

Username	Message
ga	ga(Carrie M - 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 bdgrant, welcome to the chat!
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Have some questions for us?
bdgrant	bdgrant: Hello everyone, I'm trying to think if I have specific questions - I wasn't sure what to expect or what I might learn -I would like to mention that you did help me find Jimmy Johns that day after the interview!
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Ahhh - Brian, that is you!
bdgrant	bdgrant: Yes, thank you
bdgrant	bdgrant: One question for the students would surround your time to work another job
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): There are several students here - ask away!
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hi Brian! Hope you are doing great!
bdgrant	bdgrant: very well, thanks
bdgrant	bdgrant: are you completely busy throughout the weekend?
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): (everybody's typing...)
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hi Brian. It kind of depends on how much you have on your plate. I felt that the amount of work is definitely time consuming, but never difficult.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: Good question! Actually, as an MBA student, you can be as busy as you want to, because there are always so many events going on. You can choose to enjoy your weekends with classmates, network with alumni, and lock yourself in one of the team room to explore as much knowledge as you can.
ga	ga(Matt - First Year): Hey Brian. I have found that time outside of school is often rather short. We have class from 8-12:30 each day (Mon-Thurs) and after that often have team meetings that sometimes take up much of hte afternoon. Homework then has to be accounted for... Several students have been able to hold down part time jobs, but you can't expect to work too many hours. I have found that most individuals have 1-2 days on the weekend (Fri-Sun) in which they can relax a bit.
bdgrant	bdgrant: thanks for the input. Jingwen, I gathered an interesting point there. So your saying I can keep myself 100% busy with the school if I choose to, but there would be other time possibly
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hello Poojab! Welcome to the chat!
poojab	poojab: Thank you
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hi Pooja.
poojab	poojab: hi everyone
	poojab:

	I wanted to ask how should I prepare myself for teh busy schedule of an MBA?
poojab	
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hello Davis!
kdavis	kdavis: hi
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hello kdavis!
bdgrant	bdgrant: topic - living - are there certain areas you would suggest not living around campus? ie - too much partying and noise??
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hey Pooja. Before I came to USA for my MBA, I just made sure that I had an apartment to live in. But academically, I just went through some basic accounting topics. But I would suggest that you take this time to relax and come here with a fresh mind.
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Brian - there's an area on Beaver St. called "The Canyon" that is primarily undergrad. Good to avoid. Beaver Apartments are the main area.
poojab	poojab: ok any reading material u would like to suggest?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: I would say, as an MBA student, you probably need to live off-campus, and not in some undergrads apartment. Remember to ask your rental company about the structure of residents.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja, if you are keen on doing some preliminary preparations, I would suggest that you do some accounting, because this is a subject most students find difficult and is very useful. Books? I guess I used Accounting for Dummies or some basic book like this.
poojab	poojab: ok thank you
kdavis	kdavis: As someone who desires to switch industries, how feasible is that with the current economy? Have current students been able to find internships and jobs with ease?
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): kdavis - lots of applicants want to make a career switch - that's about 45+% of applicants. The key is pulling skills from past experience and making them applicable to the new industries and functions. Career Services works with this all the time.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Kdavis: Actually the job market is turning better. A great portion of our classmates have already got their summer internship. At the same time, the strong Smeal alumni network and our greeeeeat Career Service will help you to achieve your career switch.
	kdavis:

kdavis	Thank you. Sounds great.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Davis, great question. I know a lot of my fellow classmates (including me) who are career changers. I have to say that many of the students have been successful at their job / internship search. Of course, you need to put in some extra effort. But, it is not impossible!
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): FYI - internships and full-time placement rates are currently about 45-50%. That's a little ahead of last year.
kdavis	kdavis: What companies have done the most hiring? What industries do they come from?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja, my friends here tell me that learning some Statistics before you come here was also useful. And for me, since I did not have any background in Economics, I feel that I would have done better if I had some Economics readings done.
bdgrant	bdgrant: that brings me to a question - internship/living. do people usually sign an annual lease and sublease there place and go live somewhere else where their internship is during the summer?
poojab	poojab: ok..that would be helpful for me as well as I have an engineering/IT background
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Davis, as far as this year's job placements, there have been a lot of companies that have come. Sears (Retail) has been hiring big time. Other than that there are big names like Apple, Ernst & Young, Dell, IBM, etc.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: It depends on your rental company. Most of the companies now sign annual leasing contracts. So some of us will sublet our apartments. But there are also some companies allow you to sign the contract until next May.
bdgrant	bdgrant: jingwen, thanks...words of wisdom on the better route?
poojab	poojab: how has the hiring scene for internationals been?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Davis: Other companies that have hired from Penn State are Glaxo Smith Kline, Novartis, Pfizer, Black and Decker, Chase , Colgate, J&J.
poojab	poojab: are companies willing to sponsor H1B's or has the rate gone down?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja, right now there are 55% international students who have been placed with full time offers.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: The truth is, there are so many apartments that you won't have any problem in finding an apartment with good lease for you. Another route is, start apartment hunting as early as possible, take action today:)
bdgrant	bdgrant: thanks jingwen

ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja: it is a better number than last year (with 42% students having full time offers). But, it is a tough market and you need to work hard to get the offers.
poojab	poojab: yes I understand...thanks
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: Actually you can also find private apartment, because the private contracts are very flexible.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: You're welcome!
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja: anytime!
bdgrant	bdgrant: i noticed Carrie dropped off.. i was going to ask if anyone knows what IBM usually hires for... i worked for them for 5 years I/T related - anyone know what they look for MBA's specifically for?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): bdgrant: IBM usually hires for Marketing and Finance.
bdgrant	bdgrant: sweet - that was what i was hoping to hear.. thx
kdavis	kdavis: I am wondering about living in State College. Generally is it a nice place to live? Is it safe? What type of fun/activities are available for one to do?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Grant, anytime!
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): kdavis: It is a very nice place to live. It's safe and peaceful. It is the safest town in America, according to NPR.
bdgrant	bdgrant: and if you like football - its money
kdavis	kdavis: Cool. I love the NFL, never have really gotten into college ball, but college tailgates are fun.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Brian, oh yes! football is big here, as you might already know. Tailgates are long and entertaining.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Yes, kdavis. tailgates are fun.
bdgrant	bdgrant: i certainly do - i live about 3 hours from state college in PA. grew up in Illinois as an Illini fan - all about the big ten
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): kdavis: Yes, we have really great football celebrations too. We have tailgate before every game, which is a really fun part of the entire MBA program also a great opportunity to network with some alumni.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: You will love Smeal then!
bdgrant	bdgrant: i can't wait
bdgrant	bdgrant: poojab and kdavis, where are you from?
kdavis	kdavis: I am from Doylestown. It is north of Philadelphia...
kdavis	kdavis: Where you from?
poojab	poojab: i m from Atlanta, ga...originally from India.....what about you?
bdgrant	bdgrant: i live in Hamburg, pa, work in Allentown..... can't be too far from kdavis..... i worked in atlanta for a while poojab, nice city

ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Pooja - I know you're coming to Visitation Weekend. Brian - are you coming also?
bdgrant	bdgrant: i work a fri, sat, sun, mon schedule so if its all or nothing, i can't. i might be able to come one day. what is the agenda?
poojab	poojab: yes its a great city...i was in state college also for a while....I liked living there alsoPennsylvania is very scenic...
bdgrant	bdgrant: yes it is, the drive up from the harrisburg area is beautiful
poojab	poojab: and it also is very safe ... the community feel there is great
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi bdgrant: The weekend kicks off on Thursday, 4/8 with a Welcome Reception in the Atrium at 6:30pm. This will be one of the first impressions you can have of the Penn State Smeal MBA program. The 2nd event is a social which the MBAA-sponsored social at the 797 Lounge(a nice bar downtown) on Friday 4/9 at 9:30pm. Additionally, we will have a special coffee "buzz" on Friday 4/9 at 10am in the commons.
kdavis	kdavis: I have been there a lot. Many of my friends went to school there for undergrad and can't stop talking about how much they like it there.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: You can check this facebook link out to see how was the Visitation week last year. http://www.facebook.com/pages/Penn-State-Smeal-MBA-Visitation-Weekend/142970465014?v=wall&viewas=503731996
bdgrant	bdgrant: thanks, sounds like i should plan thursday/friday then. i can take that friday off and hit most of those events
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): You are more than welcome bdgrant!
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Brian - it starts Thurs evening, so if you have to work and miss that, it's fine. Friday is a big day, and Sat goes until about 4pm
bdgrant	bdgrant: ok, i think i can make it to most if not all of it
poojab	poojab: how was the weather in state college last winter? was there lots of snow?
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja, it was a lot of snow, for someone who hasn't seen snow at all. There were a couple of snow storms that we faced here. The trick to this is a lot of layered clothing. I am sure you will be fine.
bdgrant	bdgrant: this winter was ridiculous if you ask me..i grew up in the midwest and lived in Michigan for 5 years - lot of snow in PA this year
poojab	poojab: yes...thanks
poojab	poojab: hopefully this winter turns out better
bdgrant	bdgrant: amen to that
bdgrant	bdgrant: topic - laptops
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): So here is another issue, remember to have a reliable car with you:)
bdgrant	bdgrant: i looked on the website - is there a specific laptop we need to have = i couldn't find specifics

poojab	poojab: hmmm...what about public transportation?
poojab	poojab: I am not planning on keeping a car initially
poojab	poojab: Do we get bus passes?
bdgrant	bdgrant: didn't mean to interrupt that - continue
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Poolab: You can acquire a bus pass for \$50 per month. Some communities also provide bus pass along with the leasing. Some students share carpool everyday with their neighbor-classmates.
poojab	poojab: ok...thanks...I am planning to lease an apartment near the campus but I guess walking during the winter months would be tough
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja: The bus facilities are amazing. I have been traveling in bus ever since I came here. It is very comfortable. The yearly bus pass rate is \$250, but I received my bus pass along with my apartment lease. There are buses everyday and run till midnight and it is very safe to take mid night buses as well.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): bdgrant: You can use your own laptop if you have one, just make sure it meets the requirements for all courses. Some course such as Statistics may require you to install specific softwares.
poojab	poojab: ok Rama, Thanks for the information
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja: There are buses within the campus which are operated free of cost to the students.
bdgrant	bdgrant: oh, i noticed that they put laptop on the expenses list so i thought i had to have something in particular. i've always had a laptop, so is there a place with the specifications? i didn't see it
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Pooja: you are welcome!
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Brian, I remember seeing laptop specs given to us last year. I will look for it and send you the link if I can.
bdgrant	bdgrant: thats awesome, thank you
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Hello everybody, good evening and and good morning as well !
bdgrant	bdgrant: hello
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hello Jimmy! Nice to see you!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Is there a way to view the chat history?
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Hi Jing, thank you ! Nice to see you too.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Jimmy, you can view the chat history on the transcription we are going to post after this chat:)
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Alright ! :)
bdgrant	bdgrant: hey, no one told me we were being recorded....just kidding
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: How's the weather in Penn State?
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Is it stil snowing heavily?

poojab	poojab: hello Jimmy....Where are you from?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi bdgrant, thank you for being a part of the helpful admission information:)
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Brian, The penn state book actually carries some good laptops.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Hi Jimmy, welcome.
bdgrant	bdgrant: don't worry Jimmy, the weather will be in the transcript. :)... welcome
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Hi Pooja, I'm from Pune, India. I've been offered an admit to the class of 2012. So nowadays, I spend a lot of time wondering how the experience would be. That's why I thought of dropping by for this chat.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Jimmy, it has stopped snowing now. It was raining today and the sunshine is definitely making us smile!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: How about you Pooja?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi All, we are going to close the chat in five minutes, do you have any last minute questions?
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Oops, looks like I'm very late
poojab	poojab: i am also originally from India....currently in US though
bdgrant	bdgrant: i'm good - thank you all very much for your input
poojab	poojab: Even I am good- Thanks for all the information
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Jingwen, one question on the accommodation... do most of the first year students take off campus housing? which is the best housing option in Penn state (accordnig to you)?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Jimmy, yes most of us, both first and second year are living off campus housing. We are living in diverse areas. But I do know, a huge amount of Indian students are living in Vairo Village, a nice community near grocery and with convenient transportation.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: any upcoming major events, after the THON?
ga	ga(Carrie M - Admissions): Thanks all - hope to see you very soon!!!
bdgrant	bdgrant: thank you...good night
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Thank you all for joining us tonight. Good bye bdgrant, kdavis, Jimmu VM, poojab! Look forward to seeing you guys on campus!
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Jimmy, we had Chinese new year celebrations and next would be Smeal Blue and White Ball.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): That's all for now.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Bye all. All the very best for everything!
kdavis	kdavis: thank you!

ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): 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.
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Thanks Kevin for joining us!
ga	ga(Rama - First Year): Thanks Pooja.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Thank you and have a good night...
poojab	poojab: Thank you all!