

Pre-M.B.A.

at Centre College

Centre prepares you to succeed

One of the nation's top 50 liberal arts colleges, Centre offers the type of broad-based education America's best M.B.A. programs seek. Centre's graduates are among the country's brightest and have both the strong communication and technical skills sought by the top graduate schools and professional programs.

Our students also have an outstanding record of obtaining distinguished internships, and our graduates regularly go directly into interesting, rewarding jobs that provide the real-world experience M.B.A. programs often require.

Who should consider getting an M.B.A.?

Students who think they may want to work in either the for-profit sector, the not-for-profit sector, or any administrative branch of local, state, or federal government should consider getting an M.B.A.

While the M.B.A. was not the first graduate program in the U.S., it's the most successful program. The original concept was graduate business education for people with scientific and engineering backgrounds. The top M.B.A. programs have remained true to those origins; hence, you likely will also have medical doctors, lawyers, scientists, and artists in your class at Harvard, Wharton, Chicago, Stanford, and other top schools.

This diversity suggests there is no single type of preparation required for the best M.B.A. programs. Backgrounds that are suitable preparation are as varied as the industries and the jobs in which an M.B.A. may apply his or her skills.

What courses should I take at Centre to prepare me for an M.B.A.?

In addition to the excellent communication skills you acquire in all courses at Centre, there are some basic courses that will help you get the most out of your M.B.A. experience.

You should take as many of the accounting, finance, computing, and economics courses as you can while at the College. Any rigorous and analytical major in the curriculum is good preparation for an M.B.A. So, if you're uncertain and think you may want to go to graduate school in physics, then major in physics and take the accounting and finance courses as electives. Or, if you're certain you want to get an M.B.A. or go to graduate school in economics or finance, then take the traditional route by majoring in economics or financial economics at Centre.

What are the requirements for getting into an M.B.A. program?

As you might expect, your GPA at Centre will be an important factor in determining the programs to which you will be accepted. Since you're considering Centre, you're in all likelihood an above-average student. The motivation to take advantage of the opportunities that Centre offers is up to you.

You'll also need to do well on the GMAT exam, which can be taken any time prior to applying for admission to an M.B.A. program. You should take the GMAT after you graduate from Centre.

In addition to an undergraduate degree, the best programs expect you to have a minimum of two years of professional experience following graduation before you apply to their programs. The better programs expect you to contribute significantly to your own education and to the education of other students in the program. You can only do this if you're mature and have experience to share. The length and the type of experience are very important. The job following your graduation from Centre should be the right "bridge-job," a professional and analytical position that allows you to demonstrate increasing responsibility during your tenure.

Are all of the M.B.A. programs the same?

There's a significant difference between the top-20 M.B.A. programs and the regional M.B.A. programs in terms of the opportunities you'll have after graduation. Competition for admission to the top programs is very intense. Since Centre students are prime candidates for the top programs, however, we encourage students to be ambitious in their planning.



Graham Campbell
Centre Class of 2012

Double Major: Financial Economics and French

"At Centre, students not only learn the 'what' about business but the 'why.' We're taught the workings of a complex global economy, which is crucial to students headed for the business world. Practical experience through internships gives students the opportunity to put their classroom knowledge to work and to gain valuable hands-on experience."

M.B.A. programs generally fall into two categories. The first is the traditional lecture, homework, and test. The other is the “case method.” In this approach, you’re assigned readings in a topic area and then given a sequence of case studies to analyze. The case study will give you the core information surrounding the situation. You’re expected to analyze the information, gather additional information, make a recommendation as to how to solve the problem, and provide a rationale as to why you think your solution is the best.

The difference is obvious. The traditional approach expects you to master a core body of knowledge and then communicate what you’ve learned to an instructor. The case method expects you to *apply* what you’ve learned. An additional advantage to the case method is that it’s easy for the instructor to form teams of students to work on the cases. Teamwork is an important skill that today’s employers want.

How can Centre’s program help me enroll in one of the top 20 M.B.A. programs after graduation?

First, a Centre undergraduate degree will help you in your quest for a top-20 program because of the College’s reputation for academic excellence.

The better M.B.A. programs prepare people for top leadership positions, and these positions require articulate, well-read individuals who are also technically competent. People with top-notch liberal arts educations like Centre’s and a technically oriented M.B.A. are ideal candidates.

What’s Centre’s pre-M.B.A. curriculum like?

Centre’s economics curriculum and the pre-M.B.A. program are designed to maximize the probability our better students will be admitted to the top programs. This works to the benefit of all our students since it also means the average student at Centre is more likely to be admitted to a higher ranked M.B.A. program.

The pre-M.B.A. curriculum consists of basic economics, basic accounting, managerial finance, investments, corporate finance, microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, and empirical methods in economics and finance.

Centre doesn’t offer an undergraduate major in business, preferring to follow the Ivy League schools who have programs similar to ours for pre-M.B.A. students.

Is there a clearly defined path for progress towards the M.B.A. degree at Centre?

Yes. You should take the accounting and basic finance courses as early in your program at Centre as possible, certainly before the end of your junior year.

In the fall semester of your junior year, you should start your search for a professional summer internship experience between your junior and senior years. Preferably, the internship should be an opportunity to apply what you’ve learned in accounting and finance—that’s the reason for taking these courses early.

In the fall of your senior year, you should contact our Career Services Office and begin your search for the right “bridge job” after leaving Centre. After a year’s experience, it would be good to start planning to take the GMAT after you have prepared for the exam.

For additional faculty information, see Centre’s Web site at www.centre.edu/faculty_roster/faculty_discipline.html

Visit Centre

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, attend a class, talk to the professors and students, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

For further information about pre-M.B.A. at Centre, write, call or e-mail

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Pre-M.B.A. Web page
www.centre.edu/majors/pre_mba.html

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