact your chances to be admitted to Haas.

Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:15:55 PM)
Between now and 2012 admissions, are there online classes that I can take that will help prepare me for the MBA part-time program?

Admissions_Tammy (Oct 26, 2010 3:15:56 PM)
There aren't any online classes that I could recommend, as online classes generally carry less weight than in-class equivalents. Consider taking quantitative courses such as statistics, accounting, and college-level math. Your quantitative ability is an important factor in evaluating your application for any of the MBA programs at Berkeley-Haas.

bob (Oct 26, 2010 3:16:14 PM)
Thank for your answers! I have heard that the EW MBA is not as diverse as other programs. What steps are the EW MBA program taking to address this?

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:16:14 PM)
We care about putting together a diverse class of students, which includes diversity in work experience. While we get many applicants from Silicon Valley and the Bay Area, we have been expanding our reach to outside of the Bay Area - we find a lot of interest in Berkeley there, too.

Naydia (Oct 26, 2010 3:16:29 PM)
When reviewing applicants for the weekend/evening program, do you sometimes move or suggest candidates to the full-time pool if you believe they may be a better fit for that program?

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:16:29 PM)
We don't transfer or recommend candidates to another Haas MBA program like Full-time or Berkeley Columbia after they have applied to the the EW MBA program. Each application cycle, a prospective student may apply to only one graduate degree program. So, if you are trying to decide between programs at Haas, we encourage you to attend Information Sessions and visit classes in both programs.

Vanessa (Oct 26, 2010 3:18:01 PM)
In the supplementary data portion of the application we are asked to explain significant collegiate and post-collegiate activities. If this is discussed in this section, does it need to be repeated again in the resume?

Admissions_Tammy (Oct 26, 2010 3:18:01 PM)
Use the supplementary/short answer portion of the extracurricular section to explain your involvements in more detail than what is provided in your resume. For example, in the short
answer section, you can list the length (5-years) and depth (Vice President of XYZ Club) of your involvement.

**admissions_molly** (Oct 26, 2010 3:18:34 PM)
We have some career statistics that I think you will find helpful in our EW MBA brochure. In addition, if you email our office we can provide you with data from our current graduating class. With regard to ROI, that is specific based on the person. You can get good insights about ROI from our students and alumni who participate in our Information Sessions.

**Hanna** (Oct 26, 2010 3:19:48 PM)
By the time I apply I'll have 5 years of work experience as a brand marketing manager. Supposing I have high GMAT scores, great letters of recommendation, and well-written essays, how much will my undergrad GPA count towards my admission?

**Admissions_Tammy** (Oct 26, 2010 3:19:48 PM)
We will evaluate your application holistically, so I couldn't speak to the exact weight of your GPA. Great letters of recommendation and 5 years work experience are always going to strengthen your application, though!

**Amelia** (Oct 26, 2010 3:20:44 PM)
Can you describe the course load and time commitment per week on average?

**admissions_molly** (Oct 26, 2010 3:20:44 PM)
You will complete all of your core classes in the first year. That requires you to attend class either two weeknights from 6-9:30pm or Saturdays from 9 - 6pm. In addition to class time, students say that they spend another 10-20 hours per week on assignments.

**Admissions_Sarah** (Oct 26, 2010 3:21:28 PM)
Have you visited an EW MBA class yet? The following link lists courses open to visitors this semester: https://ssl.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/ClassVisitsEW/

**admissions_molly** (Oct 26, 2010 3:22:07 PM)
The EW MBA students participate in on-campus recruiting along with the full-time students. For specific information about the Evening & Weekend Program, please email us and we can send you the details from our 2010 graduating class.

**Admissions_Sarah** (Oct 26, 2010 3:24:42 PM)
To take a look into the life of a current Evening & Weekend MBA student, view this Blog: http://berkeleyewmbastudents.blogspot.com/

**bob** (Oct 26, 2010 3:26:20 PM)
How many different people read and review our applications?

**admissions_molly** (Oct 26, 2010 3:26:20 PM)
Two to four members of the admissions committee review your application before a decision is made.
Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:26:29 PM)
There are three application deadlines for Fall 2011. Applicants who submit completed applications by November 3, 2010 will be notified of decisions on February 4, 2011. Applicants who submit completed applications by January 10, 2011 will be notified on April 1, 2011. Applicants who submit completed applications by March 3, 2011 will be notified on May 27, 2011.

Admissions_Tammy (Oct 26, 2010 3:26:30 PM)
I know there have been a few questions about work experience and age, so here is a bit more detail. Typically successful applicants have had at least 3+ years of professional work experience, and over 90% have had more than 4 years. On average, entering students have 8 years of professional work experience. Your age does not factor into the admissions decision - the average age is 32 because in general, when compared to the Full-time MBA, we are looking for more years of work experience.

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:27:29 PM)
The EW MBA program has many events geared towards helping build relationships among classmates. In fact, two academic retreats are required in order to graduate. This includes the orientation weekend in August and the Mid-Program Academic Retreat during the Winter of your second year. Beyond these retreats, there are several informal and formal events that are open to EW students. In addition, all of the same clubs, speakers and events available to Full-time students are also open to EW students (many of which are held at night or on the weekend to attract EW students). Lastly, the in-class and course work environment is the same in the EW MBA program as Full-time, where professors seek interaction by students and require many group projects in and out of class.

Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:34:15 PM)
What is the tuition cost per unit?

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:34:16 PM)
The cost for the Evening & Weekend MBA program is $2,387 per unit, with 42 units to the obtain the degree. Fees include all course materials, books, transportation assistance (on-campus parking or evening shuttle) and two academic retreats.

ram (Oct 26, 2010 3:34:39 PM)
I worked part-time as a research assistant while completing a two-year Masters program. Does that count towards my work experience?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:34:39 PM)
To measure all applicants' work experience equally we only count the full-time work experience you have after you completed each degree.

kj (Oct 26, 2010 3:36:21 PM)
Are most EW students from CA or out of state?
Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:36:22 PM)
Due to the nature of the program and the fact that current students are also employed while attending Haas, the majority of the students do live in California and specifically in the Bay Area. However, each year there are a number of students who choose to fly in for weekend classes from Southern California or from outside of California. If you are interested in the EW MBA program and live outside California please check our website for upcoming information sessions near you. In addition, if you know you will be in the Bay Area in the next few months, you can also go to our website and register for a class visit.

Vanessa (Oct 26, 2010 3:37:53 PM)
I heard from some of the EW MBA students that it is difficult to participate in some of the Experiential Learning Courses due to the time commitment and that these courses are geared more towards the full time MBA students. Is this true?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:37:53 PM)
We are making some changes to include adding experiential offerings into the graduation requirement for EW students. We hope this will offer more opportunities for EW students. However, many EW students currently participate in the Haas@Work program.

Amelia (Oct 26, 2010 3:39:01 PM)
Is the cost listed above for California residents or out-of-state students?

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:39:01 PM)
The cost per unit is the same for in-state and out-of-state students.

bob (Oct 26, 2010 3:40:10 PM)
Is it possible to take the same courses as the Full-Time MBA students during the day?

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:40:10 PM)
Yes, if you have flexibility in your schedule and there is space available in the class, you can take a full-time elective class. However, all core classes must be done within the EW MBA program. In addition, each semester there are often many classes cross-listed between the Full-time and EW MBA program.

Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:45:02 PM)
On average, what number of units are taken during a semester?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:45:02 PM)
It really depends on the semester. Core classes are taken the first year and elective courses are taken the second and third years. Please check out the following link for more details: http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/curriculum.html

bob (Oct 26, 2010 3:46:14 PM)
Can students take courses at the Berkeley Law School as electives?
The only students who take classes at the Berkeley Law School are those students who have been admitted to both the full-time MBA program and the Berkeley Law School in our joint JD/MBA program.

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:47:19 PM)
We make every effort to ensure that cost is not an issue for students. Options for financing your education at Haas include grants, employer tuition support, and student loans. Our website has all the details. http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/EW MBA/finaid/

Vanessa (Oct 26, 2010 3:47:27 PM)
Do any students switch from part-time to full-time, or vice versa?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:47:27 PM)
We generally discourage students from switching programs. After the first year, a very small number of people can apply for a transfer into the full-time program. It is very hard to make the switch.

Admissions_Marjorie (Oct 26, 2010 3:48:48 PM)
You can participate in on-campus internship recruiting but you must do this at the end of your 2nd year AND be willing to quit your current job if offered an internship position.

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:49:24 PM)
Keep in mind that the EWMBA Program is designed for working professionals, and you will be competing against other applicants who have on average between 5 and 13 years work experience. Each year, we have several students who choose to fly-in from Southern California and outside of California for the classes on the weekend. So, it is possible to attend the program without living in the Bay Area. Regarding being employed at the time of our application, we make admissions decisions on the information included in your entire application. We will see the depth and breadth of your work experience in the Employment History Section, in your Resume, and in your Letters of Recommendation. In evaluating all of these we can see the true span of your career.

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:51:23 PM)
Join us for a casual Application Q&A session led by Evening & Weekend MBA admissions counselors. It will be held November 1 from 5-6pm. For more information and to register, click here: https://ssl.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/event sew/

Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:51:24 PM)
What is the average cost per semester?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:51:24 PM)
In your first year there are 8 units in the fall (current per unit is $2387), 10 units in the spring. In your second and third years the average is about 6 units per semester.
VK (Oct 26, 2010 3:52:20 PM)
Is the interview a mandatory part of the application process? When will I know my result if I apply in the first round?

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 3:52:20 PM)
We try to interview as many of our applicants as we can - usually around 2/3 of the applicant pool. To do this, we begin scheduling interviews as early as possible, and continue scheduling them all the way up to the notification deadline. We appreciate your patience as we work through all the applications. Interviews are not required for admission to the Evening & Weekend MBA Program. However, we do try to interview everyone to whom we eventually make an offer of admission. In past years, the number of people admitted without an interview has been very small, and sometimes it has been zero - it just depends.

Decisions for those that apply by the Round 1 deadline on November 3, 2010 will be posted on February 4, 2011.

VinayMahadik (Oct 26, 2010 3:53:18 PM)
I will be on an international business trip immediately after the application deadline. Will this affect my ability to interview with you and subsequently decrease my chances for admission?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:53:18 PM)
There will be no problem accommodating your schedule. Please email ewmbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu to give us the information. If you are invited to an interview we will work around your availability.

VK (Oct 26, 2010 3:54:40 PM)
Is Interview mandatory part of the application process? When will I know my result if I apply in the first round?

Vanessa (Oct 26, 2010 3:55:56 PM)
Is there any way to check the status of an application once it is submitted? Also, if we are sending official transcripts through the mail, will you let us know when our application is complete?

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:55:56 PM)
You may check your status when you log in to your application. You will get an email when we process your application (within 6 weeks after the submission deadline) that either confirms receipt of your complete application, or lets you know what is missing and allows you to resend that information.

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 3:58:17 PM)
Thank you all for joining us! The chat will be wrapping up in a few minutes. We greatly appreciate your questions. Please check back on our website next week for a transcript of today’s chat and for future chat dates. Molly, Tammy, Courtney and I will continue to address some questions already in the cue, but we will not be forwarding additional questions.
Hanna (Oct 26, 2010 3:59:00 PM)
I sincerely appreciate this session. This format is so helpful and convenient especially since I'm working :) I'm off to a meeting. Thanks guys!

bob (Oct 26, 2010 3:59:36 PM)
For those students who are admitted who didn't get interviews, what's the criteria for not interviewing them?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 3:59:36 PM)
We interview over 80% of our applicant pool. And we generally interview all those who are admitted.

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 4:02:05 PM)
If any questions come up after this chat, feel free to call us at 510.642.0292 or email us at ewmbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu

VinayMahadik (Oct 26, 2010 4:02:42 PM)
How flexible is Haas about switching from the evening-only cohort to the weekend-only cohort?

admissions_molly (Oct 26, 2010 4:02:42 PM)
You will choose your preference in your application and stay with the assigned cohort for your first year. After the first year, you can choose when you want to take your electives. Some students do Saturday and weeknight classes.

wjm (Oct 26, 2010 4:03:10 PM)
What is the interaction level between EW MBA and FT students? Also, what type of structure exists for EW MBA students to build a network of lasting professional relationships?

Admissions_Courtney (Oct 26, 2010 4:03:10 PM)
The majority of your interaction will be with other EW MBA students. However, all of the student clubs are open to both FT and EW students. Additionally, all of the on-campus events are open to both FT and EW students. The EW MBA students are organized in cohorts for your first year core classes. The cohorts are made up of 60 students each, and you would take all of your core classes with these same 60 students (this same cohort structure is present in the FT program as well). Thus, this is a great way to build relationships with your fellow classmates. Finally, there are a number of informal and formal events specifically geared to EW. Classwork is structured to promote group projects and interaction between the students.

Admissions_Sarah (Oct 26, 2010 4:03:32 PM)
Thank you all for joining us! Goodbye and good luck with the application!