

Username	Message
Scott MBA Admissions	Welcome and thank you for joining us. We will be getting the chat under way at 1:00pm EST.
girish84	Hello Stacey,
Stacey MBA Admissions	Hello! We'll start in just a moment
girish84	No problem
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?
anil.rao	Hello Stacey, firstly, A very good afternoon! :)
ebs5017	Hello everyone. I was wondering how the course load differs from traditional undergrad studies?
Stacey MBA Admissions	Good afternoon Anil!
Jingwen 1st year	Good Afternoon ebs517
ebs5017	and to you Jingwen!
girish84	<p>Hello! Let me introduce myself! I am Girish from India.</p> <p>My question is : What is the current batch size for the full time mba and is the school planning to increase/decrease it?</p>
Stacey MBA Admissions	My question is about the culture - in terms of age. I will be a career switcher, but w/20 years' work experience. Have you had students in the FT program who are in their mid-40's?

Wesley	Good afternoon. I'm from Taiwan and its midnight, now.
Stacey MBA Admissions	Girish--our 1st year class is 84, our 2nd year class is 103--normally we aim to have our class size range between 85-100 students
Stacey MBA Admissions	Welcome Wesley!
girish84	What is the GMAT score range would you want an International candidate to have ?
ga	Stacy, we currently only have five students in the first year MBA, and about the same for the second year.
Jingwen 1st year	About the course load in Smeal, it is normal and well designed. We have 5 courses in the first module, and more than 20%of our course is case study based.
Stacey MBA Admissions	Girish--overall, our GMAT average is usually around a 650. So, you would certainly want to aim for the average or above. There is not a set score we look for as we will evaluate your application in its entirety and weigh other factors as well.
bpollac2	Work experience is obviously very important before starting an MBA. If an applicant completed 4 years worth of full time internships with the same company during undergraduate studies would that be considered competitive in the admissions process?

anil.rao	My question, is about the curriculum! Since I am from India, academic curriculum in India is very different from that of Smeal's. What help can a candidate like me, expect from the faculty and the Seniors, to get adujusted to Smeal's curriculum initially?
Jingwen 1st year	This number will increase in the following 2 modules.
Stacey MBA Admissions	bpollac2--Work Experience is only officially counted as post-undergraduate full-time work experience. We will, however, see that you've done internships on your application and consider that in the evaluation of your application.
ebs5017	has anyone taken the gmats yet? what should one expect?
bpollac2	Is Smeal on the semester system or tri-semester?
girish84	If i had to name one stream such as Finance, Marketing, Supply chain etc for which Smeal is well known for , which one would it be ?
Stacey MBA Admissions	bpollac2--we are on the semester system
Richard first year	ebs5017, the average GMAT score here at Smeal is 650.
girish84	Hi Richard,
girish84	Do you see the score going up this year?
Jingwen 1st year	anil.rao, actually since we are a small program and the relationship between classmates is really close. We have 5 members in our group, which is really diverse.

Stacey MBA Admissions	Question for a 1st year - What about Smeal made you decide that that was the school for you?
Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--as we are early in the application process, it's hard to say what our average will be...last year it was a 648 and this year it was 652...so we hover right in that 650 area
Richard first year	bpollac2, we are on the semester system but each semester is broken into two mods.
Winston first year	Hi, Girish. We rank high (Top 5) in Supply Chain Management. But smeal is also competitive in Finance and Marketing, as well as the other majors.
anil.rao	Second question - I will have 3 years of post undergrad professional work experience as Interior Engineer, 2 years of post undergrad academic experience as a research assistant and 2 and half years pre-undergrad work exp as a student intern. How would smeal school consider?...and with this work experience what is the GMAT score Smeal would expect from a applicant like me?
anil.rao	Thanks for the response Jingwen! :)
Stacey MBA Admissions	bpollac2--the "mods" or modules are 7 weeks each. You take one set of classes, then have a one week immersion (on a particular topic like careers, negotiations or service), then you take a 2nd set of classes for the last 7 weeks of the semester
bpollac2	Do the faculty have industry work experience or mostly academic?

Jingwen 1st year	<p>anil.rao, (cong.)So, if you have any question or problems in catching up or adjusting your own background with Smeal's courses, your group members will be more than willing to help. Moreover, all of our professors and faculty are willing to help you in solving academic problems.</p>
Richard first year	<p>The key factors in choosing Smeal was that the alumni association is one of the biggest in the U.S., and the overall reputation of Penn State itself.</p>
girish84	<p>How many Indians have you admitted in the current batch. I am looking for diversity in international students as well.</p>
anil.rao	<p>Thankyou, Jingwen! Could you please throw some light on the second question of mine?</p>
jehunter	<p>Hello! Â On the application, I noticed you list who will be recommending you, is there an online component to their recommendations or are they to send their letters to the applicant to submit with the supplemental information?</p>
ebs5017	<p>just wondering, am I the only person who hails from the US here? not that that's a bad thing, i love diversity</p>
Scott MBA Admissions	<p>Hi Anil.rao. On average last years incoming class had 4.5 years work experiene and a GMAT score of 652. It would be impossible to say without seeing this years applicant pool what to expect this year, but it should be similar.</p>

Sta	girish--each year about 30% of the class is international and 70% is from the U.S. Currently, between both classes we have 20 different countries represented.
jehunter	Hi ebs5017, I'm also from the US.
anil.rao	Thankyou Scott! :)
girish84	What special steps did Smeal take in the last two years to combat the recession while placing their students?
anil.rao	Can you let us know something about financing option for international students at smeal? Are they eligible to get assistantships?
Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--We have stepped up our Career Services and Corporate Relations even more so than normal to provide extra recruiting opportunities for our students. We've also had additional conference calls and info sessions with alumni and recruiters to help specifically aid our students during the recession.
Richard first year	jehunter, The recommendations are to be submitted online, an e-mail will go out to your recommender from Smeal to request your recommendation, but, you can have your recommender send in a hard copy as well.
jehunter	Great, thanks Richard!
Stacey MBA Admissions	Overall, our Career Services team is very proactive in helping our students in all economic climates

girish84	Thank you Stacey :-)- Do you check an application as soon as it is recieved. What I mean to say is, if I submit my application in the next week , will it be reviewed immediately? In what time period can one expect a decision?
Scott MBA Admissions	<p>jehunter also use the online recommendation form from our website here http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/application-landing-page as opposed to listing the names in the application itself.</p>
Jingwen 1st year	<p>anil.rao, we have both merit based assistantships as well as scholarships to aid international students</p>
girish84	<p>Jingwen- Suppose one does not get scholarships, can he/she then get an assistanship from the school?</p>
anil.rao	<p>Approximately how many first year students win these awards, every year? What are the chances of getting other forms of financial aid?</p>
jehunter	<p>jehunter: Thank you Scott! Another recommendation question, do you prefer two or three recommendations?</p>

Stacey MBA Admissions	<p>girish--we try to review applications as soon as possible. How quickly an application is reviewed depends on where in the process we are. Right now, applications are just starting to come in, so we would probably look at it within a few days (however, a decision may come much later after the committee has done a final review). As we get into the cycle, applicaiton volume rises and it may take longer until someone sees your application. We do our best to review things as quickly as possible. We want to make sure we evaluate each application thoroughly and equitably.</p>
Richard first year	<p>jehunter, you only have to provide two recommendations.</p>
Scott MBA Admissions	<p>Hi anil.rao in last years class of 84 students we were able to award 30 Assistantships and another 15 scholarships. They are the only forms of financial aid that we offer directly through our program.</p>
jehunter	<p>Thank you Richard</p>
anil.rao	<p>Thankyou, Scott! :)</p>
jehunter	<p>Do most MBA students live on campus or in off campus apartments?</p>
girish84	<p>If an international student has a co-signer in US, do you help him to get a loan?</p>
Jingwen 1st year	<p>jehunter, most MBA students live off campus.</p>
anil.rao	<p>What does the admissions committe expect to see in recommendation letters?</p>

Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--the school does not assist students with loans. It is the responsibility of the student to secure any private lending they may require.
Richard first year	jehunter, most live off campus, but you need to start apartment hunting early, the sooner the better.
MFazzolari	does Smeal provide a team based learning environment? are the classes lecture based or more interactive?
jehunter	Thanks Jingwen and Richard! Does living off campus make you feel disconnected at all?
girish84	Is Smeal coming to India this year for any of the fairs?
Stacey MBA Admissions	anil--the admissions committee would like to see thoughtfully written and detailed recommendation letters that allow us to get a better picture of who the applicant is and why they would be a good fit for the program
anil.rao	Okay, Thankyou !
Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--we will not be coming to the MBA Fair tours, but our Associate Dean will be visiting an education fair in Bangalore at the beginning of November
CWALSH00e4d5	what's a typical GMAT score for incoming grad students?
ebs5017	I have class now but I want to thank everyone for their help...to those applying I wish you all the best of luck with the process, I am a senior here at penn state right now and I couldn't recommend penn state more, that's why I'm hoping to stay around for two more years!!


Stacey MBA Admissions	ebs5017--thank you for joining us!
Scott MBA Admissions	Cwalsh00e4d5 Our average GMAT score for last years incoming student was 652.
girish84	If one has a poor verbal & essay score in GMAT and a good IELTS score, will the effect be nulified?
Winston first year	Hi, Jehunter. We don't feel disconnected at all. Our community is well-connected. In fact, one of the reasons that many candidates choose Smeal is that Smeal pay attention to the networks among students.
Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--we will look at both test scores and consider overall consistency of performance
CWALSH00e4d5	does Smeal have anything set up to facilitate new students who have young children?
kezab	Incoming grad student
jehunter	Thanks Winston!
Jingwen 1st year	Hello kezab!
girish84	Does Smeal accept IELTS?
Richard first year	MFazzolari: The MBA program is setup as a team based learning environment. In the first year most classes consist of only team projects, but some subjects like accounting and statistics will be individual. The second year will depend on your focus. As far as the classes go, they are a good mix between interactive and lecture

Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--we have an organization called Lion Partners that helps partners and families get to know each other. While there are not "official" programs for students with young children, there are many options for child care available at PSU and in State College, and certainly many students in the program with young children who are happy to share their experiences and input
kezab	I am putting together my Smeal application right now
MFazzolari	Thank you Richard.
kezab	International applicant - any advice?
anil.rao	Can you please elaborate about the 360 Degree leadership feedback,?
Scott MBA Admissions	girish. Yes we do accept both TOEFL and IELTS. We have a TOEFL minimum score of 100, with a minimum of 20 in the speaking section. On IELTS we have a minimum score of 7.0.
CWALSH00e4d5	I've been out of school for a while now...any suggestions on the best approach to get ready for the GMAT? i.e. books, online, software...there's a lot out there.
girish84	I aspire to become an entrepreneur!! Does Smeal have any on-field visits to startups/ sector specific businesses. This would help me gain diverse knowledge.
Stacey MBA Admissions	anil--the 360 feedback is a process used in executive coaching that we have brought into the MBA community. It is meant to help give students constructive feedback from their peers and network

Winston first year	Hi, Kezab. I think one of the advice is to start early. Smeal MBA program attracts a pool of competitive candidates every year. From my personal experience, to start early really gets rewards.
kezab	Good question CWALSH00e4d5.....you took the words right out of my mouth!
kezab	thanks Winston. I am just getting through my essays and will be able to submit
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--There are many options for GMAT preparation available. It really depends what kind of help and how much help you need. Some people fare well with a book--others do better in a class room learning environment with an instructor. It's really a very individual choice dependent on your needs and learning style. One thing you can do is take a free practice test online (mba.com, www.review.com or www.kaptest.com) to see where you are now with the exam content vs. where you need to be when you take the actual exam
Wesley	What do most students do after class?
CWALSH00e4d5	There is so much to do at Penn State it is tough to answer that question!
Richard first year	girish84: Yes, in March the first year MBAA's spend a week visiting a foreign company learning how they do business. International student will visit a local company in San Francisco, California.

Jingwen 1st year	Actually, we have 4 hours classes from Monday to Thursday, and we need to balance career events, networking and study of course.
girish84	Thanks Richard :)
Wesley	Thanks Jingwen :)
kezab	no classes on fridays? is that when extras like the career fairs you are talking about happen?
anil.rao	Thankyou Stacey! I have one last question about the global immersion. Considering the fact that Smeal school is ranked as a top school for a functional concentration in Supply chain management, how differently is an application for this concentration evaluated?? What are the typical qualities expected in these applicants?
girish84	What is the application to acceptance ratio at Smeal?
Scott MBA Admissions	Girish last year we had an acceptance rate of approximatly 1/3.
anil.rao	And What experience does the global immersion to a student with functional concetration in SCM,?
Jingwen 1st year	Hey guys,tememporarily we don't have classes on Friday in the first Mod, but actually we have career events, networkings, workshops, team meetings on that day,

Stacey MBA Admissions	anil--overall, we are looking for applicants that are a good fit for the program across the board. So, again, our interest is evaluating candidates as equitably as possible no matter what concentration they choose
anil.rao	Does having a relevant back ground work experiecne in a company like General Motors, act as an added advantage for an applicant aspiring to choose SCM as a functional concentration?
CWALSH00e4d5	does a certification through world campus in a related field factor into consideration at admission?
CWALSH00e4d5	obviously the GMAT would
anil.rao	Does smeal school of business , provide a pre-application review?
Stacey MBA Admissions	What kind of prep do you recommended (calculus, accounting, stats, micro, macro)?
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--we will look at a certification as part of your application package, but there is no specific "weight" for it. If it is a fit with your goals and career path, certainly that will be a favorable element on your application
Richard first year	anil.rao, I'm sorry, but they do not.
Scott MBA Admissions	anil.rao every part of an applicants background will be considered for admission and the stronger and more relevent your work the better.
girish84	Can we scan the transcripts & IELTS score reports to Smeal for application review ?
anil.rao	Okay! Thank you Stacey, Scott, Jingwen and Richards for your time and patience. Have a great day ahead. Bye!
Stacey MBA Admissions	Thank you for joining us Anil!

CWALSH00e4d5	anyone you guys know of work full-time while enrolled full-time?
anil.rao	The pleasure is mine! :). Bye!
Jingwen 1st year	Good luck Anil.rao!
Scott MBA Admissions	girish: We will accept scanned copies of both transcripts and IELTS reports for initial review, however we will require official copies of all documents before a decision can be delivered.
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--No. Given the workload and demands, there simply would not be time
Stacey MBA Admissions	We do, however, have students who work part-time. The recommended maximum work load for a part-time job would be 10 hours per week
kezab	that really is there bare minimum.
CWALSH00e4d5	conundrum
Richard first year	 Stacy:For accounting, you will have pre term accounting that will begin before you arrive here at Smeal and conclude after orientation. As far as statistics goes, the class starts off really slow and will progress incrementally. Any experience you have in these fields is going to be a benefit, but none are going to require a background.
kezab	dont the graduate assistantships take up a lot of time? how do they work anyway?
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--yes, it definitely can be a challenge to make the decision about a full-time program and leaving a full-time job
jehunter	Thank you for all of your help Scott, Stacey, Richard, and Jingwen!
girish84	Richard/Jingwen/Winston -Have any one of you planned for a finance concentration?

	<p>Kezab--Graduate Assistantships for 1st years are 10 hours of work per week. In the 2nd year some go to 20 hours per week. The graduate assistantship is a merit based award that covers tuition and pays a stipend in exchange for work for the college. It also comes with the benefit of subsidized health insurance.</p>
Stacey MBA Admissions	
Richard first year	girish84, I am in a finance focus
	You are welcome jehunter!
Stacey MBA Admissions	
kezab	Thanks Stacey! I am really excited about my application.
Stacey MBA Admissions	We will look forward to receiving your application kezab!
Stacey MBA Admissions	What other questions can we answer for you?
	Do we have student clubs for each concentration?
girish84	
manyu09	Hi Stacey, I plan to apply for MBA in marketing, are there any fix number of admissions from a particular undergrad for example engineering, finance
kezab	I was just saying earlier that I am an international applicant from Rwanda (Jingwen was telling me how I am the furthest applicant so far) any pointers for me...I still have my essays to write then I will able to hand in my application. I am trying to get in with the early birds ;)
Jingwen 1st year	Yes, we have associations for almost all the concentration, Supply chain, marketing, finance etc.

Stacey MBA Admissions	manyu09--there is not a fixed number of spots based on undergrad major
Stacey MBA Admissions	What is the matriculation rate?
manyu09	Is there any preference, or is it the whole application that is considered
Stacey MBA Admissions	kezab--applying early is an excellent plan so long as you feel you have had enough time to put together the best application you can
Richard first year	Stacy: It is very very rare that someone does not complete the MBA program.
CWALSH00e4d5	are last years grads running into problems finding postioions due to the horrid job market?
CWALSH00e4d5	yes, horrid
kezab	if you are recommended to the program by a Smeal Alumni, does it have any impact on your application?
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--it has been a little more challenging than normal for some grads, but overall, nothing out of the ordinary for what the program would see in any recession period. We are still placing people and get word of hires regularly. Our career services team will continue to work with graduates as long as they need support with placement.
Scott MBA Admissions	Manyu09: All parts of the application (gmat, gpa, essays, letters of rec, work experience) are taken into consideration for each applicant. Also should you be granted an admissions interview after your initial review, that also plays a role. No one part is anymore important than another.
kezab	what is the average undergrad GPA of your last in-take
Scott MBA Admissions	Kezab, The incoming GPA for this years incoming class was 3.3.

manyu09	The reason I ask this question is because I am an Engineer, but I want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, will I be equally compared with an applicant who has an undergrad in business.
Richard first year	kezab: Only if the recommendation is a solid one. More consideration goes to the quality of the recommendation not the person it comes from.
Scott MBA Admissions	Here is what the a new first year student looks like in terms of averages http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/profile.html
Stacey MBA Admissions	Re evaluation of GMAT scores - I scored much higher on Q on one test and lower on V, and the next time much higher on V but lower on Q. Do you review only the scores from a single testing, or each part?
Winston first year	Hi, Stacy. We'll consider the highest GMAT score.
Scott MBA Admissions	manyu: Most definetly. First of all we are looking for a diverse class of students with many different backgrounds. Also we are looking for strong candidates who will fit well in the program. And lastly our program is constructed in a way that allows for you to get on track with or without a strong background in business very quickly.
girish84	If a student has a good application but a low GMAT score, does Smeal give him a chance to sit for it again and based on his score grant admission or reject him?
manyu09	Thank you, Scott.

Stacey MBA Admissions	girish--it really depends on the situation and the rest of the application. I can't really give an absolute answer on that without having evaluated each part of the application.
Stacey MBA Admissions	Are students assigned to cohorts/teams for the 1st year courses?
Richard first year	Stacy: Yes
CWALSH00e4d5	how many people are enrolled in the MBA program at University park at any given time?
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--right now, we have 187 enrolled between the 2 years
Stacey MBA Admissions	it was also (coincidentally) 187 last year...prior to that I believe it was 171...
Stacey MBA Admissions	Question for a 1st year - What advice do you wish you had taken or been given when you were in our shoes, i.e., researching schools and working on applications?
Wesley	Thankyou Stacey, Richard, Jingwen, Winston and Scott. I think I would have to go to bed. Got plenty useful information tonight ..
Wesley	this afternoon....I mean....
girish84	Thank you all - Stacey,Jingwen,Richard,Winston & Scott. You have answered my queries in minute detail. I will be applying soon :) Also thanks to the participants for posting insightful questions.

Winston first year	You're welcome, Wesley. Btw, I'm from Xiamen.
Jingwen 1st year	Good nite Wesley, thank you for joining us!
Richard first year	Stacy: Proof read your application. Really have a reason you want to come here, if you are sincere things will go a lot smoothly.
CWALSH00e4d5	what is the age range in the MBA program the past few years?
Richard first year	CWALSH00e4d5: 21-51
Stacey MBA Admissions	Question for AdCom staff - When marketing brand Smeal, who do you find your closest competitors are?
CWALSH00e4d5	that 21-51 age range is for full-time students, on campus?
Stacey MBA Admissions	Stacy--Some of our competitors are other Big Ten schools, and of course other schools in Pennsylvania...but it really depends on what you are looking for in a program and what exactly you are comparing.
manyu09	How many international application do you plan to take this year?
joyjia	Hi, will you consider the senior undergrad with not very strong working experience background?
Richard first year	manyu09: Approximately 1/3, but it depends mostly on the quality of the applicant pool
CWALSH00e4d5	do you guys see people who were not accepted one year reapplying after making adjustments?

Scott MBA Admissions	CWALSH: Yes between the two classes we have that wide range of ages, here full time on campus.
Stacey MBA Admissions	How is grading done? On a fixed curve?
Richard first year	Stacy: It is mostly done on a curve, but the teacher has the right to chose
Scott MBA Admissions	CWALSH: We do sometimes see reapplicants improve the parts of their application needed and get accepted in a following year. We offer for all students denied to the program, a feedback session over the summer to talk about what they can improve upon.
Stacey MBA Admissions	We have a few minutes left--are there any other questions we can answer for you today?
kezab	I am going to head out...it is 8:22 in the evening here
joyjia	Will you consider the senior undergraduate student with not enough working experience?
kezab	it was lovely chatting with you. when is the next one?
Stacey MBA Admissions	Thank you for joining us kezab!
Stacey MBA Admissions	Thank you! This has been very helpful.
CWALSH00e4d5	thanks guys
Scott MBA Admissions	Good evening Kezab thanks for coming!
Stacey MBA Admissions	The next chat is October 20th at 8pm EDT
CWALSH00e4d5	Who a better MBA student, Scott or Stacey?

Richard first year	joyjia: Yes, but we will be looking for very strong GMAT and academic scores
Stacey MBA Admissions	CWALSH--I'll go with Scott :)
joyjia	Will internship or part time job help?
manyu09	do u consider internship when evaluating your applicants
CWALSH00e4d5	very humble, Stacey, best of luck
Stacey MBA Admissions	joyjia--an internship experience or a part-time job could be valuable experience to show on you application--especially if you have had the opportunity to build leadership skills
Stacey MBA Admissions	internships or part time jobs will not be considered the equivalent of full time work experience
Stacey MBA Admissions	thanks for joining us CWALSH
joyjia	Ok, thank you for your answer!
Richard first year	manyu09: Yes, but not very strongly. We don't consider it as official work experience, but it is a plus to mention it.
manyu09	Thanks Stacey
Stacey MBA Admissions	you are welcome manyu09
manyu09	Thanks richard
Scott MBA Admissions	If anyone has any other questions in the future and needs a quick answer you can email us at smealmba@psu.edu anytime.
	Thank you to everyone for joining us today. We strongly encourage you to start your application early!

Stacey MBA Admissions	
manyu09	Thanks
manyu09	everyone
	Have a great day or night--goodbye everyone!
Stacey MBA Admissions	
manyu09	It has been really helpful
Stacey MBA Admissions	Glad to hear it--thanks!