

**Conversation**

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome--we'll get started at the top of the hour!

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome everyone!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome DarwinM and Xiyang!

DarwinM: Thank you! when can we get started?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We're started! Please feel free to ask anything you'd like

DarwinM: ha ha, love it. Thanks Stacey. I was wondering what type of MBA programs you offer, as well as the application deadlines

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome wnader, Saurabh, masterasia and gbenbow!

masterasia26: hello everyone!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We are a full-time 2 year program--our next app deadline is January 13th

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: That is the last app deadline for international students and merit-based aid. We have an April 13th deadline for domestic applicants.

DarwinM: great. and I assume that to be eligible for any scholarships, financial aid (from within the U.S.), the applications need to be submitted by then, correct?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: That's correct DarwinM

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: DarwinM- anyone who wants to be considered for financial aid must submit by January 13th.

DarwinM: perfect, that is some good information to know. I am planning on taking the gmat on December 17th and will submit it at that time, if I have the rest of my application into you before the 13th, will it still be considered if the gmat scores get their a little bit later?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome RSahoo53cce1, EllyJ, APavri829c21, linzvallelil and bookeun!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: DarwinM--We should have them by the 13th if you test on 12/17--if they are a day or so late that's ok.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: What other questions can we answer for you today?

DarwinM: what would you say is the main aspect of an application that the admissions department looks at? gmat score? work experience?

EllyJ: I have been debating on whether or not to get my MBA immediately following undergrad...what is your opinion on going to grad school right away compared to getting work experience for a couple of years then going back?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome aatef27, k0n9 and johncmkenna!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: DarwinM--Overall, we look for evidence of academic potential based on both GMAT and GPA. We also look at Work Experience in quantity and quality as well as goal clarity, communication skills, leadership, etc. There is no "set formula"

RSahoo53cce1: Hello Ann / Stacey..

k0n9@hotmail.com: Hi all

DarwinM: great, thanks Stacey. what are your average gmat scores for entry

antuos@yahoo.com: Hi

RSahoo53cce1: I am applying with my GRE score. I believe its the first year that Penn State is accepting the GRE.. Is there any particular range your looking at?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: EllyJ--It is very competitive to apply without work experience. Admissions committees will ask for specific reasons why you want an MBA prior to working. If you have those--and a VERY strong academic record--you may want to consider it. Research your programs of interest and ask how they view that choice.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Hello RSahoo53cc1!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: DarwinM: Our class average for GMAT was 650 this year

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Darwin - Average is a 650

k0n9@hotmail.com: what is your GMAT range?

k0n9@hotmail.com: I saw 540-740?

EllyJ: Wonderful, thanks Stacey

bookeun: Can I apply for your school if my TOEFL does not reach to 100?

masterasia26: what about TOEFL? is it very restricted?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Kon9- yes, that is our approximate GMAT range. It varies by year.

RSahoo53cce1: Approximately what percentage of GRE applicants are you looking to incorporate this year?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: RSahoo53cc1--This is the 2nd year we will take GRE. We are looking for scores similar to that which we look for on the GMAT in regard to percentile. So, you could compare the range of 540-740 for the GMAT and get an idea what that translates to on GRE. A rough idea is 650+ on each section on the "old" GRE scale. We do not have a specific percentage dedicated to applicants who take the GRE

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: bookeun--We do require a minimum TOEFL score of 100

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: If you apply a point or two short, we will likely still look at your application but may require you to re-test

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome hhasna, TRANGNHUNG3007, PShen1d198c, sean\_taiwan and kbartels1!

masterasia26: if my toefl scores not reach 100, can I still apply?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: masterasia26--we require a 100. As I said, if you come in SLIGHTLY lower, we may still consider but ask you to re-test. Your best bet is to re-test and apply with 100+

k0n9@hotmail.com: What is an advantages of applying in the early round

EllyJ: If you are not satisfied with your GMAT score and choose to retake it, how will that influence my application? Will it be okay that I chose to retake it and improve my score, or will it be kind of looked down upon for having to retake it?

k0n9@hotmail.com: is it less competitive with less applicants?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: k0n9@hotmail.com--Committees are usually able to make decisions earlier, then you will know how to plan your future earlier! That, AND, at that time, the class hasn't really been formed yet, so there may be SLIGHTLY less competitiveness.

Gokul: I did my UG (Mechanical Engineering) and have 3 yrs of work exp in IT.. how would my specialization in Finance be considered? since I'm interested in shifting my career in to investment banking.. what is ur thought abt it??

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: However, do not sacrifice the quality of your application in order to apply early--we would rather see your best efforts a little bit later in the cycle if you are not truly ready to apply in round 1

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: EllyJ - It is definitely okay if you wan to retake. We look at the highest score.

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Gokul - I recommend you review your resume for skills which are transferrable between your current industry and the one you are looking to transition into. Focus on those in your application.

mlanenga: When the admissions committee looks at GMAT score, do they use the essays score, or just the GMAT score?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: mlanenga--we will look at both

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome Vivek.Patil001, Gokul and mlanenga!

PShen1d198c: Does Penn St. concentrate on Finance ?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: PShen--We do have a Finance concentration

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Our first year of coursework is our "core" curriculum (all students take the same classes). In year 2, you choose your concentration(s).

Gokul: I have completed CFA level -1 so is that enough to justify that I deserve a job related to finance?? even though my work exp is with IT industry??

PShen1d198c: Thank you, Stacey!

mlanenga: Any good links that highlight stories of alum.....what they studied and what they are doing now, for which company, etc

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Gokul - that is a great step. We have quite a few students who are switching industries or functions. You just need to tell your story, show your passions and help us see why the MBA makes sense for your goals.

Gokul: my profile Gmat 550; TOEFL 105; Work exp in IT 3yrs.. how r my chances for admission

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: mlanenga--Here is a general overview of companies we place people at: <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/careers.html/recruitc.html> (hang on and I'll send you more info on alumni)

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: mlanenga: This link gives you a view of some of our alumni and where they are now as well. <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/com.html/alumnin.html>

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Gokul - we review each application on an individual basis. Unfortunately we do not do pre-screenings.

Vivek.Patil001: Hello Stacey and Ann. This is Vivek Patil from India. I badly wanted to attend the twitter chats hosted by MBA.COM, but could not make it. Glad you are part of the Big 10 event. My question : I am planning to get my LOR from one of my clients and the other from my manager. Do you think it is a good idea to get one from the academia in case I am looking for financial aid?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek--If you have professional work experience, we would prefer letters from professional recommenders vs. academic

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek--You can also find the Twitter chat transcript on the MBA.com website. It should be posted by the end of this week.

Vivek.Patil001: Great. will look up. Thanks Stacey.

linzvallelil: Could you please let me know if the specialization on leadership the same as General Management?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome sumitgupta, APavri829c21 and chrsg83!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: linzvallelil--It is not. This link will specifically explain the strategic leadership concentration <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/curric.html/slcon.html>

linzvallelil: Thank you Stacey

saurabh.yadav@aol.com: Hi Stacey, can you let me know what is the avg. work exp of incoming class...and what the weightage does it has on admission process... I will have 62 months of exp by Sep 2012( 3 yrs in India and 2 Yrs with Allstate Northbrook)...but my GMAT is 630 ...I am confused if I need to retake it or not....I am an Indian applicant

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: saurabh.yadav@aol.com--Our average incoming class has about 4.5 years of work experience. We do not have a particular weighting, but will look at the overall quality of the application, including GMAT, rec letters, essays, transcripts, etc. As it is early in the process, a re-take could be helpful--especially if you are interested in merit-based aid. We will consider your highest score when we evaluate.

saurabh.yadav@aol.com: Thanks Stacey.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: If you are interested in merit-based aid, I would strongly urge you to consider a re-take.

PShen1d198c: Dear Stacey. I want to know about the teaching method about lecturers in finance concentration. Does professors lecture through theories in textbooks or use cases study ?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: PShen--different professors will vary, but overall the curriculum is a mix

Vivek.Patil001: I have a total work experience in Oracle Applications(an ERP) of about 6 years. I worked for the first two years on a couple of Supply Chain modules and then on some other modules. I am interested in the Supply Chain course offered by Smeal. Would my initial experience in SCM add some weight to my resume?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek--I think it would certainly be helpful if you are looking to go back into SCM. Ann--thoughts?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Vivek.Patil001 - it could add value if you learned skills that are transferrable to SCM. It is always helpful to be familiar with the function and be able to "speak the language" of the projects.

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome BlakeCarlton, ddoerfl and ayush.garg!

Vivek.Patil001: Thank you Stacey and Ann.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: While you are all thinking of questions, here's an admissions tip: If at all possible, try to visit the programs you are looking at. If you can't make the trip, look for virtual events that help you connect with current students so you can really get a feel for the program!

Vivek.Patil001: Will do. Thanks Stacey. Is there a way you could send us mail notifications of events that happen at Smeal? I mean I keep checking the website, but you know!

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Another admissions tip- Make sure your essays completely answer the question that is asked. If a friend or family member can read your essay and guess what the question was, then you are in good shape! Also, don't tell us what you think we want to hear. We prefer to get to know you through the essays, so make it personal.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek--We'd be happy to add you to our e-mail list! Please e-mail [smealmba@psu.edu](mailto:smealmba@psu.edu) and request it!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We also invite everyone to join us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter--we promote our events in the social media space as well

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome steven\_roberts & abisheksridhar!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: For those of you just joining us, how can we help you today?

PShen1d198c: I would like to know about career service. Does Penn St. assist international student to find internship ??

abisheksridhar: Hi Ann, thanks! I had a question on international students at Smeal. What is the acceptance percentage for International students?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome HHajir0a2c8a!

HHajir0a2c8a: Does Smeal offer application fee waivers?

HHajir0a2c8a: Hi Stacey

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: PShen - yes, we have a 4 person Career Service/Corporate relations team who works closely with all of our students on their internship and full time job search. While the onus is on the student to obtain placement, there are a lot of resources available and people to help along the way.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: abisheksridhar--Our final class is about 35-40% international students. The acceptance rate varies by year depending on the applicant pool.

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: HHajir0a2c8a - we offer fee waivers to reapplicants, alumni, referrals and military applicants. If you fall into one of those categories, e-mail us for your waiver code

HHajir0a2c8a: oh, unfortunately

HHajir0a2c8a: I don't

HHajir0a2c8a: but thanks for your assistance :)

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Happy to help!

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Welcome svogt!

PShen1d198c: Thank you Ann.

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: You are welcome PShen1d198c.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Here's another admissions tip: When proofreading your application, make sure to use not only grammar and spell check but ALSO have a HUMAN look at your materials. They can catch additional errors that the computer cannot!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome vignesh258, STingchecn\_Changa868e3 and OOmoniyiedcfef!

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Interview tip - if you are using a webcam, test out your technology prior to the interview! Technical issues happen, but anything we can avoid is a positive!

STingchen\_Changa868e3: Thank you Stacey

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: You're welcome!

STingchen\_Changa868e3: I have a question...I would retake my GMAT and toefl..so I am not sure whether I could catch up the R2 or not..

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Stingchen\_Changa868e3: You should still have time to test prior to the next deadline of January 13th

STingchen\_Changa868e3: can I apply other applicant document first?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: STingchen\_Changa868e3: You can start an application, but it will not be evaluated until it is complete

STingchen\_Changa868e3: and send the GMAT and ibt after the exam?

Vivek.Patil001: I know its difficult to answer this now but with a GMAT score of 680, 6 years of work-ex(3 years of work experience in the States) and a fairly good acad, Do I stand a chance of a merit-based aid? Or is a higher GMAT score expected? I ask this as I am still contemplating retaking the GMAT.

STingchen\_Changa868e3: ok I see~~

STingchen\_Changa868e3: thank you~

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek.Patil001--We cannot pre-evaluate applicants. However, I can tell you a higher GMAT can only help you.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We will take the highest score you report (however, some schools may view differently, so make sure to do your research)

Vivek.Patil001: Thank you Stacey.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome tahminarh@yahoo.com and SDasso7195d0

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: What questions can we answer for you today?

tahminarh@yahoo.com: thanks for welcoming Stacey!

tahminarh@yahoo.com: I'm Tahmina from Tajikistan, with work experience in development field of more than 6 years

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We're glad you could join us Tahmina!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: What can we help you with?

tahminarh@yahoo.com: what are the chance for development workers to get admission in MBA?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: tahminarh@yahoo.com: We admit people from different functions and industries from all over the world. We will look at quantity and quality of work, career progression, and how what you've done in the past fits with your future career goals (OR if you are changing careers and if so, why).

abisheksridhar: Stacey, I understand schools look for a well rounded candidate and not just any one part of the entire application, If I have a bad gmat score, what other part of my application (if anything) can make up for it?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: abisheksridhar: At this point, I would recommend re-taking the GMAT and trying to improve it. While it is not the only thing we look at, it is important. In addition, make sure that your essays are solid and well-written, and that you have chosen appropriate recommenders who can really help us get to know you.

tahminarh@yahoo.com: does Penn St support with scholarships? if yes, what are selection criteria?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: tahminarh: Yes, we award two types of merit-based aid--graduate assistantships and scholarships. We look at the overall application including GPA, transcripts, GMAT, resume, leadership experience, essays, recommendations, etc.

abisheksridhar: Thanks Stacey!

tahminarh@yahoo.com: Thanks Stacey

tahminarh@yahoo.com: more questions on scholarship... on average what range of students receive scholarships and what portion of program fee does it cover?

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: Another interview tip - This is our best chance to get to know you, and for you to get to know us. We always provide an opportunity for you to ask questions at the end. Try to ask insightful questions that will allow you to get to know the program on another level. The easy questions you can usually find the answers for on the website.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: tahminarh@yahoo.com: The graduate assistantship covers full tuition, plus a stipend in exchange for 10 hours of work/week for the college (you also get subsidized health insurance). The scholarships are ONE time awards in the first year that usually range from about 5-15K.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Tahminarh: Each year we grant about 30-35 assistantships and around 15ish scholarships

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: More information on scholarships and merit-based aid can be found here: <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/finance.html>

tahminarh@yahoo.com: thanks, it is really helpful to know... so meaning that for second year student should not count for the second year assistantship?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: tahminarh@yahoo.com: The assistantships are granted for two years--scholarships only for one.

tahminarh@yahoo.com: my apology if asking questions on which information is available on your website, I just didn't have the chance to look to your website yet... could I contact you separately by email later after I visit the website and if still questions remain then contact you?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: tahminarh@yahoo.com: Firstly, feel free to ask anything you'd like! Secondly, you are more than welcome to continue the conversation with us via e-mail. Our general e-mail is [smealmba@psu.edu](mailto:smealmba@psu.edu). I can be reached directly at [speeler@psu.edu](mailto:speeler@psu.edu).

tahminarh@yahoo.com: thanks a lot Stacey, very kind of you!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: You are very welcome.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Welcome cvsmech!

Ann--Penn St. Admissions: I have to sign off everyone. Good luck with your MBA applications!

Vivek.Patil001: Thanks Ann..

cvsmech: Thank you Stacey.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: I will be here for the remainder of the chat so please feel free to keep the questions coming!

cvsmech: Do you consider all applicants for scholarships or do they have to apply for it once they're offered admission?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: Your application for admission is also your application for merit-based aid. However, you must apply at or before the January 13th deadline to be considered.

Zaid Khan: hi

cvsmech: ok thanks.

Zaid Khan: can u plz tell if distance education prgm is available for MBA?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Hi Zaid--how can I help you

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Zaid: Our program is a two year full time program at University Park, PA--so it is residence only

cvsmech: I scored a 620 on the GMAT, but I'm retaking it on December 1st. on your website it says that the average gmat is 648-655. Is 620 a competitive score to get a serious consideration ?

Zaid Khan: ohh, :(

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: It will depend on your application as a whole. A 620 is lower than our average, but other parts of the application might help make up for that. We cannot evaluate that until we have a completed application. At this point, however, a re-take is probably a good decision. We will take the highest score you report.

cvsmech: ok thanks.

Vivek.Patil001: Stacey, could you please tell me the total fees for the course and living expenses with and without aid?

Vivek.Patil001: May be a ball-park figure!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek.Patil001: Here is a link to our tuition/fees page: <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/finance.html>

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: a graduate assistantship would cover tuition (there is also more info about aid at that link)

Vivek.Patil001: Thanks Stacey...will hope for an aid(fingers crossed...:))

manisjce: Hi Stacey. I have applied to Penn state in the first round as Smeal is top on my list. I saw the portal and it only shows my TOEFL score as received. However I got confirmation from GMAC that my GMAT official copy is also delivered. Will it take time to update information in the online portal?

cvsmech: Quick question, I'm a Canadian citizen. Do I need a student visa?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: manisjce: Yes, it typically takes a bit to update everything. You can always double check with us, however, if we are missing something, we'll be contacting you directly!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: Yes, you will need an F-1 visa

manisjce: Thanks Stacey. For assistantships and scholarship consideration does Smeal have a minimum GMAT score?

SDasso7195d0: Where would I find the average GPA and GMAT scores of your graduate student?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: manisjce: There is no minimum, but many who receive merit-based aid are above the class average.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: SDasso7195d0: Our class profile is here: <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/profile.html>

cvsmech: most of the seats are filled in R1 and R2 in many schools. So does applying in R3, being an international student, decreases my likelihood of getting accepted?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: It depends on the school. We do not accept international applicants for round three at Smeal.

manisjce: Thanks Stacey. You are very fast in your response!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: you should ask the programs you are applying to directly

Vivek.Patil001: Stacey, I have started with the application process for Round-2. While at that, I am also planning to re-take the GMAT and hoping for a better score. Can I send the new GMAT score after the application submission? Will it even be considered?

cvsmech: I am actually asking you about Smeal college in particular.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek.Patil001: In order to consider the application complete we must have all of the pieces. You can, however, note on the application your re-take date. If it is very close to the deadline, we may still be able to consider it

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: cvsmech: The last opportunity to apply as an international applicant is in round 2--deadline January 13th.

cvsmech: Thank you Stacey!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: you're welcome!

Vivek.Patil001: Is there a similar event planned next month? I will be mostly done with the application and might have some last-minute questions.

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek.Patil001: There is not a chat planned, but you could certainly reach out to each school with questions

Vivek.Patil001: Thanks Stacey. I am interested in Smeal(#1 on my list)!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: We look forward to seeing your application Vivek!

Vivek.Patil001: Stacey, Can I request mail Id's of one of the professors/lecturers and an alum?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek: We can make that connection for you. Please e-mail me directly with what you are interested in and we can go from there matching you up. My e-mail is [speeler@psu.edu](mailto:speeler@psu.edu)

Vivek.Patil001: Awesome. Will do.

Vivek.Patil001: Stacey, does it matter if your recommender is a Manager or a team lead or a director?

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Vivek: No, it does not--a supervisor or leader who knows you well is what is important

Vivek.Patil001: Thank you Stacey. You were really helpful. Am signing off. Its 1:15 AM here...:) Thanks again. Hope to see you there!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Thanks for joining us!

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: Any last questions? We have about 5 minutes left in the chat...

Stacey-Penn St. Admissions: As we wind down, I'd like to again thank you all for participating today. If you have additional questions, we can be reached at [smealmba@psu.edu](mailto:smealmba@psu.edu). Our website is [www.smeal.psu.edu/mba](http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba) if you'd like to learn more about the Penn State Smeal MBA program!