admissions_vanessa (P): Welcome to the Evening & Weekend Berkeley MBA Online Application Q&A Chat. Answering your questions today will be Julia Sprague - Assistant Director; Cecile Matthews – Assistant Director; Liz Rosenberg – Reader/Interviewer; Jen Arvai – Admissions Coordinator; and myself, Vanessa Martini- Admissions Manager. This chat is moderated. Your questions are put into a queue 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!

admissions_julia (P): Thank you for joining us today!

JoeJoe (Q): Should we keep our resume to 1 page if we only have 5 years of work experience but have other leadership experience as well?

admissions_cecile (A): JoeJoe, thanks for your question. We are definitely interested in hearing about your other leadership experience, so if you need to make your resume more than 1 page, please do. However, it's important to keep your resume focused and targeted to an MBA program.

Sha (Q): How does the recruiting process work with the ewmba students? Do they work with the career office or there is a different process?

admissions_liz (A): Hi Sha, thank you for your question on the recruiting process for EW MBA students. Evening/Weekend students have the same access to on-campus recruiting as full-time students in their third year of the program and have access to the center and its facilities on day one of the program.

rk_81 (Q): Hi, thanks for hosting the chat. I had a question about the Data and Decisions course that has been added as part of the core courses for next year. If admitted, would it be possible to waive out from that?

admissions_jen (A): Hello rk_81. Thank you for your question. Because Data and Decisions will be a new core course requirement, we are still in the process of determining what may be available. Please check back with us via email in the coming week.
JoeJoe (Q): What's the difference in applying in Round 1 vs. Round 2? Are we more likely to be admitted or receive scholarships in Round 1?

admissions_jen (A): Your chances of admission are the same in each round, regardless of which round you apply in. The advantages to round 1 and 2 include having the ability to apply for our scholarships, adequate time to complete your prerequisites after receiving your admissions decision, and more time to prepare for the start of the school year.

Sha (Q): Are there any application fee waivers available for candidates applying from a non-profit background?

admissions_vanessa (A): Hi Sha--we do not have any application fee waivers for applicants, but do offer scholarships: [http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/EW MBA/entering-students.html](http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/EW MBA/entering-students.html). I hope this helps!

rc (Q): What application material needs to be sent via mail? I already have my official undergrad and grad school transcripts with me. Can I go ahead and mail them?

admissions_jen (A): Hello rc! Please feel free to submit your supplementary materials (transcripts, letters of recommendation) to:

Evening & Weekend Berkeley MBA Admissions
Haas School of Business
430 Student Services Bldg. #1906
Berkeley, CA 94720-1906

JoeJoe (Q): Can you provide some insight on the 1000 word background question? It's very generic and there's a lot we can write about. What have you seen written for this question before?

admissions_julia (A): Hi JoeJoe, thanks for your question. With the long essay, our goal is to get a better sense of who you are, and we encourage you to be as authentic as possible. I would refrain from focusing too much on your professional background, as there are many other places in your application to tell us about your work accomplishments. Generally the stronger long essays are personal and impactful - we see essays about significant life events, what's shaped applicants, passions, etc., but please use your best judgment as to what you'd like to make sure the admissions committee knows about you. This is a great place to help yourself stand out from other applicants!

Prashant_Ponde (Q): Thank you Julia, Cecile, Liz, Jen & Vanessa for organizing the discussion. I do have year 2012 admission statistics about diversity, acceptance rate, Age, GMAT score statistics from ranking websites and your earlier brochures. Do you have the latest statistics based on the EW MBA 2013 admissions.

admissions_cecile (A): Hi Prashant_Ponde! I believe you will find some of the info you are looking for at [http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/community/students/classprofile.html](http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/community/students/classprofile.html)
Lingjie (Q): Hi, I have a question regarding essays - how do you evaluate these 3 main essays? Do you treat the longer one as most important? How do you weigh on the optional essay?

admissions_liz (A): Hi Lingjie, Thank you for your question. We evaluate our applications holistically so no one part of the application is weighted more heavily than any other. All of the essays are important as they each tell us something different about your experience. My biggest piece of advice when writing the essays is to truly tell something about yourself that is meaningful to you, not what you think we want to hear. For the goals, be as specific as you can and tell us about the path you plan to take to achieve them. For the defining principles, it is best to choose the one principle with which you most closely identify and give us one strong example. The long essay is your opportunity to tell us about yourself personally so try not to repeat things you’ve already told us in your application. This is your chance to tell us what differentiates you personally from the rest of our applicant pool. The optional essay should really be reserved for information that you haven’t had a chance to mention anywhere else in the application. It truly is optional. Hope this helps.

Sha (Q): Are there any healthcare related electives available? Is there a list of electives available somewhere?

admissions_jen (A): Hi Sha- great question. You can find a list of our electives available online at: http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/elective.html.

HardingK12014 (Q): How would you contrast the Evening & Weekend MBA with the Executive MBA? In particular the difference in weekly study requirements outside of class.

admissions_vanessa (A): Hi Harding--the main differences between the program are duration (19 months vs. 3 years), structure (classes every 3 weeks rather than weekly), and class profile (more years of work experience for Executive). That said, a number of people who apply to the EW MBA program would qualify for the Executive program, and vice versa. Students from the Executive program say they spend on average 20 hours per week outside of class on their studies; EW MBA students consistently say that they spend the same amount of time outside of class working on their studies as in class. I hope this helps, but feel free to come to an information session for either program to speak with current and former students.

Elena (Q): Hello Julia, Cecile, Liz, Jen and Vanessa! Please explain what are the differences in admission process comparatively to last year requirements. Thank you!

admissions_liz (A): Hi Elena, Thank you for your question. The only real difference between last year’s admissions process and this year’s is that there is no longer a statistics prerequisite as we have included our Data and Decisions course in the core curriculum.

Jason (Q): Is there a way for us to confirm that our official transcripts have been received?

admissions_jen (A): Hi Jason, because of the volume of mail we receive, we cannot confirm the receipt of supplemental materials at this time. Please note that although we may have received your supplemental materials (e.g., GMAT, transcripts, etc.), it could take up to six weeks after the submission
deadline before it is reflected online. You will receive 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 it.

Sha (Q): Do you require official copies of the transcripts or just the PDF will be sufficient?

admissions_vanessa (A): Sha, the PDF is sufficient for review purposes. If you are recommended for admission, we would require the official documents to be certified by the UC Graduate Division. We will only require them for 48 hours or so, and will mail them back, or hand them back to you at orientation.

JoeJoe (Q): What's the difference in information you're seeking between our resume and the short answer question regarding our significant activities, hobbies, and memberships?

admissions_julia (A): Hi JoeJoe. The resume should be mainly job focused, and the short answer question can go into more detail about your extracurricular activities.

Sha (Q): I applied to the full-time program last year and did not get in, I have improved my GMAT and done more leadership stuff at work - are reapplicants at any disadvantage applying? What advice would you give me?

admissions_liz (A): Hi Sha, I'm gathering that you're thinking of applying to the EW program this year as opposed to Full-time. If that's the case, there is no disadvantage to reapplying. You should just be prepared to explain why you are now opting for a part-time program vs. full-time; e.g. change in work status or goals.

HardingK12014 (Q): Do GMAT official scores need to be received prior to the deadline or are unofficial self-reported scores acceptable with the official in transit?

admissions_cecile (A): HardingK12014, thanks for your question. Unofficial self-reported scores are acceptable as part of the application. These are verified later in our process.

varun (Q): Not strictly an admissions question, but is it possible for you to put me in touch with some current students who fly into the Bay area to attend classes? I work outside the Bay area and I was hoping to better understand the logistics and challenges involved.

admissions_julia (A): Thanks for your question, Varun. Yes, we'd be happy to connect you with a student who commutes from outside the Bay Area. Please contact us with this request at ewmbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu.

Sha (Q): In the application, there is a question "Please list your most significant collegiate and post-collegiate activities, hobbies and memberships, including dates of involvement, offices held, and average number of hours spent per month. " Should I also provide SHORT DESCRIPTIONS of the organizations or what I did or just the names / titles and dates will be sufficient?
admissions_vanessa (A): Sha, we want to know as much about you as possible from your application, but it is also important to be succinct. If you feel like those activities demonstrate your leadership capabilities or a defining principle that you emulate, by all means expand on the activity.

rc (Q): What is your acceptance rate for the EW MBA program? Also, what percentage of those admitted get financial aid?

admissions_liz (A): Hi RC, We don't actually publish our acceptance rate but we usually receive 700-900 applications and target a class size of approximately 250. With regard to financial aid, there are a tremendous amount of aid options available to our students, from federal and private loans to our scholarships. I recommend contacting our financial aid office for more specific information. [http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/EWMBA/index.html](http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/EWMBA/index.html)

HardingK12014 (Q): In budgeting study time then, expect about 10 hours per week outside of class if taking the full day Saturday 9-6 two class curriculum?

admissions_vanessa (A): Harding--Yes that is the expectation. Of course, when there are midterms, finals or special projects, that may increase somewhat.

Sha (Q): My GMAT quant score was 72 -- in reviewing the question about quant being less than 75 percentile, what are the things you are looking for?

admissions_liz (A): Sha, We are looking for a demonstration of your quantitative proficiency in order to be sure you are capable of doing the work of the program. We evaluate this proficiency by looking at your GMAT score, grades in your undergraduate quant classes as well as other quant classes you may have taken after undergrad, and, to a lesser extent, your work experience.

KeremT (Q): I'm currently working abroad, but I'm applying to different positions in the Bay Area. Would submitting an application without U.S. employment be a disadvantage?

admissions_cecile (A): Hi KeremT. No, submitting an application without US employment would not be a disadvantage. However, please note that we are unable to assist in providing student visas.

rk_81 (Q): Are international study trips part of the curriculum? If so, could you let us know when we would be eligible to participate in those.

admissions_jen (A): Hello rk_81, Thanks for your question. Yes, there are international trips available in the Evening and Weekend Program such as Seminars in International Business and International Business Development. For more details, please visit: [http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/global.html](http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/global.html).

HardingK12014 (Q): Are there international trip options that can be taken for credit in EW MBA? What duration options exist?

admissions_jen (A): Hello HardingK12014- there are international trip options available. Please visit: [http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/global.html](http://ewmba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/global.html) for more details.
JoeJoe (Q): Please walk us through your thought process when evaluating a candidate. How do you decide who to interview?

admissions_julia (A): Hello JoeJoe. Interviews are by invitation only, and are conducted by a member of the admissions committee. We usually interview about 2/3 of our applicant pool. In regards to application evaluation, it is a holistic process in which we try to get a sense of who you are and the value and diversity you would add to the classroom. We really take everything about your application into consideration: your work experience and professional accomplishments, academic performance, personal qualities, leadership potential, culture fit, and more.

Prashant_Ponde (Q): Hello. Please let us know if you are considering IR score for FY14 admission evaluations.

admissions_vanessa (A): Hi Prashant: We do take it into consideration, but we primarily focus on the quant and verbal portions of the exam. Good luck!

GoodLuck (Q): Hello, Thank you for organizing this event. I understand the round 1 deadline is Nov, 20th. When will the applicants receive the interview notice for round 1? Will the applicants be notified by email or phone call?

admissions_jen (A): Hello Good Luck. We begin scheduling interviews as early as possible, and continue scheduling them all the way up to the notification deadline. We will contact you via email to schedule an interview.

admissions_vanessa (P): Hello everyone! Thank you for joining us. The chat will be wrapping up in a few minutes. We greatly appreciate your questions. We apologize for not getting to everyone. We will be emailing everyone a transcript of today’s chat within the next week. We will continue to address some questions already in the cue, but we will not be forwarding additional questions. If you did not get all your questions answered today, or if you have any additional questions, please contact us at ewmbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu or 510-642-0292.

JoeJoe (Q): If the defining principle we most identify with is displayed in our goals essay, would it be more advantageous to write about a different defining principle in that specific essay or stick with the one we’re most passionate about?

admissions_julia (A): Hi JoeJoe, please use your best judgment here, but I would recommend choosing whichever principle you are best able to support through strong examples. If it happens to be a principle you’ve already mentioned in your application, that's fine.

Lisa (Q): I saw that you do not have published statistics on average GRE scores. ETS provides an online calculator to compare GRE scores to GMAT scores; would you say this is reliable to your standards? Also, do we need to provide an explanation if we opted to take the GRE instead of the GMAT? Thanks!
admissions_vanessa (A): Hi Lisa: Good question! Yes, the comparison tool is good to use to gauge how your score compares to the GMAT exam. You need not provide an explanation regarding which test you will take.

GoodLuck (Q): I understand that I will submit the official transcript sent from my university. Will it be helpful if I upload the unofficial copy in the application system or mail the unofficial copy for your review just in case that the official transcript takes too long time?

admissions_vanessa (A): Goodluck: Yes, please upload a copy of your transcript to your application. We can use that for review purposes, and will update your application to show when we receive the official documents. Thanks for asking!

HardingK12014 (Q): What percentage in EW MBA are over age 35?

admissions_liz (A): Hi HardingK12014, In the class that started this fall, 17% of enrolled students are 35 and over.

Lisa (Q): I am wondering about the past employment section of the online application versus our submitted resume. In completing the Responsibilities/Key Accomplishments description in the employment history section, is there any additional information you are looking for beyond what is included in a typical resume?

admissions_julia (A): Great question, Lisa! Please make sure your resume is clear and concise. I would recommend keeping it to 2 pages max. You can then use the application to elaborate on your achievements, if necessary.

admissions_julia (P): Thanks again! We look forward to receiving your applications.

admissions_jen (P): Thanks everyone for attending today!