

Username	Message
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Hi there Stephen
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Few more people are getting logged in here shortly
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Hello. How are you?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Doing great! How about yourself?
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Good thanks. I'm in New Zealand so it is early morning at the moment.
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Good morning! This Adina, a 1st year MBA student
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Hello! Welcome to the Smeal MBA Program online chat. We've got students and the Admissions Team with us today. What questions would you like us to answer today?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Ok Stephen, looks like you get all of our attention. What questions do you have about the program?
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: I am interested in the process and time frames once my application has been submitted. How long does it take before Interview candidates are selected and when to the interview happen etc.
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Hi Stephen--typically candidates would be notified of an interview invitation within about 2-3 weeks once the complete application has been received
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Candidates then schedule the interview at a time that works for them within the next 2-4 weeks
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Do interview have to be on campus or do you utilise skype or phone interviews

ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): While in person interviews are preferred, we do offer webcam which is the next best thing for those who can't travel. Skype is popular--or Google Talk. We use both. Phone interviews are also available if you don't have webcam abilities
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Great thanks. Another question. I am interested in how you would describe the environment at Smeal for someone with a family. I am married with three daughters aged 12, 10, 7. Will my family have the opportunity to feel like they are part of the experience?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Stephen - I will talk about that for you.
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Though I am not married myself, several of my classmates are married with kids here in beautiful State College.
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): First off, the program is very aware of the extra stress having a family and going back for a graduate degree
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): They include family in just about everthing we do
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): including events where we celebrate holidays from all over the world
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): These events are a time for each of the students to share a part of their culture, and I have seen how much the kids have at these events
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): There is a program called "Lion Partners" - which is specifically for the significant others of those in the program
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Do you have other specific questions about family and the program?

stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: No, that is the sense I have gotten as I have looked into the program, but this is really my first opportunity to talk to someone at Smeal. What do you consider the best aspects of Penn State and Smeal MBA to be?
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Stephen, what I like to most about Smeal is the divers student body, the class size and the great opportunities in campus
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: What do you consider the opportunities on Campus to be?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Stephen, I will also comment about the Smeal MBA
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): The opportunity you have is amazing. It is a great opportunity to meet so many people from different countries, and get their perspective in the business situations
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): You can get involved in different organizations, take classes from different schools, besides the ones Smeal is offering
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Welcome Dave T
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): Hello Stephen..this is Akshay here. I am a 2nd year student. Penn state is a great place to connect with people who are experts in various fields. You could get involved with anything from nano-physics to social sciences...whatever you are interested in - as long as you can balance the academic demands that the program places on you

<p>stephen@dils.co.nz</p>	<p>stephen@dils.co.nz: So would you say that the program is connected and a part of the University. I have observed some MBA programs that seem to operate in their own little bubble and while they have the name of the school don't have much interaction with other colleges etc.</p>
<p>Dave T</p>	<p>Dave T: Hi Stacey, thank you. I was hoping the students here could help me with some questions. What kind of tips can you offer for the interview? What kind of questions should I prepare for?</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): Stephen, what you get out of the MBA program is what you put in. If you can and have the time to invest time in activities outside of the business school, you will have a plethora of opportunities.</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): Hello Dave, my one piece of advice would be to be really upfront and straightforward in your interview</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Adina - 1st year): Dave: You can get questions like: Tell me a little bit about yourself. Walk me through your resume.</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Adina - 1st year): Then you will get behavior based interview questions related to team work, leadership, taking initiative</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Nick Class_2012): Stephen - you also have to remember, Penn State is a great athletic school also. These sporting events offer you a chance to get out of the academic mindset and spend some "fun" time with your peers.</p>
<p>ga</p>	<p>ga(Nick Class_2012): Stephen, one of the selling points of Smeal is the strong networking opportunities.</p>

Dave T	Dave T: Thank you Adina and Akshay. So would it be comparable to a job interview? Also is it better to interview in-person instead of the telephone?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Dave T--while in person is great, webcam is also a very viable option if you cannot travel to Pennsylvania
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Dave: The questions are indeed similar to those you would get in a job interview.
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Welcome Amy 1981
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): While the admission office prefers to interview you in-person, there is always the option to do a webcam interview
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Thanks Nick, it is great to hear that there is time to enjoy athletics. I would hate to think the MBA program was so busy you couldn't support Penn State Football. Do MBAs campout like undergrads?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Stephen, it is funny you mention that.
Amy1981	Amy1981: Hi everyone. Thank you for putting on this chat. I am working on my application now and was wondering if anyone has any tips before I submit.
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): One of our current students, who is also a law student, was one of the students that started Paternoville.
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): I know he still enjoyed doing that each week.
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Hi Amy1981--one of the best things you can do is have someone else proofread your essays. They will be able to give you an outside perspective and possibly catch errors that you missed

stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: What would be the specific strengths of the Smeal curriculum in your opinion?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Additionally, make sure in the essays you are actually addressing the question asked
ga	ga(AmandaHahnel): @stephen, You work a lot with your peer group throughout and learn to address a breadth of issues much more collaboratively than I, at least, had done before
ga	ga(AmandaHahnel): Also, especially with Supply Chain courses you are given opportunity to learn hands on through class simulations to understand how the concepts work on multiple levels
Amy1981	Amy1981: Thank you that is good advice. I have spent so much time writing and re-writing them it would be good to have someone else look at them. What about my letters of recommendation? Any tips for who to get to write them?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Amy1981--good question. Ideally, you want people who know you well and can attest to what it is like to work with you in a professional setting
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): @Stephen: Make sure you ask for recommendations from people who really know you and can personally talk about you!

ga	<p>ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): @Stephen: The curriculum is designed so as to build your core strengths like accounting. Most of the first year courses are designed as core courses. The curriculum then lets you branch out in the 2nd year as per your preferences. Some other big benefits are the numerous practicum courses that professors offer from time to time along with independent studies that you can take up with faculty or a research center</p>
ga	<p>ga(Adina - 1st year): @Stephen: I had mine written by my coordinator professor and my work supervisor.</p>
Dave T	<p>Dave T: As someone potentially coming in from a non business background and many years removed from school I was wondering if you had any advice on how to best adjust to an MBA program.</p>
ga	<p>ga(Nick Class_2012): Dave, this is my situation exactly!</p>
ga	<p>ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): If your current employer does not know you are applying to an MBA program, you can also a supervisor from a previous job (or a colleague/team member/client)</p>
ga	<p>ga(Nick Class_2012): Dave, my background was military, and very heavy on the operations and management side. I had no experience with financial accounting, or any accounting really.</p>
Amy1981	<p>Amy1981: I see you accept the GRE this year. Will I be judged the same taking either exam?</p>
ga	<p>ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Amy1981--while we prefer the GMAT, you will not be at a disadvantage for taking the GRE as we are accepting either exam this year</p>

stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: What was the one thing that surprised you when you arrived on campus. The thing you hadn't expected, or the biggest adjustment you had to make?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): I found myself struggling the first many weeks trying to get caught up with what I didn't know. My advice is to do the summer accounting course and if you are still not satisfied with your knowledge level, taking a class in person at community college is always an option.
Dave T	Dave T: Thanks Nick! If I take a course over the summer can I count those credits towards my MBA?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Dave T--if your course credits are graduate level, you may be able to transfer up to 6 elective credits to the MBA program. For a basic accounting class, however, it's likely undergraduate level and will not count
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): @stephen: I would say that the transition from a work life to a school life was the hardest for me. I was actually still consulting part time after I started my MBA. However school life is completely different from when you are out there in the workforce and adjusting takes some time.
ga	ga(AmandaHahnel): Stephen, I had never lived away from a big city so just getting used to a different pacing was probably the hardest thing for me. Luckily there are plenty of places within a pretty quick drive
Amy1981	Amy1981: Thanks Stacey. I saw your average GMAT score is a 650, if my score is not as high what other things should I do to improve my application? Also if I retake my exam which score will you count?

Dave T	Dave T: Thanks Stacey.
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Amy1981--If you retake your exam, we will count the highest but will see both scores. In addition, you can also ensure that your essays are well thought out, your recommendations are strong, and your resume reflects all professional and leadership experience
Dave T	Dave T: If I submit for the February 1st deadline coming up how soon should I expect a response?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Dave T--you are guaranteed a final decision by March 31st at the latest. If you are offered an interview, that will typically happen by about the 3rd week in February.
Amy1981	Amy1981: Great. So I can retake and if I do worse you will count the first score. That is a relief.
Amy1981	Amy1981: I read on your website about visitation weekend. What can you tell me about that experience?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Amy1981--Of course, we encourage you to try to improve your score--especially if you are interested in merit-based aid
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Amy1981--Visitation Weekend is a chance for our admitted students to visit campus and get a first hand feel for the program, students and community
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): There is a case study, presentations by staff, faculty and students, meals with current students, social outings--it's a fantastic 3 day event
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Visitation was also a great chance to meet the future students that will be in your class, and get a good handle on the town - as to where you want to live.

Amy1981	Amy1981: Nick is there time built into the weekend to look at apartments and places to live?
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): Amy, I believe during the visitation, the students will give you a presentation on some of the major apartments. There should be time on your own to see the town after everything is over on Saturday, but there is not a planned/guided tour during the event.
ga	ga(Nick Class_2012): With regard to housing, there is another great opportunity to find apartments. That is through the MBA forum found on the "exchange" - students post there if they need roommates or have apartments available.
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Amy, you can check these websites for more housing information: <a href="http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students/Housing%20info.pdf">http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students/Housing%20info.pdf</a> and <a href="http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus/">http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus/</a>
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: When is visitation weekend?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): @Stephen - the visitation weekend will be the 7th through the 9th of April 2011
Dave T	Dave T: I see the chat is nearing the end. If I come up with anymore questions who can I contact? Also I have read about the metoring program, what is that exactly?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Dave T--you are welcome to contact us at <a href="mailto:smealmba@psu.edu">smealmba@psu.edu</a>
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): Hello Dave, if you have any more questions you can reach us at <a href="mailto:smealmba@gmail.com">smealmba@gmail.com</a>

ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Additionally, we have 2 mentoring programs--one that's student to student, and one that pairs students with a member of the Alumni Advisory Board
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Dave, before I got here, I was contacted by a 1st year student who was willing to assist me with any questions and concerns. Also, an alumnus gets in contact with you to tell you about their perspective after Smeal.
Dave T	Dave T: Adina, How can I sign up for both of those mentoring programs?
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Admitted students are paired with a current student automatically. Once you get here, you will be paired with an alumnus.
stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: Stacey, how many applications do you typically process each application round?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Stephen--total for a year is roughly 650 or so--with most coming in the February 1st deadline
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): We're going into the final minutes of the chat--does anyone have any final questions?
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Thank you for joining us today, again, any final questions can be directed to smealmba@psu.edu
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): We hope you found this to be a productive and informative session, and we're really glad you could join us. Please feel free to contact us at SmealMBA@psu.edu for any further questions. Thank you for spending the time with us, The Smeal MBA Program Team.

stephen@dils.co.nz	stephen@dils.co.nz: No, thank you for your time. It has been very nice to connect with you all. I feel I have a better insight into Smeal.
ga	ga(Stacey MBA Admissions): Great! Thanks for joining us!
ga	ga(AmandaHahnel): Good luck to all the applicants!
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): Thank you Stephen..
ga	ga(Adina - 1st year): Good luck everyone! It was nice chatting with you!
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Yr): what is your office#?