

Username	Message
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): 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?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: hi
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): What questions do you have for us today?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Hello Akshay..Thanks for hosting this. I will like to know more about how the school has adapted itself to the recent financial turmoil ?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Has the market started improving in US and How are international students faring in overall process
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Gundip - You're welcome...The market is certainly showing signs of turning around and international students are performing on an equal footing with the domestic students.
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Hello Sunny. What questions do you have for us today?
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): Hi All--welcome!
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: hi everybody
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thank you stacey
TFREER	TFREER: Thank you. I'm interested in understanding the advantages/disadvantages of the early admission deadline. Secondly, are any of the current students in the chat room doing a custom area of focus?
TFREER	TFREER: For the student moderators, what are your respective areas of focus?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): TFREER-Welcome to the chat...I am currently focusing on Supply Chain, Finance and Strategy.
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): TFREER-We do have students pursuing a custom concentration. However we don't have anyone in the chat room that has a custom concentration
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): TFREER--some examples of customized concentrations are Healthcare Administration and Human Resources
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Akshay - that is good to know and a positive sign for all intl students applying to smeal and elsewhere. I will also like to get your view point on the various networking options that a typical full time MBA student at SMEAL has.
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Tfreer, I intend to focus on Supply Chain and am also considering Finance and Marketing, but during the first year we do not have concentrations.

sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: hi stacey, thanks for answering the question. Im sathya narayanan from India and i have a question about admissions.
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): Hi Sathya
trath	trath: Hello, and thanks for hosting this! One thing I'm really interested about at Smeal is the Garber VC fund. Can anyone speak to that? ie. getting involved quickly or how big the group is, etc?
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): what is your question?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: what does the ADCOM look for in a prospective candidate? Put in other words, what are the values/features that would make an ideal SMEAL candidate ?
Sunny	Sunny: Hi, Akshay, I am interested in Marketing field, my experience was focused on Marcom, I wonder if this is too narrow for the application. Thank you
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath,
TFREER	TFREER: Thanks, that is helpful. Stacey, I have a Brand/HR background so it's good to know others are in that discipline as well
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, I actually attended the first session of the Garber VC class last night and it was great.
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Hello Reshma, welcome to the chat session. Is there any questions I can help you with?
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): TFREER, there are really a lot of great resources on Branding here at SMEAL. Especially the mentor program which brings back alums that are working in the field and have connections.
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - No experience is too narrow for the application. You will be able to list Marketing on your application and then expand on your experiences in your essays.
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Gundip - Penn State has a very strong alumni base and our career services works on a war footing throughout the program to make sure that students get connected to corporate recruiters. We also have student managed networking events through student associations catered towards more concentration focused networking
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): Sathya--we look for indicators of the potential for academic success (GPA and GMAT), as well as solid work experience and leadership potential
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you, Alex
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, next week we have five companies presenting to us and over the next seven weeks we will decide which, if any of the companies we will invest in.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Hi ..Thanks for hosting this session... I wanted to know that I have limited work experience of little over 2 years. would that affect my application?

TFREER	TFREER: Alex - great to hear! I'm actually in State College now and recently moved from Seattle. I signed up for the MBA for a Day program in November but what are some additional ways I can get acquainted with the program since I am in town?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thank you stacey.
trath	trath: Thanks Andrew - that's incredible. So I take it it's pretty easy to get involved in right off the bat?
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Also, as my work experience is limited, are there any specific areas on which I should focus in the application?
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): TFREER: Besides going to the creamery (always tasty ice cream made here on campus) I would recommend spending some time at the business building, specifically around 10 to 10:30 when all of the students come together for the "coffee buzz" which serves as an informal get together and you can see what some of the students are talking about and are interested in.
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, with Garber VC, yes. Also, on a program-wide basis you can be as involved as you want to be immediately. It quickly becomes a matter of deciding where you want to be involved because there is more going on than you have time to do.
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Reshma, Although you do have only a little over 2 years of professional work experience it would not necessarily hurt your application. Our average student has 4.5 years, but that is based on some being well above that while some are below the average. The quality of your work can go a long way.
TFREER	TFREER: ALEX: Great tip, thanks. We did find the creamery on day #2! I may swing by one morning and I'll be the one with the kid in the stroller, please come say hello if you see me.
Sunny	Sunny: Alex, that is a very good thing since I have been in State College for more than half a year, yet I don't know that. I am preparing for my TOEFL test now.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks !
TFREER	TFREER: Scott or Stacey - how about this question from earlier? I'm interested in understanding the advantages/disadvantages of the early admission deadline.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): TFREER: That would be great. Another thing you can do is contact admissions and have them setup some formal time with some students if your time is limited.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: It feels good to know that !
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Reshma, just make sure you put forth the best application you can with strong letters of rec and essays.

ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - Since you are currently in the area, keep in mind that you are welcome to come visit us here at the Business Building as you prepare for your TOEFL test.
trath	trath: That's what I've heard. The academics are certainly doable, the real challenge comes in when you're balancing all the extra-curriculars. Is there an exhaustive list of the extra-curriculars somewhere, or even just the popular ones? I haven't seen one on any website, and I think it's a pretty important factor in my choosing of schools.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Hey Muqtasid, how are you this afternoon? Can I help you with any questions you may have?
ga	ga(Stacey--Admissions): TFREER--Applying early in the cycle allows you to get through the process and plan ahead a bit better. The earlier you submit your application, the earlier we can evaluate your application. In addition, as we admit on a rolling basis, there are simply more spots available in the class earlier in the season. It is still competitive, but it does put you at a bit of an advantage
Sunny	Sunny: Alex, thank you. I have been to the Business building several times, but may not at the right time
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott, I would initially like to know the admission deadlines for the masters in (finance/banking) program
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: My Apologies..I got disconnected
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Scott--Would applying to Round 2 reduce my chances of getting an admit vs Round 1?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: thanks Alex, yes i am fine
Sunny	Sunny: I had seen some of the MBA students making presentations on the fourth floor, but they were all very busy
TFREER	TFREER: Thanks, Stacey - so SMEAL will decide on all early decision candidates (meaning they will not hold some applications for the February deadline).
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - We are typically in class between the hours of 8-10am and 10:30am-12:30pm Monday thru Thursday. If you would like, you can set up an informal lunch to meet with a first year student to discuss any other questions that you may have.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Scott- This is coz I yet have to take the GMAT , so incase if I am able to apply for Round 1 ,then is there any deadline by which I can take the GMAT and then submit the unofficial scores like a week or two after Dec 1?
TFREER	TFREER: QUESTION TO ALL STUDENTS: If you were accepted to other MBA programs what was the tipping point in selecting SMEAL?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex, well i think i would like to know every possible details regarding the admission process for masters in Finance/banking program

Sunny	Sunny: Alex, I see, I have already talked to one of the first year students. He helped a lot, but the most important thing now is to prepare all the package.
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): muqtasid, We do not have a Master's in (Finance/Banking) but for our MBA with a concentration in Finance the deadlines are the same as any other MBA Dec. 1, Feb. 1 and April 15. For more deadline info see our website https://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/dead.html
trath	trath: Has anyone taken the opportunity to explore a more flexible curriculum while at Smeal? For instance concentrating in Finance, but also studying some Economics or Law for instance, but not necessarily a joint degree?
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, some of the extracurriculars include MBA Association, the marketing association, supply chain management association, finance association, entrepreneurship, an environmental organization, MBA women's association, and a number of others.
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - That is great that you are taking advantage of the resources available to you. As you work through your admissions package, please continue to let us know how we can assist you.
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): All - Stacey is having some network issues and should be online soon
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: current students. could you please share your experiences in financing the MBA, particularly the internationals.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): TFREER: Selecting Smeal was a process for me. I started out with Smeal not being my first choice but a number of factors tipped me in favor of Smeal. First and foremost the program has a great brand name and gets you in the door with a lot of employeers. Secondly, the connections are amazing. There are a ton of alumni out there who really help out by coming back and networking with you. Thirdly, the academic rigor of the program is extremely strong. Lastly, the people are very friendly, and you really get a sense of community here.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott,could u please elaborate about the deadlines as in april15th is the deadline for the fall semester..is it something like that?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Akshay - As a 2nd year student, what has been your major take away from the SMEAL MBA so far ?
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you so much, Alex. I will turn to all your help if I need and I am sure I will need

ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): TFREER : To answer your question - My tipping point on selecting Smeal was the personal focus (small size of the program), focus on principled leadership and the high ranking of the supply chain program.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks Alex . Your reasons will be very helpful !
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Hi All--I'm sorry if I missed any questions--slight technical difficulties!
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Stacey-could you please help me out with the admission process details,for the MBA program
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Would applying to Round 2 reduce my chances of getting an admit vs Round 1This is coz I yet have to take the GMAT , so incase if I am able to apply for Round 1 ,then is there any deadline by which I can take the GMAT and then submit the unofficial scores like a week or two after Dec 1?
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Sathya : Smeal is one of the MBA programs which offers many assistantships and financial aid. I've arranged my funding by taking loans (mostly from my family). You should check with the banks in your country to get more information about the Educational Loans and the rates at which they are being offered.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--applying to round 2 will not reduce your chances. Apply when you have the BEST application together that you can produce. If that is earlier in the cycle, great. If not, however, waiting until Feb. will not disadvantage you. It's typically our biggest deadline.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Hey George, how are you this afternoon? Can I help you with any questions?
TFREER	TFREER: Thanks Alex & Jimmy. I agree about the PSU Alumni network - it seems like I am only 2 degrees away from a Penn State alum at any point!
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Muqtasid.alam--what specific questions do you have about the process?
georgerozo	georgerozo: Good afternon everyone
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, since the min requirement of TOEFL is 100, would 98 be considered also? I have just got 98, but of cource I will retake, anyway ,just in case
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Gundip - Aside from the fact that the "family culture" and "co-operative competition" creates a unique learning experience, I would say that my major takeaway has been "What you put into a MBA program is what you get out of it" - Managing time and balancing external projects with your career search and academics is the key.

gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Jimmy - Thanks for your view point. Can you also throw some light on the criteria for allocating and granting financial aid and scholarship at SMEAL.
georgerozo	georgerozo: My name is George Rozo, and have recently started in the US Army as an Officer
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Jimmy, thanks for answering the question
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Hi Sunny--we do need a minimum of 100 with a 20 in the speaking
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Thank you for serving us George.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Hi George, welcome to the chat
georgerozo	georgerozo: I am interested in SMEAL MBA, and would like to know how to better prepare while serving as military officer
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks so much Stacey !
georgerozo	georgerozo: my honor, Sathya
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, I got it. I will try my best.
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): You are welcome ! Do feel free to ask away.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Stacey-I would like to know what are the minimum GPA requirements that SMEAL would require for the admission process,then again what could be the minimu GMAT/IELTS scores.Is there any benchmark or any specific criterias?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): gundipsingh--Merit-based aid is allocated based on the merit of the application. All candidates who apply prior to Feb 1st are considered
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Akshay - Thanks for your sharing your experience.
TFREER	TFREER: Are MBA candidate allowed to use any writing resources at PSU for help with editing essays?
georgerozo	georgerozo: I am stationed right outside of Seattle, and I have access of UWA, do you recommend any course work I sshould take (night /evenings) to better prepare myself for Smeal MBA?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): We do not have a minimum GPA or GMAT--our averages, however, are 3.4 and 650
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Current students- Could you pls tell us something about the Alumni network?
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): George: I would take the GMAT as soon as possible, its good for 5 years. Best to do it when there is less pressure and you have more time to prepare.
georgerozo	georgerozo: I am taking it Nov 28
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - Thanks for the information.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): George: Another helpful tip would be to take an introduction to accounting if you don't have a previous background in it.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): TFREER--We encourage you to have others (peers, mentors, family) to proofread or give feedback on your essays, but we really want to see YOUR work and YOUR writing

ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Muqtasid: All admission is for Fall only. The deadlines are December 1st (Early Deadline), Feb 1st Deadline for all International Students and any interested in Financial Aid, and April 15 is for Domestic Students only.
georgerozo	georgerozo: and I am currently preparing for it. I actually have not started working at my duty station, I am working near my hometown, so I have a lot of spare time, and recently graduated so I still have the study habits fresh
georgerozo	georgerozo: I have taken Acct for my degree
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, here is another question. Since I was in the honor college for the first two years in my undergraduate life and we had more difficult exams than the others. So the scores are relatively low
georgerozo	georgerozo: and also participated at the Yale Pre-MBA program this summer
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Stacey-do we need to have some work experience before applying? As in is it a must criterion to possess work experience?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Sunny--we will also look at your transcripts, so that will play a role as well
georgerozo	georgerozo: where we had a brief experience of what is expected in an MBA classroom
TFREER	TFREER: Good tip - thanks Stacey.
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Reshma-Penn state has a very strong Alumni network. During the career immersion which falls between the 1st and the 2nd Modules, all students get access to the Blue and White alumni database - which essentially gives you the ability to contact ANY Penn State alum. Penn state alumni are always willing to give back to the school and thus are a great resource for current students
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): George: I would start taking an inventory of yourself personally and find what areas you want to specialize in and what career path you want to take to reach your goals.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott-thanks a lot for your information
georgerozo	georgerozo: I would like to take a path into Real Estate..development
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Georgerozo--we have many candidates who come in with military backgrounds. If you'd like to e-mail me at sld138@psu.edu I can put you in contact with a current student who came from a similar background
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, I do have transcripts, but there are no signs for my honor college

TFREER	TFREER: Thank you all - hope to meet a few of you on campus soon. - Tisha
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Sunny--you can note that in "additional information" in your application
trath	trath: Just a comment - the people I have met from PSU were the first reason I started looking at Smeal. And they're one of the reasons I'm so interested in the school. The people are absolutely in love with PSU.
georgerozo	georgerozo: thank you so much stacey, I will do that ASAP
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Reshma - We just got over with the Career Immersion Week which put us in touch with quite a lot of Alumni. We also got access to the Alumni database by which we are now connected to thousands of Alumni worldwide. There is a strong focus on connecting with Alumni and building networks. At Smeal they even help you develop skills on how to connect with the Alumni.
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you Stacey, I got it. That is so nice
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): muqtasid: Work experience is not a requirement however it is strongly recommended. Of our approx 100 students per year that enter, only 8-10 come with no work experience at all.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacy - Do we follow rolling admission process at SMEAL ?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Yes--we do have rolling admissions, however, we still do follow deadlines
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey*
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Akshay& Jimmy --Thats great ! Thanks so much for all the information !
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott:thanks,but is going to be a reall tough scenario to cope up in the mba program without any such practical experience.
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, can I ask whether the Asia applicants or the Chinese applicants are in a different pool?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - Thanks for the information. I will also like to check SMEAL College will participating in any of the MBA tours in India / Asia Pacific region.
Sunny	Sunny: Since I realize all the Chinese have a relatively high GMAT score
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Reshma - Let me also add that the responses that I've always received from Alumni have been very positive. There is a very strong sense of allegiance to Penn State and the Alumni are always eager to help.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): gundipsingh--we will not be doing any of the larger tours this year

trath	trath: Also for the students - being that Smeal is a small program in a big school about how long does it take to get involved in the Smeal group? I think it was mentioned that there are MBA class get togethers. I guess I'm just curious as to the community and how laid back it is vs. how formal, etc?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: SCOTT: I would like to inform you about my current academic status,I am almost at the end of my undergrad,i am completeing my UDEGRAD from NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY,majoring in Finance and international business with the exact gpa of 3.0 out of 4.I have already appeared for the IELTS exam where i scored 7.0,currentlly i amplanning to sit for the GMAT by end of december
georgerozo	georgerozo: This is great, I can customize a concentration that fits my interests! am i right?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Sunny - No, we don't have any demarcated pools for applicants - international/domestic notwithstanding, we evaluate all applicants on the same parameters.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: If I am looking for financial aid, are there any specific areas on which the admissions committee would focus on like work exp/gmat score/ essays etc. OR is it on the entire application?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): We will, however, have students in Delhi in the spring hosting a reception...I'm not sure where you are located. We will also have alumni run events in China
trath	trath: Also, if I have extracurriculars but they aren't volunteering or anything like that, is it still of interest in the application process?
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Muqtasid, To second what Scott said, work experience is key to allowing you to get the most out of the classes. I would personally reccomend getting a couple of years work experience because it will allow you to get more out of the program, allow you to contribute more the courses, and employers are also looking for those with some work experience.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Jimmy--Thanks so much !
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--it is the overall application, but strong numbers are important
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott: so i would like to know whether i am eligible for the MBA program if i can manage to pull a gmat score of 630
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - I am located right in Delhi and i wil love to know more about the event you mentioned. Where can i find more details on this ?
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey- strong numbers like gmat score and work exp?

trath	trath: And do the "career changers" in Smeal feel as if they will be competitive in their new job paths after graduation? I am concerned about having spent the previous 3 years in something that isn't related to what I want to go into, and how competitive I might be.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): We will be locking in details in the early spring--if you are on our Monday message list you should automatically be invited
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Trath - You can get involved in the Smeal community on Day 1. Orientation for first year students is designed to help you get to know your classmates as well as help you become adjusted to the Penn State community. Because we are a small program, it is easy to meet new people and find people with similiar interests to you. Our community is laid back, with a strong family feel.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Strong numbers like gmat, work exp. and GPA
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): muqtasid: There is no minimum score or required score for admission. The committee looks at the whole application and makes it's decision based on all parts. Without seeing an application in it's entirety I'm afraid it is impossible to even begin to say score x could allow you to be accepted to the program.
Sunny	Sunny: Hi, Alex, I want to know the scale of the alumni, including other gradutes who were not MBA?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Okay Thanks. I will look forward to get more details on this once they are freezed.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey/Scott - Can you share some insights on the average GMAT score from a international student standpoint.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: SCott:thanks alot for the piece of imformation that you have just provided
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott:doesnt the PSu offers any masters program
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks so much Stacey.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Sunny: Its something over 500,000! It has the largest alumni association in the world. 1 out of 117 people with a degree in the US is from Penn State. Its... substantial. And there is an alumni directory with names, emails, phones and companies for many of them. At Dell alone there are almost 200 Penn State alumni.

ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, I am a career changer. I spent 8 years in construction and am now trying to get into supply chain. I found the key was to be able to show a connection between your work experience and the field you wish to pursue. There is almost always some overlap in skills, and in the case there isn't, it may be harder, but success in the search really depends on you and the work you put into it.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Gundipsingh--the GMAT overall average is about a 650. International candidates generally do fall above that mark.
Sunny	Sunny: Wow, great Alex
Sunny	Sunny: Since there are two Alex, thank you both
trath	trath: I know this question doesn't get asked a lot - and maybe for good reason, but if an MBA student wants to say, play intramural hockey, this is also available to him/her being a PSU student correct? I know not a direct MBA questions, but no one ever asks that sort of thing...
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Were both sitting next to each other, even the other ppl in our physical location are a bit confused with us, haha.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Alex - Those were great figures. I must congratulate you for being a part of Penn State community.
Sunny	Sunny: I can tell one of you is from China, correct?
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): Thank you. Its a great place to be.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: ALEX:hey is it possible for a first year student to work during the semester,as in it allowed?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): muqtasid: There are no Master's programs specific to these categories as the MBA with a concentration in finance or marketing etc. However if you would like to research PhD programs in any of the departments of Smeal you can get more information about these programs here https://www.smeal.psu.edu/depts
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Trath - Yes, MBA students can participate in IM sports and be on teams. We actually have a MBA student who is the captain of the Penn State hockey team
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - Neither of us is actually from China. We are both domestic students. :)
Sunny	Sunny: ^ _ ^
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Muqtasid - You are allowed to take on any additional work that you would like. However, I will say that the course workload is very demanding and will require a large committment on your part. Working a part-time job will be difficult, but is allowed.
trath	trath: Thanks Akshay - I think that's pretty much the perfect answer!

ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): We do have a strong international community here. Many of my classmates are from China including one on my cohort team. And I also have a student from Chennai, India on my team.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:Is this MBA program is a CO-OP program ?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Hi Alex, iam from chennai as well :)
trath	trath: About how many MBA students take advantage of the study/work abroad opportunities?
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Muqtasid - No, this MBA program is not a co-op program. It is a full-time program.
ga	ga(Alex Rosenthal (1st Year)): I have a group project to get to, it was nice talking with you all.
trath	trath: Thanks Alex!
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:so the time frame of the entire MBA program is how many years?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Thanks alex
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Alex- thanks for your time today!
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Muqtasid - The entire program is 2 years.
Sunny	Sunny: Alex, I saw from the web there could be some flexibility of the second year, could you please illustrate a little more?
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Im planning to come for the MBA for a day soon. As you know in November, there is a Women's MBA for a day , a Diversity candidate MBA for a day and just MBA for a day ?Im originally from India so is it coming for any one the same or would they differ?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:Is it 8 months of semester per year?
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, the Global Immersion is required for all students. It occurs during the week before spring break during your first year. I've included the link to the Global Immersion site. https://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/curric.html/immersion-weeks
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Sunny - The second year allows you to select your courses. You can pick and choose from a portfolio of concentrations and pursue the ones that you want to focus on. This also gives you more time to pursue independent projects
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Hi Reshma--I would recommend coming for the Women's MBA for a Day on 11/8 if possible
trath	trath: Oh, I didnt' know it was required, that's great though. I am definitely interested. Is it possible to spend more than 1 week abroad?
Sunny	Sunny: Akshay, that is great~
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Muqtasid - Each year of the program is 2 semesters. Each semester lasts for 15 weeks. Within those 15 weeks, we have 2 modules lasting 7 weeks each. So your classes will change every 7 weeks.

ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): The WMBA association will be helping with planning and the programming will be geared toward Women and the MBA
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey/Scott - Does the school facilitate some offline activities for spouses of the students as well ?
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Trath, many of us are spending the week following immersion in the same country. The most you can stay overseas is an additional week since classes start the week after spring break
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, the women's MBA will be on campus?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): gundipsingh--yes, we have an organization called Lion Partners--Andrew will talk about that for a bit
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Sunny--yes, the Women's MBA for a Day will be on campus
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Trath - Yes, you do have the option of spending your spring break abroad. You also have the option of doing a one or two week service immersion abroad in your 2nd year
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey , Will love to know more about it.
Sunny	Sunny: so in the Business building? Then I will com
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey--Thankyou so much. what would the diversity candidate mba for a day focus on?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): sunny--great! If you go to our events page you can register
trath	trath: Thanks Andrew - so no study abroad opportunities outside the immersion program? Just 2 straight years in Happy Valley?
Sunny	Sunny: OK, I will. Thanks
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): sunny--here's the link: https://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/visits.html
TFREER	TFREER: Thought of a few more questions - sorry if they have already been covered. GMAT scores: average of all scores, top score, or??
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: SScott:What is the tuition amount for the entire program?
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): gundipsingh, I have a family here. My wife and several of the other 1st year students get together with all our kids for dinner once a week. They refer to it as the MBA Widow's Dinner. Also organized is the Lion Partners association which has activities for the spouses and also activities for the children.
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you Stacey, I will sign in later
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Trath - You are correct. There are no additional studt abroad opportunities outside of the immersion program. However, you will have your summer off between first and second year. Most students do an internship in these months and you can plan to do this wherever you choose.

ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): TFREER--the GMAT average is around a 650
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): gundpsingh, I meant to say my wife and several of the other wives get together.
TFREER	TFREER: Stacey - my question is actually does Smeal take an average of all my scores, my best score or something else?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): TFREER--I'm sorry I misunderstood. We will see all scores but take the highest
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey-- When I come in for the MBA for a day, is it ok if my husband would accompany me?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--yes, when you register, you can register your husband as a guest
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Thanks Andrew - Widow's dinner sounds like some exciting event ..
TFREER	TFREER: Thank you. I understand the Mobile GMAT is coming in January to State College so I just want to confirm that there are no other options for taking it in State College at another time.
trath	trath: I think I asked this before, and I'm sorry if I missed the answer - but how flexible is the curriculum? Or do people usually stick to a path? I would just like to take a couple more economics courses if at all possible.
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Muqtasid: The costs for this academic year for an International Student are broken down here https://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/finance.html they come to approximately \$35,000 per year.
Sunny	Sunny: Stacey, since the MBA class has limited number of students, what if this years applicants are all very outstanding? will you enlarge the size?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): TFREER--unfortunately, there is no other option for the GMAT in State College
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Andrew - In the same length, i will also like to know about Family accomodation availability at SMEAL...Oncampus
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey--Thanks so much for the information. What would the diversity candidate mba for a day focus on?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Sunny--our program is designed to be small. We will typically always have a class of about 85-100 students. This year is a little larger at 107.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Scott:does it have any kind of scholarship oportunites for need based student,cause its bare impossible for me to pay 70,000 USD
ga	ga(Andrew 1st Year): Gundipsingh, There is limited on-campus family housing at the White Course apartments.

ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Trath - Yes..you can certainly take extra courses both within Smeal and at other schools within Penn state. You can also do a custom concentration
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Gundipsingh--Off campus housing can often be much closer to the Business Building than on campus housing
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: SCOTT:In a most common scenario does every study with their self finance,or they apply for any student loan or something?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Muqtasid: We do not offer any need based aid, all of our aid is strictly merit based.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Hi Reshma--The Diversity MBA for a Day is geared slightly more toward domestic diversity students vs. international students
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - Thats a interesting insight. Will explore more on this if i managed to get through :)
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Just want to confirm that the Women's MBA for a day is for everyone and not only for women prospective students ?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--Women's MBA for a Day IS for women prospectives, but a spouse is also welcome to accompany you
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey-- Thanks !
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Scott - As a general norm , merit based scholarship has one major criteria - GMAT. Is it any different in SMEAL ? or the wholistic application credentials are taken into account ?
Sunny	Sunny: Scott, so loan will also be impossible?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Muqtasid: Out of a class of around 100 a normal breakdown may look like this. 35 Students on a Graduate Assistantship, 15 Students with a scholarship of some kind, while of the remaining 50 around 40-45 have secured some kind of loan to pay for their MBA.
trath	trath: Can anyone talk about what kind of teaching style is most commonly used at Smeal? Is it a lot of reading and tests or more discussion and project based?
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): In regard to loans, you can apply for loans through banks
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey-- Great ! Thanks! just wanted to confirm that.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): they would be considered private loans that the student is responsible for securing
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: SCOTT: apart from the tuition what are the living expense in an average at PSU

reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey-Also, for educational loans, is it mandatory that the co-signee has to be a permanent resident/ US citizen?
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Trath - The teaching style is a combination of all that you mentioned. Many of our classes require readings that are discussed in each class sessions. We also have a exams as well as a number of team based projects throughout our semesters.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Muqtasid--we have an average listed on our website of about 17-18K USD per year for living expenses--but that can really vary based on what you need (housing, a car, etc.)
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--it depends on the loan
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Scott - I assume that the statistics shared by you pertain to first year scholarships and GA's. Is there any chance for a student to earn a GA if not already granted one in first year?
Sunny	Sunny: Can anyone talk about what kind of teaching style is most commonly used at Smeal? Is it a lot of reading and tests or more discussion and project based?
Sunny	Sunny: I also want to know this
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey-- Would Penn state help us in getting an educational loan?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Gundip: Merit based scholarships and GA's are evaluated just as the application is, based on the application as a whole. Although the GMAT is part of that equation, it is not the only factor.
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - The teaching style is a combination of all that you mentioned. Many of our classes require readings that are discussed in each class sessions. We also have exams as well as a number of team based projects throughout our semesters
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Reshma--our financial aid office can help point you in the right direction, but in general, you are responsible for securing your own loans
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Stacey--Thanks !
Sunny	Sunny: Thanks Alex
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Current students-- pls tell us how is the faculty at Smeal?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Gundip: Normally around 10 GA's become available to 2nd year students who did not receive one in their 1st year.
Sunny	Sunny: Scott, great
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Scott - Thanks for sharing this info.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:if the concentration is upon finance and banking does the course curiiculam totally encompass the mathematical base or is more over like theoritical in nature

ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Reshma - Faculty at Smeal is well renowned in their fields of study. We have super stars like Dr. Don Hambrick, Dr. Keith Crocker who are extremely well respected around the country for their research
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Thanks everyone. Its time for me to leave. The information shared by you all was really helpful. Looking forward to more such sessions in future.If needed , is there a avenue to connect with some of the current students offline after this chat ?
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Reshma - I will also add that our faculty is extremely focused on helping the students succeed. They are here to make sure that you learn as much from them as possible while you are in their classroom.
trath	trath: What is the social life like outside of Smeal? I mean, it can't all be books and clubs right?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Muqtasid: The finance concentration is a mixture of both mathematical and theoretical concepts. Some courses like fixed income/derivatives would entail more mathematical concepts while others like global finance would be more theoretical
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Gundipsingh - I will be glad to talk to you more if you would like. I can be reached at ajp223@psu.edu. Thank you for your attendance today.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Scott- If incase I do not get GA in the first year, are there any specifics into which Penn state looks at for granting GA in the second year?
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Reshma - I'll also add that being a small program, you have a lot more opportunity to interact with the faculty. They are always eager to welcome you to their offices and help you with your questions.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Just before i leave, i will like to bring this up. I have heard of a new FB application for Smeal. Can someone throw some more light on the same.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Akshay--Thanks for sharing the info !
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Gundipsingh--the Facebook App is just another way to connect online!
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Alex - Appreciate the same. Will get back to you with any queries that i will have for SMEAL.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Alex- Thanks for sharing the info!
ga	ga(Jimmy_1styear): Hello everyone, I now need to go off for a team meeting. Nice talking with you all and look forward to meeting you here at Smeal.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Jimmy- Thanks for sharing the info !
Sunny	Sunny: Thank you, Jimmy
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Thanks everyone. Have a great day ahead.

ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Trath - The social life here is fairly extensive. There are number of opportunities to socialize outside of the MBA program. State College offers numerous restaurants and theaters that allow you to experience more of the culture here in Central Pennsylvania.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Thanks for joining us Gundip
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Reshma: Overall performance during your 1st year plays a large factor.
Sunny	Sunny: Hi Alex, now I have got your email, I will bother you in the future, :)
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks Scott !
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Sunny - Sounds good. Please let me know how I can help.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:after finishing the MBA program do you guys feel that you have ample of job opportunities.As in is there any preference being a domestic student /international student?
Sunny	Sunny: Er, I will figure out later. ^_^
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Akshay- Does Penn state consider best of 2 Gmat scores?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Muqtasid - There are certainly a lot of job opportunities for both domestic and international applicants. Certain employers do prefer domestic students but overall international students have a lot of employment options as well.
Sunny	Sunny: It would be more difficult for international students I think
Sunny	Sunny: But still depends on what you expect,right?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Reshma: We look at the best of your scores. It does not matter if it is your 3rd attempt or 1st attempt.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: How are the job opportunities for International students due to H1 visa constraints?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Alex:what is the average study hours that you need to regularly maintain in order to uphold ur gpa
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks Scott
trath	trath: Besides having my bosses write letters of recommendation - would it be acceptable / a good idea to have a Smeal Alum / current student write an additional letter?
trath	trath: Also, just out of curiosity, I know some programs do not report GPAs. What is Smeal's policy?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Reshma - International students have a lot of employment options. Some employers will restrict openings to domestic students but there are many companies that employ international students as well.

ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Muqtasid - The average study hours will vary by class. You will need to determine that based on your abilities to keep up with the coursework. I would say that I am averaging approximately 10 hours of study time per class each week.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): trath--I'm not sure what you mean about GPAs? We do give GPAs.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks Akshay!
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Our grades are on a 4.0 scale
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: As an International student, I do not have GPA scores , Do I need to get them converted?
trath	trath: Right, of course. But some schools won't report them to prospective employers, for whatever reason. Was just wondering if Smeal released them if employers inquired. I hadn't heard of this before about 2 weeks ago.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: ALex:in order to major in finance do you guys require to learn any softwares ?
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Trath: In the letters we are looking for the People who know you and can speak best about your abilities. If you do not know or have worked with a Smeal Alum it will not help you to have someone who does not know you, write your letter. A persons knowledge of you and your abilities is much more helpful than thier title in a company.
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): trath--the school won't release them, but they may verify what you have released
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): some employers may ask you for your GPA
trath	trath: Got it, thanks Scott and Stacey!
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Muqtasid - usually some courses will require working with some excel based software applications..but nothing too intense
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: thanks Akshay
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): reshmi, you can find the information to convert your scores on our website here https://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/admission/GPA%20Conversion%20Table.pdf , if after that you are still having issues please email us at smealmba@psu.edu anytime.
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks so much for the information Scott
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: Akshay: do you have any other email address so that only if it is required you could drop by few suggestions for me..
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd Year): Muqtasid - you can reach me at akshaymadane@gmail.com
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): We've got only a few minutes left--does anyone have any final questions?

trath	trath: Can anyone speak to the transition from working full time to studying full time after 3+ years out of school? How long did it take to get back in the swing of things, etc.?
reshmasajnani@gmail.com	reshmasajnani@gmail.com: Thanks a ton everyone for answering all my questions. This chat session has been very helpful :-)
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: thanks akshay
ga	ga(Stacey Admissions): Glad you could all join us!
trath	trath: Also, are there transcripts of these chats available?
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: i would sure need some further asistance.
muqtasid.alam	muqtasid.alam: thank a lot everyone specially SCOTT,ALEX and AKSHAY
Sunny	Sunny: I also want the transcripts of these chats
ga	ga(Alex - First Year): Trath - The program begins with a two week orientation for all first year students. This program is designed to help you become adjusted to both the State College community as well as being a full time student again. Everyone is different in how they handle this adjustment, but the first set of classes is designed to get you back into the swing of being a student.
ga	ga(Scott Smeal MBA Admissions): Trath: The transcripts will be up on the website within a week or two
Sunny	Sunny: so nice
ga	ga(Stacey 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.
trath	trath: Fantastic, I'm sure I would appreciate it. Thanks Alex. And appreciate Scott.