Frequently Asked Questions

What are the minimum requirements for admission to the UCLA MBA Program?

To be considered for admission, candidates must hold a four-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and must submit a completed application for admission. International applicants should check for degree equivalency on our website (see below). If you have further questions about degree equivalency, please contact UCLA Graduate Admissions at (310) 825-3819.

How many years of work experience do I need before applying to UCLA Anderson?

Work experience is not required for admission. It is important for you to assess your own readiness when deciding to apply. Recent college graduates with exceptional academic records and GMAT scores, strong leadership in college and who are ready to pursue their MBA are encouraged to apply to the UCLA Anderson MBA program (see our “Recent College Grads” webpage at http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x8828.xml for more FAQ’s and information). We seek to admit outstanding leaders at different points in their professional careers. We feel it is not the quantity, but the quality of your experience (and how it fits with your goals), that counts.

Are there any advantages to applying early in the admissions cycle?

Yes. Because students are notified on a continuous basis throughout each application period, admissions decisions become limited by space and student mix. Therefore, applicants are advised to apply for admission as early as possible. Historically, fewer applicants in the fourth round have been admitted; this round is especially competitive. Candidates denied admission during one deadline period cannot reapply during another admissions period in the same academic year. Denied applicants may reapply the following year.

What does the admissions committee look for in an applicant?

The admissions committee evaluates applicants’ potential as leaders in management and their projected ability to succeed in, benefit from, and contribute to UCLA Anderson. We carefully consider biographical and academic background information; GMAT score and (for most international applicants) TOEFL score; achievements, awards, and honors; employment history; letters of recommendation; and college and community involvement, especially where candidates have served in leadership capacities. The committee selects a diverse community of students who will succeed in managerial leadership and bring unique contributions to enrich UCLA Anderson.

Are there mathematics and computer prerequisites?

All prospective students must have a demonstrated knowledge of algebra and differential calculus before beginning the UCLA Anderson MBA program. It is recommended that all admitted students complete a differential calculus course prior to the start of MBA studies. Knowledge of statistics is also recommended to prepare for MBA coursework. Finally, all students are expected to have a working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint) software applications.

Is there a minimum GMAT score or GPA required for admission?

No. Many factors are considered in the decision process; admissions decisions are not made solely on the basis of grades and test scores. However, you may want to note our average and range of scores in our most recent class profile. You should make sure that your GMAT score (including AWA) represents your ability; otherwise, you might want to retake the test.

If I take the GMAT more than once, will you average the score or take the higher one?

We will see all of your scores but will take your higher score if you take the test twice. If you take the GMAT more than twice, we consider all scores, but don’t average them.

Where and when is the GMAT offered?

The GMAT is a computer-adaptive test (CAT) that is administered frequently throughout the year at approximately 400 computer-based testing locations around the world. To make testing arrangements, go online to mba.com or contact the Educational Testing Service at gmat@ets.org (609) 771-7330. The GMAT code for the Anderson School is 4837.

Who must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)?

If you received your undergraduate degree in a country where English is not an official language, you must take the TOEFL for your UCLA Anderson application. However, if you studied for 2 years in a country where English is an official language (e.g., received a graduate degree in the US), you are exempt from taking the TOEFL. For more information, visit the TOEFL web site (http://www.ets.org/toefl/) or call (609) 771-7100.
Is there a minimum score on the TOEFL (for students whose native language is not English)?

Although no minimum TOEFL score is required, few applicants have been admitted with a score below 260 on the TOEFL-CBT or a score below 600 on the paper-based version. For more information, visit [http://www.ets.org/toefl/) or call (609) 771-7100.

May I submit more than two recommendations?

Please submit only two recommendations, preferably from supervisors or managers at your current place of employment.

Does one of my recommendations need to be from a professor?

If you have been out of school for less than two years you may include an academic recommendation in place of a work-related one. Ideally an academic recommender should know you beyond the classroom through research, internships or other interactions. Early career applicants (see [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x8828.xml]) should consider also asking club advisors, internship or other employers who can comment on your leadership skills.

I can't ask my boss for a recommendation because she/he doesn't know I want to leave. What do I do?

Be sure to explain your reasons for not including a recommendation from your direct supervisor in your optional fourth essay. You may use a recommendation from another work-related source, such as a client or a manager from another department who knows your skills, a former boss who has left the company. What we are looking for is a recommendation from someone who knows your work well, preferably from a supervisory perspective. Remember that family and friends/peers at work are usually not the best sources.

How much does the letter of recommendation, interview, GMAT, etc. matter? Do you weigh one part of the application more heavily than others?

Components of an application are not weighted - all of the factors are important aspects of the application. The admissions committee conducts a comprehensive review and considers the total application.

Are interviews necessary?

Although interviews are not required, many applicants find that an interview offers a way to personalize their application. Due to limited availability, applicants should reserve an appointment online as early as possible. Only one interview is conducted for each applicant. Interviews are available either on- or off-campus. Interviews are conducted by an Anderson staff member, a current student, or an alumnus. There is no disadvantage to interviewing with a student or alumnus. Interviews are held from mid-August through March and are subject to interviewer availability. Most off-campus interviews are conducted by invitation and after a review of your application. Schedule an interview online at [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x2936.xml]. We highly recommend that Early Career applicants (with 0-2 years full time work experience – see [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x8828.xml]) schedule an interview on campus whenever possible.

Do you recommend that I visit the campus?

Applicants are urged to attend a small Group Information Session (GIS), conducted by an admissions representative, to learn about UCLA Anderson's full-time MBA Program, student life, and admissions process. A GIS provides a forum for questions in a small group setting. Sign up for a GIS on our website ([http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x6530.xml]) or with short notice, call (310) 825-6944.

Prospective students can also attend classes, meet professors, and talk with currently enrolled MBA students through our Student Admissions Service (SAS) on Monday through Thursday from mid-October through early May, excluding holidays. To arrange your campus visit, please send an email to contact.student@anderson.ucla.edu two to three weeks before you plan to visit. For self-guided visits, campus maps and a list of classes you may attend are also available in the admissions office in Gold Hall, B201.

Are there scholarships or other financial aid available?

Fellowship support is available to exceptional admitted applicants. Last year, approximately 24% of the incoming class received fellowships. The Anderson Admissions Office makes these award decisions, and all admitted students are automatically considered for fellowships; no separate application is needed. Second-year students are also offered fellowships based on academic performance and leadership activities in the first year. In addition, private firms, foundations, and individuals support more than 40 fellowships. Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions also can significantly supplement student budgets, along with student loans. For more information, contact the UCLA Anderson financial aid office at (310) 825-2746 or 825-0629, or mary.dominguez@anderson.ucla.edu.

May I apply to both the full-time and Fully-Employed MBA programs in the same year?

Candidates may apply to only one Anderson MBA program in a given year. There are separate application processes for each program.

How can I speak with an admissions counselor / current students / alumni?

E-mail mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu with your specific questions, and we will reply to you promptly. Though we cannot accommodate individual counseling sessions, you are welcome to come to our small group information sessions to ask questions of admissions representatives in person (sign up at [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x6530.xml]). In addition, every fall UCLA Anderson holds informational events on campus and around the world where you will have the opportunity to speak with admissions counselors, current students, and alumni. Please check the admissions website ([http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x5525.xml]) to sign up.