

FAQs

When will these changes take effect?

We expect to roll out the first year of the new curriculum this fall (2008), with the second year to follow in 2009. If you are applying to the two-year program for fall 2008 and are admitted, you will be joining the first class to enjoy the benefits of the new curriculum.

What's the story on the online preparatory program?

It's called MBA Math. All incoming students will be asked to do this program starting in July and ending before OMBA Orientation in mid-September. The program consists of lectures, practice problems, practice quizzes, and tests covering the basics of accounting, economics, finance, and statistics. Depending on your background in these areas, you can proceed at your own pace. Hit a wall in stats? Then listen to the lecture again, do some extra practice sets, and proceed. You're already an accounting wiz? Then go directly to the final test and make sure you get at least 80% right. Couldn't quite make it? Practice some more and take another test. At the end, we'll get an online transcript telling us about your progress and results. And should you feel the need for a refresher, you have a whole year to go back online. The best thing: You'll be ready for the core classes, and it won't cost you a penny.

How does the new curriculum differ from the old one?

The new curriculum brings more flexibility to the first year and more focus to the second. The number of mandatory core classes required of all new MBA students has been reduced from 12 to 9. In addition, the Strategic Planning Project (SPP), the team-based consulting project, is moving from the first year to the second. As a result, you will be able to take up to 7 courses in the first year targeted specifically to your area/s of interest. These courses in turn will give you an advantage in competing for summer internships in your chosen industry or functional area. Both the additional courses and the internship will add more tools and skills to the toolbox you need for your second-year Strategic Planning Project. As the centerpiece of experiential learning, SPP will become both more ambitious and center-focused. Who knows, it might even lead directly to your first job after graduation.

Do I have to choose a track when I apply or before I matriculate?

We encourage you to give serious thought to all four of our tracks, but you may remain undecided into the first year, if you so prefer. Students interested in Finance/Securities Analysis should declare their intention by the start of winter term. Others may use the winter term to sample courses meant as introductions for the other tracks. By spring term you'll have a good sense of what clicks for you.

May I take courses from other tracks?

Absolutely! Any time the courses required for a particular track number four or less in a term, you may choose one or more electives offered in that term, even if they are identified with another track. And those electives can be taken either in the first or second year.

Will I still receive a solid, broad-based MBA?

You bet! The number of required core classes—nine—is as large as any you'd find in a high quality program. They'll give you the broad, cross-functional base on which to build a more specialized course of studies. And experiential learning via the Strategic Planning Project, business plan competitions and other opportunities will keep you firmly anchored in the real world. It's really the best of all worlds.

What about the Accelerated OMBA Program?

For 2008-09 it will continue in its present form: You must have an undergraduate business degree from an AACSB-accredited school and a strong academic record. You'll still take 16 courses over 4 terms (15 months). Here, too, exciting changes are in store, however. As of fall term 2009, students with the same quality background will be able to complete one of the four tracks described above in 9 or 11 months. Although we've cut out the internship, you can always tack one on at the end. It'll be a hard slog, but who wouldn't want to be done that fast?

Can I still pursue a concurrent degree?

Sure. The JD/MBA degree still takes 4 years to complete. Some of our tracks also match up well with master's degrees in Environmental Studies and the sciences.