

| Username | Message |
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| siddarth16 | siddarth16: Hi Moderators |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): Hello Siddarth16, welcome to the chat! We will start in a couple of minutes |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal 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(Jingwen First Year):Hello Everyone, wecome to online chat! |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Â Hello everyone, I am Saurabh Jhamb, a prospective student from Delhi, India |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Hi Saurabh |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Saurabh! |
| wanghe | wanghe: Hello, Stacey, Scott and Anas, Phil, Jingwen |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): Hello Wanghe, glad to have you in the chat today. Feel free to ask any question |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Hello All, happy to be here and looking forward to the chat! |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: Hello Everyone. I am Siddarth. I am a Post Graduate in Engineering from Chennai, India. |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): Hello, everybody! Glad to have you here, feel free to start asking questions! We're here to help you! |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: This is Sid :) here. I am a re-applicant and I applied last year. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Welcome to the chat Sid |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: So my question goes out to anyone who can answer. What is one sure way of differentiating yourself in such a competitive application season? |

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| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: well, let me start with my queries...first of all thanks for taking time out for us. my question is related to sending official transcripts |
| wanghe | wanghe: As a international applicant, I want to know whether you have a Toefl score minimum limit (such as IBT 100/PBT 600)? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Well, Sid, I don't think there's ONE way-- depending on your experiences, there are many things that may help you stand out |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): ssheth26, from a student perspective I think the most important differentiator is be yourself and show your leadership |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Hi wanghe, our TOEFL minimum is IBT 100 w/a 20 in the speaking section |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: what exactly do you consider official, does it need to be sent directly by university? and also can we send the copies attested by notaries? |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Let me brief you guys a little bit about my background. Went to Purdue for my undergrad in Chemical Engineering. Worked for L'oreal in NJ, then for an energy tax consulting startup in Long Island. For the last 2 years, I've been handling my family business in India. |
| Scott | Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Hello meal@smeal what country is your undergraduate education from? |

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| srteixeira | srteixeira: I am interested in hearing from either Ana, Jingwen or Rajeev about your experience so far? Can you talk a little bit about Orientation and your first semester? Is it what you expected or have some parts of the program surprised you? Thank you. |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: What can I do to strengthen my re-application? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @ scott India |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Sid--in general, some candidates choose to re-take the GMAT, others improve their essays, some choose new recommenders--there are several things you can do-including update your resume to reflect anything you've added to our experiences in the past year |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: I have so far managed to increase my gmat and improve my essays |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): ssheth: I think like Ana said. Leadership qualities are key. One aspect you could highlight is your ability to run your family business. Smeal is looking for entrepreneurial, innovative people to be a part of the program. So definitely would mention these traits. |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): srteixeira- As an international student, I feel Orientation was really helpful for me in getting to know the program and the town. We got overview about what our curriculum is going to be, and how career services is going to help us in job hunting market. Meanwhile, we have introductory sessions for Financial Accounting, which greatly helped me to build a base for further study. |

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| Scott | <p>Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Meal: we will require 2 official copies (from you University) of your marksheets, certificates (provisionnal and graduation), as well as 2 attested copies of your diploma.</p> |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Awesome answer Rajeev :) |
| ssheth26 | <p>ssheth26: This is a question on behalf of a friend of mine who could not be here today: What is the standard formatting for your essays and what is the leeway on the word limits?</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Rajeev First Year):</p> <p>Hi rteixeira; I am actually a domestic student..though the name could suggest otherwise ;) However, I know that the orientation does a lot to cater towards international students. For instance, there was an international alumni panel one of the days, as well as plenty of social activities to get you acclimated to the new environment. Plus, you have many others in the same situation which helps to build comeraderie.</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions):</p> <p>Roughly 1 page is preferred--if it is slightly over or under, that's ok. We are more concerned with WHAT you have to say and HOW you say it vs. exact word count.</p> |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @scott by diploma do you mean degree? i dont hold any diploma |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Thank you for that reply :) |

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| Scott | Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Yes your degree certificate and graduation certificate. If you have not yet graduated you will have to supply the graduate certificate when you do. |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: As a re-applicant do I need to resubmit my transcripts? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Sid--no, you do not as long as we have them from a previous application |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: That works :) |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: If there are any second year students on the chat, can you please talk about Global Immersion in the spring? Or other experiences to study abroad? |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: And thanks Rajeev and Jungwen for those answers! |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: My question is to any moderator. I have done a lot of social work. Do they help in my admission |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: What are your acceptance rates for re-applicants v/s first time applicants? Any significant statistical difference? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: hi stacey and scott, I have used Additional information section in the application for explaining my choice of recommenders, little bit about my volunteer work (that I couldn't cover in any of the essays) and my hobbies, is this a legitimate use of this space? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Community and volunteer experiences will certainly be looked at in the process--if you have been very involved with an organization or group, make sure that you do talk about that--especially any leadership experiences |

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| danieltzp | danieltzp: Hi, My name is Daniel. If I took GMAT couple times, do you consider the highest one? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Yes meal@smear, that is a good use of that space |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): srteixeira: Sorry, there are no second years present but I'll do my best to answer your question. Global Immersion is the main opportunity to study abroad, however there is the possibility to study abroad during the first semester of your second year. This is difficult though, as most students are busy with their job search/internship. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): danieltzp--yes, we do look at the highest score but we will see all scores that have been reported |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): srteixeira, unfortunately no 2nd years are on chat at the moment; however, I am planning on going to Shanghai, China at the end of February, which I am greatly looking forward to. We will get the opportunity for a week to visit companies and learn about the culture. Also, spring break is a week afterwards, so there is an option to visit other areas like Beijing, Japan, Hong Kong later on.. Based on feedback from 2nd years, it is an amazing experience.. |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Thanks Phil! |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: And thanks Rajeev- sounds so exciting! Enjoy your trip! |
| | danieltzp: |

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| danieltzp | <p>Hi, Stacey, thanks for the answer. It is good to know that SMEAL will consider the highest one, but will taking GMAT several time affect the chance of getting in? for example, if I took GMAT five times until I get the score I am satisfied with, will the other scores negatively affect my eligibility?</p> |
| srteixeira | <p>srteixeira: Can current students please discuss the community at Smeal? I would love to hear more about the camaraderie between students.</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): daneiltzp--not necessarily, however, if you have taken the exam many times and are still not understanding the content, that may indicate that you might face some challenges with some of the academics--especially in the quantitative portion</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- I am glad you ask about community. We are very close group of classmates, we all try to help each other...and I really mean it!</p> |
| siddarth16 | <p>siddarth16: Can somebody give a brief explanation about the associations or clubs at the Smeal.</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Rajeev First Year): srteixeira, from my personal experience, the community has been one of the best parts of the program. The size of the program allows for a very tight, close-knit bunch of students. Everyone is very accomodative, whether you are talking about students, faculty, staff, etc. It is great to be able to have friends whom you can rely on...</p> |
| ssheth26 | <p>ssheth26: Do you ask for a re-application essay and would it be a judicious use of the optional essay? Is the optional essay only rereved for explaining extenuating circumstances?</p> |

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| srteixeira | srteixeira: Thanks Ana, can you please state some examples of how you help each other? |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Thanks Rajeev, that's great to hear! |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: How entrepreneurial are the students at Smeal? |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): siddarth16- We have the MBA Association, which is the overarching board of the MBA students. The main role of the MBAA is to make sure that the voice of the students is heard by faculty and staff. Then, we have other organizations like Minority, Women, Marketing, Net Impact, and 3 or 4 more that provide students who are members unique opportunities for professional development and fun |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Is anyone on the chat concentrating in marketing? If so, can you talk a little bit about your marketing classes so far, the professors, etc? |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): siddarth16: Sure I will talk about associations here at Smeal. We have many associations. We have Supply Chain, Marketing, and Finance associations. Meanwhile, we also have a team managing Nittany Fund, where members can have the true experience of investment management. For husbands and wives, we have amazing Lion's Partner, in which spouses gather and have fun while MBA students focus on the program. |

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| Scott | <p>Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): If you are reapplying you will need to complete the essays from this year. We do not offer an optional essay, just a place for optional information. You can use that space to explain anything about your application or yourself that you may feel needs to be touched upon.</p> |
| meal@smeal | <p>meal@smeal: thats very good to AnaS, are students divided in cohorts for projects?</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Rajeev First Year):</p> <p>siddarth16, we have various clubs listed on the student exchange: http://students.smeal.psu.edu/</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): We have many students who are looking to start their own business' at some point in the future. Within our vast alumni network, we certainly have those who have done just that and who can be called upon as resources for current students</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- One example: Last semester we have a classmate that spend his whole afternoon giving review of accounting to almost 50 of us,when he could had been studying for the final that was the next day.</p> |
| ssheth26 | <p>ssheth26: Thanks Scott and Stacey :)</p> |
| siddarth16 | <p>siddarth16: Thank you Rajeev, Jingwen and Ana</p> |
| ssheth26 | <p>ssheth26: can I concentrate both in Innovation/Entrepreneurship and QMM?</p> |
| jindal.pankaj | <p>jindal.pankaj: Hi all, my name is Pankaj, I am planning to apply for the Feb 1st deadline.</p> |
| srteixeira | <p>srteixeira: Wow, that's great Ana, thanks!</p> |

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| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- the MBA programs office assign you in teams of 5 each semester for the first year. So, you do team based projects in almost every class. The team skills you learn from this are a big asset that recruiters coming to Smeal comend a lot |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): ssheth, we have many students here who have started their own businesses prior to coming here. I actually worked independently as an equity trader for a while, where I managed client equity accounts for a living. I will concentrate in Finance and Entrepreneurship to try utilize some of these skills and gain new ones. We also have a few students who have run their own supply chain companies.... |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Hi Pankaj, welcome to the chat! |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: Thanks Stacey |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: I notice that the deadline for financial aid consideration is Feb 1, and the last deadline to submit is April 15. If I submit the application after Feb 1 but before April 15, will I not be given financial aid consideration at all or will I still be given some consideration but not that much? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Question to 1st years, I have been in touch with some students, all of them happened to be aiming at SCM. can you please share any of your class experiences with students aiming strategic leadership? |

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| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): siddarth16: Yes you can. And there are some 2nd year students doing this joint degree. However, for students without any engineering or manufacturing background, you probably will have to take more than 10 points to acquire QMM's degree. This also means you need to balance your time very well. |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): ssheth26- you are free to do as many concentrations as you like...you have to make a decision based on your interests, time constraints and personal factors |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: that's awesome rajeev. This is exactly what I am looking for in my MBA program - I need that support to fulfill my long term entrepreneurial goals |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: I have a question about undergraduate transcripts. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): danielzp--after Feb 1, we technically no longer consider applicants for aid. If there is aid that becomes available, we may be able to consider some candidates, but it is unlikely the later we get in the process |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: I have changed my name. So my undergraduate and my post graduate transcripts are in different names. In light of this do I have to send any proofs for that. |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: This is the first time I am applying to SCB. Can someone hint the further process in admission. |

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| ga | <p>ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): meal@smeal: There is a class that second year students take which involves them working with 1st year five-person groups. It's a very interesting situation where two different classes and years are working/learning from each other. This makes the interaction with second years very dynamic and interesting as they are trying to learn from you and also apply what they are learning in classes to help you (the 1st year) improve.</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(AnaS-1st year): siddarth16- after you submit application, admissions contact you for an interview and then they will contact you to communicate the decision.</p> |
| jindal.pankaj | <p>jindal.pankaj: I have already sent 1 set of attested copies of marksheets of my undergraduate degree. But now I have noticed that I may need to send two sets of the same. So can someone please guide?</p> |
| Scott | <p>Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Siddharth: Yes we will need official documentation which shows the name change. Please supply what you have and if down the line in the process you are admitted, the Graduate School will notify us if any additional proof is required.</p> |
| srteixeira | <p>srteixeira: Can some of the students please talk about the internship prep process. Have you started applying for internships yet? If so, what is the process and how does Smeal help you in this process?</p> |
| meal@smeal | <p>meal@smeal: @phil very interesting, thanks for sharing.</p> |
| siddarth16 | <p>siddarth16: Thank you Stacey and Ana</p> |

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| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- In my class, we have like 20 classmates that already have an internship. In general, we are all applying for positions now. The "internship season" is from January to march so is kind of crazy right now. |
| Scott | Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Jindal.pankaj: We will be able to move forward with the one set of transcripts, but we ask you attempt to gain a second copy as well, as soon as possible. |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Ana, I can imagine. Does career services play an active role in this process or are you in it alone? |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Thank you Stacey. One of my reason to pursue MBA degree is to change career. From what you can see, is it very hard for career changer students to seek the new careers that they want? how are they doing now? |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): srteixeira, during the orientation the career services has workshops to get you acquainted with the internship process. They really emphasize the importance of starting early, especially considering how easy it is to get immersed in your studies. There is an intranet postings site that has a listing of companies that are recruiting, as well as exposure to career svcs mock interviews, resume prep, and alumni mentorship programs. |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: @scott: is there a date before which I shall send the second copy to admission office? |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: That's great Rajeev! Thank you! |

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| ga | <p>ga(Jingwen First Year): srteixeira: Some of us have already got our internships for next summer. To prepare for your internship hunting, you have a lot of resources to take advantage from. First, you can work with Career Service to revise your resume and have mock interview with alumni who have relevant industry background. Second, you will have many opportunities to attend info-session. Third you will have a rich alumni resource to learn about the companies you're applying.</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- From Smeal side we have a lot of help, from the career services page we can find internship opportunities to coaching in our resume, interviewing skills and almost anything you might ask for help for. And if you want to have an insider perspective you can join the Career Services Chat next week</p> |
| meal@smeal | <p>meal@smeal: @AnaS, what is the process of getting an internship? do you people approach them or they come to campus?</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(AnaS-1st year): Career Services Chat- Tuesday Feb/2/2010 at 1 pm</p> |
| srteixeira | <p>srteixeira: Thanks everyone- those are very helpful answers!</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): danielztp: Switching careers is a common reason for many people to pursue a MBA. The advice I received from various recruiters is that it is important to excel at the classes pertaining to your new field of interest. More importantly, finding an internship in your new career path will help fill in transitional part of your resume and show that you are truly interested in that new path.</p> |

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| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- it is both, they come to Smeal for interviews and you can contact organizations too without using the school channels |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): No problem, srteixeira! :) |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): meal@smeal: Ana gave a great answer. Just want to add that we are having Supply Chain Job Fair today, right in our building.:) |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Can current students talk about life outside of class? What do you guys do to unwind? |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Students, what has been your favorite part of the program so far and why? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @AnaS and Jingwen thanks, so what all companies have come forward this time in Supply and other fields? |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): Also, meal@smeal, the application process usually involves applying through career services with a resume and cover letter, then the company review all applicants and invite those who fit the company to an interview, after that you go to the company for a 2nd interview and then they offer/ or not the internship |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Thank you Phil. What you said is very helpful. How is your MBA experience in SMEAL going so far? Is it very challenging? How close are students with each other? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Some of our recruiters have been Air Products, Johnson and Johnson, The Hershey Company, Black and Decker, Dell, Sears, Amazon, DuPont... |

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| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): During the first semester, football is a major part of life at Penn State and there are tons of related activities. Penn State is a college town, but a very large one. There are many bands/shows that come through State College over at the Bryce Jordan Center. There are also many student groups (within the MBA program as well as university wide). Most students find the right blend of activities that fits with their own personalities. Personally, I try and catch some shows when they come through town, go to the movies a lot, and if the time permits and I'm feeling daring - salsa dance. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @AnaS thanks for the detailed info |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): My response was for ssheth26 . |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): srteixeira: My favorite part is Smeal's community, as some students mentioned before. This is a perfect environment for getting into a new culture and a new period of our life. Another thing I like most is that we have a small program, so everyone is very familiar with each other. Even relationships between students and professors are very close. |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: I went to Purdue so i know about football. we are rivals ;) |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- my favorite part of the program is my classmates because I have learned so much from them, from culture to professional...that adds even more value to the education |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): ssheth26- Then welcome to be a Lion then!:) |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Got it Phil :) |

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| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): ssheth26, plenty of activities are available outside of the academics. Besides clubs/associations, there are speakers that come to campus, volunteer fundraising efforts (i.e.THON), and cultural activities (Diwali, Chinese New Year). Downtown offers a lot in terms of nightlife (bars, clubs, etc) and there are lots of hiking trails when the weather is warmer. So all of these options plus more! |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Great info- thanks! |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @phil very nice to know about active sports at sméal, I am myself a volleyball player, so you guys play volleyball too :)? |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: And I thought all of Mid-West was the same :) |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): ssheth26- plus if you are in the mood of driving a bit then you can in 3hrs be in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, DC, and NY |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Nice! |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): meal@smeal : Glad you asked that! This year, students in the MBA program actually started a Girls IM Volleyball team, Boys IM Volleyball team, and a Co-Ed Volleyball team. As far as I know it was fun for all involved! A nice blend of casual and competitive players usually make up the IM League at Penn State. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Is the accommodation on-campus? |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Anyone can answer. It's a free for all question: Who is your best professor and why? Whose classes are challenging and which required classes do you absolutely absolutely can't get enough of? |
| | ga(Rajeev First Year): |

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| ga | meal@smeal, I played volleyball with some of the 2nd years last mod on |
| | Wednesdays; it was a lot of fun and a nice study break :) |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- I am not quite following. Are you talking about housing? You have option to live on or off campus |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Do most students live on or off campus? |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): srteixeira- Most MBA students live off campus |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Most students live off-campus |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Great, thanks! |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): ssheth26 : I enjoy the classes based more on case studies. These are classes where we're given real life situations and try to figure out how we would have handled them. The first core management class is a great example of this, and its one of the first classes you will take here. Prof. Gioia teaches this class and does a good job at facilitating class discussions so everyone can speak. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @rajeev and @phil, great to know about it, I will surely get involved once I am there :) |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): ssheth26: My favorite professors till now is Dan Givoly and Terry Harrison. The reason is that they not only have outstanding expertise, but also have an effective way to deliver their knowledge to class. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @Anas, yes about the housing, thanks |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): ssheth26- I don't know, so far I like the professors a lot. They are super approachable, smart and willing to go the extra mile for the students |

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| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): ssheth26: Plus, unlike many other programs, all of our professors have office hours besides class, so you can also get first hand explanation from them even the class is end. |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Admissions Officers, do you have any last minute tips for applications? You know, the tips that we can't get from your website or other collateral? |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: @Phil, @Ana @Jingwen Awesome replies from all of you :) Appreciate the insight! |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): I'm not an officer but I have an AWESOME tip. Make sure you submit your application by the deadline! |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): You're welcome, ssheth26 . |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: FTW |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Make sure to proofread your application-- and have a LIVE person read it to catch errors that spell check or grammar check might not catch |
| danielzpz | danielzpz: To Stacey. Last questions about GMAT. I took GMAT couple times. Many of them were taken 3-5 years ago. Back then I wasn't fully prepared before I went to take the test and I just wanted to have a score ready when I need it. So I did badly. I retok it again 2 months ago and I scored 650. Will my test taking history affect me very badly? Is is appropriate to explain this in the essay? |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: @Stacey: how much importance does one's undergraduate GPA has for acceptance? |
| | ga(Rajeev First Year): |

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| ga | <p>ssheth26, the best class I have had thus far has been Organizational Management with Dr. Gioia. The class was very interactive, and really made students think creatively. There is not much lecture, as the class is organized in a discussion-type format. Plus, case studies help you explore real life company problems that have existed, which is better than simply learning from text...</p> |
| meal@smeal | <p>meal@smeal: @all I am aiming at strategic planning roles, for which I am looking forward to case studies. Can anyone please elaborate on the way case study method is used here at smeal</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions):</p> <p>danieltzp--you can make a note on your application to explain it--that is helpful to the admissions committee.</p> |
| siddarth16 | <p>siddarth16: Does the deadline (Feb 1) include the receipt of the recommendation letters.</p> |
| srteixeira | <p>srteixeira: Thanks Stacey!</p> |
| ga | <p>ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Don't worry too much at this point about your GMAT history--focus on completing and submitting the best application you can at this stage!</p> |
| Scott | <p>Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions):</p> <p>Siddharth,</p> |

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| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- First, I'll say that we have classes that are 100% case based, then some have a lot of cases and some none. The classes general require you to read the case in advance and answer some questions that are just a guideline. Once you go to class, then usually you have lively discussions about the case. |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Thank you Stacey. Your advice really helps me a lot:) |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): pankaj: We do look at your undergrad GPA as an indicator of past academic performance--but it is not the ONLY factor considered. There is no specific weighting |
| Scott | Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Siddharth: For the deadline we ask all aspects of the application be submitted by the deadline. However with things such as letters of rec that may not always be under your control we will allow them to be a few days late. |
| ga | ga(Rajeev First Year): Everyone, I unfortunately have to go.. But it's been a pleasure chatting with you. Best of luck with the application process! :) |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: Thank you Scott |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: Thanks so much Rajeev! |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Thank you Rajeev:) |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Thanks Rajeev |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: Thanks Stacey! Another question about GPA: Is it correct the GPA for only last 2 years of undergraduate study are considered? |

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| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Thanks a lot Rajeev, looking forward to join you for volleyball and loads of other stuff in your 2nd Year |
| wanghe | wanghe: Stacy thanks for your reply. Thank you Scott ,Phil, Rajeev, AnaS give me tons of helpful info. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): No--we look at the full cumulative GPA--all 4 years (the application asks for this in the program specific question portion of the application) |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Do you look at GPA's subjectively? Is a lower GPA in a challenging field like Chemical Engineering worse off than a higher GPA in say a less challenging undergrad? |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): meal@smeal: We have several ways of working with case. Some cases are single course based, you will be working with other f our team mates. Also , we have some |
| | <u>joint case within Communication, Marketing or Finance. These cases are really helpful for real environment work. Because when you work you will do serious presentation and analysis.</u> |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @AnaS, thanks for the explaining the flow. I am new to this concept but while knowing I found it very effective, so what kind of cases are discussed? |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Hello People... This is Rama from Chennai, India. First year student at Smeal. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): We consider both the GPA and the transcript |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): I will be happy to answer any questions you have for me. |

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| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): we admit candidates from many different undergraduate majors |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Hello Rama, this is Saurabh Jhamb from India |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: I have received quite a few certificates from the college for my undergraduate performance. Do I have to get them attested? |
| Scott | Scott(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Siddharth: Yes you will need to get the copies from your university attested. |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Hi Saurabh. Can I help you in anyway? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: do any of the current students in this chat aiming at strategic leadership? |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: After I submit my application, how soon do I hear from the school, whether rejected or invited for interview? |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- cases depend on the class and the particular topic for the day. For example in our marketing class today we looked at Ikea and how they position the product, company, and how they do pricing |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal- I am thinking of concentrating on Strategic Leadership |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: @Scott. To be precise...They are not transcripts...They are certificates... |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): danieltzp--we try to invite candidates to interview as soon as we have the opportunity to review their application, however, it can sometimes take a few weeks |

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| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Sorry Saurabh, I am concentration on Supply Chain and Finance. |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): ssheth26 : I was concerned about my undergraduate GPA when applying to business schools. My experience from applying and interviewing is that it is your overall application that is important. It will be very telling ff you can your draw from personal/work experience as well as demonstrate that you've learned from those experience. At least in my experience as a business school applicant! |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): But, Saurabh, I will be happy to answer to the best of my ability to answer questions you have on strategy. |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Well, hopefully I do a good job with my re-application this time Phil :) |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): ssheth26: We hope you do too :) |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: thanks AnaS, thanks for the case example and great to know that you are in for Strategic leadership. What all companies recruit for those positions? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Thanks Rama, so nice of you |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Thanks Jingwen |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: You guys are awesome! |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: So how easy/difficult is it to start a new student organization from scratch? |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @all current students, can you guys please share your reasons of choosing Smeal |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Anyone can answer. will all the students attend global immersion? Can someone tell me something about what you have learned during the trip? |

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| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): Most of the recruiting companies for Strategic Leadership students have positions that are open based in another function (like SCM, finance, marketing, etc.) |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): meal@smeal: Cigna, Pepsico, Apple, Kimberly Clark, Amazon, T-Mobile |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: @Scott. To be precise...They are not transcripts...They are certificates of merit... I meant do I have to get them attested? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): You can view a full list of companies who have hired recent graduates on our website career services page |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): ssheth26: It was pretty easy for me to start. We had a lot of parties, sessions and meetings to forge our relationship with new teams and classmates. Everyone, including first year and scond year students are all quite nice. |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): meal@smeal: I feel like I had a bit of an advantage when choosing schools. I received my undergraduate degree from Penn State so I knew the quality of the business school first hand. I also knew that Smeal/Penn State has incredible facilities/class rooms as well as some interesting groups related to my interests (such as the Nittany Lion Fund). More importantly, I knew the 'personality' of students at Penn State and that this personality fit best with me. |

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| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Saurabh, I joined Smeal because the programs, the admissions team and the faculty are so down to earth and so approachable. Also, the structure of the program lets you decide your concentration after taking some ground level classes. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @AnaS and @Stacey, Thanks for the info. I am from semiconductor industry and want to remain in this industry. I may crack a deal with my current employer, but what other options can I look forward to? |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): danielzpz: Yes, Global immersion is actually a 1-point class for each student. Since all students here in the chatting are first year students, so we won't have our global immersion until next month. We are so anticipating it! Nonetheless, even before the trip, we have a Global Perspective course this Mod, and we need to finish reading of "Make Globalization Work", so that we can leverage this experience maximumly. |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): |
| | meal@smeal: You may discover many different options available once you enter a program. |
| | Many students take the 1st year to learn about all of the concentrations we offer. This is a great question for our career services team chat next Tuesday at 1pm! :) |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @Stacey got it thanks :) |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @Rama and @Phil, thanks for sharing your reasons!, @Rama I am too feeling the same about the teams and current students at smeal. You guys are all so helpful. |

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| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: @Stacey, thanks for pointing out about the GPA. I am from India and in my undergraduate school we have a percentage system. I had a 72% in my 4 year degree and was among the top 10 students in a class of 72. Now when I convert it to GPA, my GPA is quite low. So I am quite worried about that. |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): danielzp: Based on experience of second year students, for many students who want to gain international exposure and probably choose to work globally, this is an amazing opportunity of getting to know about other business environment in the world. This year, we will have trips to China, Chile, and for the first time, Indina. After these trips, students will be organized together and discuss about their experience in different countries, so that we can learn from each other and get a broad view of global economy. |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: Can definitely feel the warmth :) |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Thanks Saurabh. :) |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): pankaj: do the conversion and we will double check it and also look at your transcripts to confirm it is correct |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): percentage may not translate from your school to ours exactly |
| jindal.pankaj | jindal.pankaj: Alrite Stacey, I will check that out. Thanks. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @all first years, what all courses/activities have you gone through already? |
| danielzp | danielzp: Thank you Jingwen:) |

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| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @Stacey, my university also uses the percentage funda, but they also state "First Class" on the degree certificate, which conversion table should I follow? |
| danielzpz | danielzpz: Does anyone know if there are any current students with legal industry work experience? Do they have more difficulties in participating in the class or discussion? |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): meal@smeal--your question is probably best directed to Scott offline so he can look at your specific situation |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): or, you can e-mail me directly at sld138@psu.edu if you'd prefer |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): danielzpz- I know 2nd yrs and 1st yrs with "legal" background and I have to say they give a much needed perspective to the class. |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): meal@smeal : We are currently in our 3rd Mod of the year. (Two Mods per Semester). During the 1st year, you'll take many core classes. Smeal does a good job of organizing the classes so that each following Mod will build off of skills learned in the previous ones. Such as we've finished Financial Accounting & Statistics in Mod 1, Risk & Economics in Mod 2, and are now learning Finance. We've also taken a couple of classes in management, general economics, and are now taking marketing and supply chain. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @Stacey, thanks I will shoot my email to you. |
| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Daniel: I do not think lawyers have any problems participating in classes and discussions. I was wondering if you have any concerns regarding that. |

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| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): danielztp: As far as I know, there are at least two students have been working as lawyer. Plus, we have JD&MBA joint degree. And as a matter of fact, we have a quite diverse environment that everyone from every background can find a way to contribute and involve into discussion. |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): danielztp: Funny you should ask that! I had two people who had graduated law school in my group last semester, one of which had been practicing before coming to business school. Based off of our success last semester, I'd say they did a great job participating! |
| danielztp | danielztp: Thank you Rama and Jingwen! That helps. |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: @phil great to know the systematic approach |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal MBA Admissions): we're winding down on time--are there any final questions you have? |
| danielztp | danielztp: Wow..thank you so much Phil..Very useful information and great to know about that..:))) |
| ssheth26 | ssheth26: that's been an awesome chat. Thank you all for your time ! |
| srteixeira | srteixeira: No but this has been very helpful and I would like to thank each of you for taking the time to chat with us and answer our last minute questions! |
| ga | ga(Jingwen First Year): Thank you all for participating. Good luck to everybody! |

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| ga | ga(Rama First Year): Good luck, everyone! |
| wanghe | wanghe: Thank you everyone. |
| ga | ga(AnaS-1st year): You are very welcome ssheth26, I wish you all success in your endeavors! |
| ga | ga(Stacey--Smeal 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. |
| siddarth16 | siddarth16: Thank you for spending your precious time. |
| danieltzp | danieltzp: Phil. is is appropriate to have your email in case I have more questions about the legal background? |
| ga | ga(Phil (Current MBA Student)): Good luck to everybody! And remember to submit your applications on time! And remember to not wear sneakers to your interview! Thanks! |
| meal@smeal | meal@smeal: Thanks everyone for the wonderful insight, looking forward to see you all as fellows soon :). |