

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: May 14, 2026

Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Master of Business Administration- Admission Qualification Changes

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes to the Master of Business Administration program effective for the 2028-2029 application cycle.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing admission requirement changes for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program and the Master of Business Administration Internship Program (EMIP) Concentration. The MBA program reviews applicants holistically to assess their skills, personal attributes, background, and experiences, and how these relate to success in the MBA program. The admission requirement changes will a) add the designation of Professional Geologist (P.Ge) to the list of available designations eligible for a GMAT waiver, and b) expand options for completing graduate certificates in the Edwards School of Business as a pathway into the MBA. The proposed changes will expand the applicant pool, thus providing potential to increase enrolment in the MBA program. If approved, these changes will be implemented for the 2028-29 application cycle.

The Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) discussed the admission qualification changes at their meeting on April 6, 2026. They were supportive of expanding options for holistic admission to the program and suggested minor wording edits to better frame aspects of the proposal. The edits were made by the Edwards School of Business and reviewed by the committee chair.

CONSULTATION

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies along with the proponents submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on May 6, 2026. APC had the opportunity to review the proposal and ask questions. APC voted in favour of these admission requirements. Senate confirmation of the decision is required before the changes can take effect, which will take place in Fall of 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Master of Business Administration Admission Qualification Changes**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Master of Business Administration

Executive Summary.....	2
Proposal.....	3
Catalogue Entry.....	5
Provost and SFO Consultation	10
Consultation with the Registrar Cover Sheet.....	11



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

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Executive Summary

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council
From: Graduate Programs Committee, CGPS
Date: April 17, 2026
Re: Admission Requirement Changes - Master of Business Administration

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is recommending approval of admission requirement changes for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program and the Master of Business Administration Internship Program (EMIP) Concentration. The MBA program reviews applicants holistically to assess their skills, personal attributes, background, and experiences, and how these relate to success in the MBA program. The admission requirement changes will a) add the designation of Professional Geologist (P.Geo) to the list of available designations eligible for a GMAT waiver, and b) expand options for completing graduate certificates in the Edwards School of Business as a pathway into the MBA. The proposed changes will expand the applicant pool, thus providing potential to increase enrolment in the MBA program. The changes will be implemented for the 2028-29 application cycle.

The Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) discussed the admission qualification changes at their meeting on April 6, 2026. They were very supportive of expanding options for holistic admission to the program and suggested minor wording edits to better frame aspects of the proposal. The edits were made by the Edwards School of Business and reviewed by the committee chair. The committee approved the proposal with the following motion:

MOTION: “To approve the admission requirement changes to the Edwards Master of Business Administration and the Master of Business Administration Internship Program (EMIP) Concentration” **Singh/W.Martin CARRIED unanimously**

Attached please find the proposal for the Admission Requirements Changes for the Master of Business Administration program and Master of Business Administration Internship Program (EMIP) Concentration.

If you have any questions, please contact the Academic Affairs Specialist at gradprograms.academicaffairs@usask.ca.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Program: Edwards Master of Business Administration Edwards Master of Business Administration Internship Program (EMIP) Concentration	
Academic Unit (unit offering the program): Edwards School of Business	Proposed date for implementation: 2027-28
Contact person name Smita Garg (Edwards); Jaswant Singh (CGPS)	Email nbr917@usask.ca ; jaswant.singh@usask.ca

Admission requirements are made up of several factors including admission qualifications and selection criteria which are governed under the **Policy on Admission to Degree Programs**.

Please select the area in which you are proposing to change/create:

Admission Qualifications

These are the credentials that an applicant must present in order to establish eligibility for admission. They include but are not restricted to objective qualifications such as post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests. Qualifications may vary for some admission categories. Admission Qualifications become part of your “Admission Requirements” for applicants.

RATIONALE

The Edwards School of Business is proposing to make the following changes to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs:

1. Add ‘P.Geo’ to the list of GMAT waivers:

MBA applications are globally on a decline, while interest in graduate level business studies and value of an MBA remain constant. The GMAT has often been cited as one of the barriers to applying and there is no conclusive evidence of the GMAT being an indicator of success in the MBA program. While there is still value in keeping it as one of the criteria for admission, especially in situations where there aren’t other significant indicators or qualifies to assess an applicant, we have learnt over the last couple of admission cycles that the waiver options we had suggested need some verbiage modifications to clarify the meaning of and expand certain options. The expansion involves waiving the GMAT for people holding a P.Geo (Professional Geologist) designation. The process to attain and maintain the designation is rigorous similar to P.Eng. - we have checked this with APEGS (Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan), the governing body, and competencies that they need to demonstrate cover quantitative, qualitative, strategic, and analytical skills that are required to succeed in the MBA.

2. Expand MBA laddering eligibility to include all Edwards Graduate Certificates, beyond the current Graduate Certificate in Leadership (GCL):

With the recent addition of the Graduate Certificate in Financial Management, the MBA program is proposing to update the admission requirements that if an applicant has successfully completed any Edwards Graduate Certificate, they might be required to take the indicated preparatory courses rather than just if they completed the Graduate Certificate in Leadership. Edwards launched the Graduate Certificate in Financial Management in the Fall of 2025, and we are strategically planning on proposing more certificates. To make this admission requirement process applicable to all the certificates, we are therefore proposing a modification to the verbiage.

This will expand our ability to ladder students into the MBA program, thereby increasing enrolment. There are no changes to the selection criteria for the program; this is not a new admission category.

COLLEGE STATEMENT

Provide a statement from College/School leadership recommending the change and how it relates to the strategic mission and enrolment plan of the College.

College leadership is onboard with the proposed changes as it closely aligns with the strategic mission of the college, especially around areas of sustainable programming and increasing accessibility to the program, thereby increasing enrolment in the MBA program.

These changes were approved at the **MBA Committee on March 3, 2026**, with the following motions:

Motion 1: Approve to include P.Geo as a profession for a GMAT waiver

Relevant section:

- An applicant holds a PMI issued PMP, or a recognized Canadian professional designation, namely, CPA, CFA, CPHR, and P.Eng, and P.Geo. *(Approved by Joe Schmidt, seconded by David Williams)*

Motion 2: Approve to change verbiage from just Graduate Certificate in Leadership to a broader definition to include current and future Graduate Certificates that ladder into the MBA.

Relevant section:

An applicant has successfully completed the an Edwards School of Business Graduate Certificate in Leadership and achieved a minimum 75% cumulative average. This The applicant will might be required to take the following preparatory courses and request that their scores be submitted to the school before starting the MBA program:

- GMAC Business Fundamentals: Finance
- GMAC Business Fundamentals: Accounting

(Approved by Reagan Schmidt, seconded by Joe Schmidt.)

CATALOGUE ENTRY MARK UP

Business Administration

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) - Course-based

Admission Requirements

- Language Proficiency Requirements: Proof of English proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English.
- A cumulative weighted average of at least a 70% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (i.e. 60 credit units).
- A four-year degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university.
 - Applicants with three-year degrees may be considered for admission. Applicants will be considered using a holistic admissions approach and should demonstrate a strong potential for success in the program through outstanding GMAT scores and/or exceptional leadership experience.
- Statement of Intent: Applicants must provide a written Statement of Intent (1000-word maximum) describing why they want to undertake the program and how their expertise, work and/or volunteer experience make them an ideal candidate for the program and their chosen field of study. This statement is a key component in adjudicating each applicant's suitability to the program. An interview may also be required to assess language proficiency.
- Current resume detailing positions held and a description of responsibilities.
- Two years of leadership* experience. Emerging leaders who have fewer than two years of leadership experience but who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential through their professional and life experiences, are preparing for further leadership roles, and otherwise meet the standard admissions criteria, are encouraged to apply. Please ensure that you demonstrate your leadership experience in your detailed resume and Statement of Intent.
- Minimum score of 500 Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or equivalent GMAT Focus Edition score
- Three confidential letters of recommendation (minimum one academic).
- Each applicant package will be reviewed holistically to assess the skills, personal attributes, background, and experiences, and how these relate to success in the MBA program. While a minimum GMAT score of 500 or equivalent GMAT Focus Edition score is required, it may be waived if one or more of the following are met:

- An applicant has successfully completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Edwards School of Business within the last 10 years and achieved an average of 75% in their last two years of full-time study (60 credit units)
- An applicant has successfully completed the Edwards School of Business Master of Professional Accounting program.
- An applicant holds a PMI issued PMP, or a recognized Canadian professional designation, namely, CPA, CFA, CPHR, ~~and~~ P.Eng, ~~and~~ P.Geo.
- An applicant is currently enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program or Doctor of Pharmacy program.
- An applicant has achieved the minimum required score on the LSAT, MCAT, or DAT, and have been admitted to the respective University of Saskatchewan colleges
- An applicant holds one of the following degrees from a Canadian university:
 - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)
 - Medical Doctor (MD)
 - Juris Doctor (JD)
 - Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
 - Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
 - Earned Doctoral Degree
- An applicant has successfully completed an undergraduate business degree from an accredited Canadian business school (ie: AACSB) and has a converted entrance average of a minimum of 80% in the last two years of full-time study (60 credit units) of their respective business program.
- An applicant has successfully completed ~~the an~~ Edwards School of Business Graduate Certificate ~~in Leadership~~ and achieved a minimum 75% cumulative average. This applicant ~~will~~ ~~might~~ be required to take the following preparatory courses and request that their scores be submitted to the school before starting the MBA program:
 - GMAC Business Fundamentals: Finance
 - GMAC Business Fundamentals: Accounting

Applicants whose qualifications do not meet the minimum requirements or whose academic qualifications are difficult to assess may be offered admission with conditions to a program. Applicants in this category will be required to participate in an interview with the Edwards Graduate Programs Admissions Committee and may be required to take certain preparatory courses to improve their qualifications. In this case they will be required to pay additional fees. The student's status will be reviewed after a specified amount of academic work is completed. If progress is satisfactory, the Edwards Graduate Programs Admissions Committee may recommend to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) that the student be considered fully

qualified. Students who do not achieve the conditions set out in the offer of admission may withdraw voluntarily or, failing this, will be required to discontinue. In certain exceptional situations, the academic unit may extend the conditions deadline with a new set of conditions, agreed to by the student and by CGPS.

*Leadership experience could include (but is not limited to) one or more of the following:

- Formal leadership role within an organization or volunteer group
- Extensive, high-level supervisory experience
- Experience in consulting or negotiating change in a complex environment
- Experience leading others to shared outcomes (informal leadership experience)

For more information on language proficiency requirements, see the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies [Academic Policies](#).

**Both the GMAT Exam and GMAT Focus Edition will be accepted.

Business Administration

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) - Edwards MBA Internship Program (EMIP)
Concentration

Admission Requirements

- Language Proficiency Requirements: Proof of English proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English.
- A cumulative weighted average of at least a 70% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (i.e. 60 credit units).
- A four-year degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university.
 - Applicants with three-year degrees may be considered for admission. Applicants will be considered using a holistic admissions approach and should demonstrate a strong potential for success in the program through outstanding GMAT scores and/or exceptional leadership experience.
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PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council
From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist
Date: April 16, 2026
Re: MBA – Admissions Changes

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposal as proposed. The purpose of the review was twofold:

- 1) to understand the potential impact of the change on the program enrolment and alignment to the college/school strategic enrolment plan.
- 2) To understand the financial implications of the proposed change and the impact on the college / school financial situation.

Date: April 15, 2026	Reviewed By: Loleen Berdahl, Acting Deputy Provost	Communicated By: Kyla Shea
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Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree program – Changes to Admission Requirements

General Description: The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies proposes the following changes to open up admission requirements for the M.B.A. program: eligibility will be extended to candidates holding a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.) designation and to students holding any graduate-level certificate offered by the Edwards School of Business (ESB) with a cumulative weighted average (CWA) of 75%. Currently, students holding the Graduate Certificate in Leadership, specifically, with a CWA of 75% are eligible for admission to the M.B.A. program.

College Approval: Graduate Programs Committee approval, April 6, 2026.

Provost's Office Review: Provost's office has reviewed and endorses the proposal.

Effective Term: 2027-28 application cycle

Course implications

- N/A

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation

- N/A

Financial and Budget

- N/A

Student Mobility

- N/A