

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: January 26, 2012

SUBJECT: **College of Graduate Studies and Research: revision to admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration.**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve revision to the College of Graduate Studies and Research admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration program, effective September 2012

PURPOSE:

Under the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995, decisions regarding admission qualifications and enrolment quotas for university programs are to be approved by Council and confirmed by Senate. This motion will be presented to the Spring, 2012 meeting of University Senate for confirmation.

SUMMARY:

This proposal recommends the removal of four admission requirements from the admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program: Introductory financial accounting; Introductory statistics; Introductory microeconomics; and Introductory macroeconomics.. Few of their competitor programs have similar requirements for admission and there are MBA courses which would provide MBA students with the necessary knowledge and training in these areas.

Program director Noreen Gregor and CGSR associate dean Trever Crowe discussed this change with the Academic Programs Committee at its Dec. 12 meeting. The Committee agreed that approval of this change should be recommended to Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Admission requirements chart

Report from CGSR regarding the admission qualification change request.

Master of Business Administration Admission Requirements	Change requested:
<p>The Edwards MBA assesses applicants on a composite basis for admission purposes. We look at a variety of factors when making admission decisions including undergraduate degree, grade point average, work experience, GMAT score, and reference letters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommended minimum score of 500 Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) • minimum 600 TOEFL score paper-based; 250 computer-based; 97-100 internet-based test; IELTS – score of 6.5 required in each area • Four-year baccalaureate degree from a recognized university • minimum 70% average (or equivalent) achieved in last 60 credit units of course work • recommended minimum of 3 years work experience • three confidential letters of recommendation (two academic and one professional) • current Resume detailing positions held and a description of responsibilities • Letter of Intent describing future career plans related to achieving an Edwards MBA • applicants will participate in an interview with the M.B.A. selection committee • prerequisite courses required: Introductory financial accounting, Introductory statistics, Introductory microeconomics, Introductory macroeconomics. 	<p>[same]</p> <p>prerequisite courses required: Introductory financial accounting, Introductory statistics, Introductory microeconomics, Introductory macroeconomics.</p>

MEMORANDUM

To: Cathie Fornssler, Committee Coordinator
Academic Programs Committee of University Council

From: Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Copies: N. Gregor, Edwards School of Business

Date: December 6, 2011

Re: Proposal for Changes to Admission Requirements for the Master of Business Administration in Edwards School of Business

Consistent with the Curricular Changes – Authority for Approval chart approved by University Council April 2002, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed changes to the admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration in the Edwards School of Business.

This report includes two appendices: a copy of the proposal and CGSR committee motions for approval. The formal review started with the Graduate Programs Committee on November 1, 2011 and the final motion to recommend to the Academic Programs Committee was made by the College Executive Committee on November 17, 2011.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research supports the changes to admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration. If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, I would be happy to respond.



Appendix A

Proposal submitted by ESB to remove prerequisite courses from the Admission Requirements of the MBA



EDWARDS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Programs Committee

FROM: Noreen Gregor, Director Professional Programs

DATE: October 18, 2011

RE: Proposed Changes to the MBA Program Prerequisites

Rationale

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program has just completed a thorough review of the admissions process and determined that there are barriers to entry compared to other competitor programs. We propose the elimination of the following pre-requisite requirements for the program:

Introductory financial accounting;
Introductory statistics;
Introductory microeconomics;
Introductory macroeconomics.

A review of pre-requisite requirements across all major Universities in Canada identifies that no other institution has similar pre-requisites. Please see attached for competitor information. The MBA Executive Committee met on this issue and determined that not having these prerequisites would not disadvantage a student from completing the program. Students registering in the Financial Statements Analysis course are provided with a pre-work review to ensure all students have the same base level of knowledge. Students are not required to have any advanced knowledge of statistics, microeconomics or macroeconomics for any of our other courses. Students not having these courses will not be disadvantaged to other students who may have taken them.

We propose that these requirements be eliminated effective September 1, 2012 for all students applying for admission to the program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Noreen Gregor

Review of Pre-requisite requirements Major Canadian Universities Specifically do the:

University	GMAT	Specific Course Pre-requisites	Work Experience Yes/No?
Memorial University of Newfoundland	550	NA	No
Carleton University	550	NA	No
Laurentian University	Optional	A quantitative Course and scored a minimum of 60	Yes, 2yrs
University of Windsor	500	NA	No
McGill University	Required no score indicated	NA	Yes, 2yrs
Dalhousie University	550	NA	Yes, 2 yrs
HEC Montréal	Optional	NA	Yes, 3yrs
University of Regina	500	NA	Yes, 2yrs
University of New Brunswick (Fredericton)	550	Sufficient background in economics and be computer literate	Yes, Several Yrs
University of Ottawa	59 th percentile	Sufficient math background and be computer literate	Yes, 2yrs
Brock University	550	NA	No
University of New Brunswick (Saint John)	550	NA	No
Vancouver Island University	NA	NA	No
Cape Breton University	Satisfactory	NA	No
Lansbridge University	NA	NA	No
Wilfrid Laurier University	600	NA	Yes
Concordia University	550	NA	Yes, 2 yrs
Saint Mary's University	550	NA	No part time yes full time
University of Manitoba	580	NA	Yes, 3yrs
University of Alberta	550	NA	Yes, 2yrs
University of Saskatchewan	500	Intro Financial Accounting Intro Micro Economics Intro Macro Economics Intro Statistics	No
University of Calgary	550	NA	Yes, 3yrs
McMaster University	600	Sufficient grounding in mathematics, statistics and computer literacy	Yes, for Full time no for part time
Simon Fraser University	550	NA	Yes, 5 yrs or less?
University of Victoria	550	NA	Yes, 2yrs
Royal Roads University	No	Basic Computer Literacy	NA
University of British Columbia	550	NA	Yes, 2yrs
Athabasca University	NA	NA	Yes
York University	550	Proficiency in word processing and spreadsheets	Yes, 2yrs
Queen's University	600 (lower will be assessed)	NA	2yrs but less will be assessed.
University of Western Ontario	620	NA	Yes
University of Toronto	No minimum	NA	Yes, 2yrs full time; 4 yrs part time

Appendix B

CGSR Motions for Approval

Graduate Programs Committee and Graduate Executive Committee Discussion and Approvals

Proposal for Changes to Admission Requirements for the MBA, ESB – reviewed by Graduate Programs Committee on November 1, 2011.

The proposal submitted is to delete prerequisite courses in the areas of Introductory financial accounting, statistics, microeconomics, and macroeconomics from the admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration program. The committee noted the comparison chart but considered the prerequisite deletions on an academic basis and the fact that the program material requirements were being met in other required courses of the program.

MOTION: to recommend to the Executive Committee of CGSR the proposal from Edwards School of Business to delete Introductory financial accounting, Introductory statistics, Introductory microeconomics, and Introductory macroeconomics from the Master of Business Administration Program Prerequisites. D. Makaroff/B. Nelson. All in favour. Carried.

MASTER of BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – reviewed by Executive Committee of CGSR on November 17, 2011.

This proposal recommends the removal of four background topics from the admission requirements for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. The unit indicated that the reasons for this are two-fold. First, few of their competitor programs have similar requirements in their admission criteria. Second, the program indicated that, for those students who did not have such a background, courses in the MBA program would provide the necessary knowledge and background training, thus it is not necessary to have these areas of expertise as prerequisites for admission.

Members of the Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the chart provided as part of the proposal package and commented that admission standards for the MBA program at the U of S were less stringent than many other comparator programs. The committee was informed that this is a regional program that responds to local industry and business needs. This is a program for Saskatchewan residents, many who have been in the workforce for a number of years and seek to return to university to upgrade their credentials. Given that the program has committed to ensure that students without experience in introductory accounting, statistics and economics will be accommodated within the associated courses, most members supported the proposal.

MOTION: *“That the proposal to remove the requirement for introductory financial accounting, introductory statistics, introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics, as prerequisites for admission into the MASTER of BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, be recommended to APC for approval.”*

Fulton / Noble 4/2 - CARRIED