

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

2024-25



AACSB
ACCREDITED

Contact: Dr. Courtney Robinson, MBA Advisor
601.266.4659 | courtney.l.robinson@usm.edu



The Master of Business Administration (MBA) is the most demanded graduate degree in the world. Southern Miss' MBA program consists of 30 credit hours, including 15 core hours and 15 elective hours to develop an area specialty. Students can complete the program in person or fully online from anywhere in the world. Full-time students can complete the MBA program in as little as one year, while working professional students can complete the program in as little as 1.5 years with two courses per semester.

MBA students learn decision-making skills, learn to think critically and strategically, develop analytical skills, and refine organizational communication skills. Our students are diverse; about half have undergraduate degrees in business, while the other half have degrees in engineering, science, humanities, health professions and other fields. Our program's diverse composition provides students with varying perspectives, fostering collaboration and the development of unique ideas and resolutions to modern business problems.

ADMISSION STATUS

- Admission into the MBA program is competitive and holistic. An applicant may be admitted on a regular basis, a conditional basis, or denied admission into the program. The committee reviews the entire application package when making admission decisions. The minimum standards for each status are provided in the [Graduate Bulletin](#).
- A minimum 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours is required for regular admission.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- **Tuition** - Business Services provides current [tuition rates](#). Graduate Admissions provides more information about [financial aid opportunities](#).
- **Graduate Assistantships (GAs)** - A limited number of GAs are available to select full-time students and are awarded on a competitive basis. **GAs can only be awarded to students admitted under the regular admission status.**
- **Tuition Assistance (TA) Gap Funding (military, veterans, and their families)** - USM covers the gap between Federal Tuition Assistance and remaining course tuition for TA-approved hours. Military students who qualify for Federal Tuition Assistance can have the remainder of their TA-approved hours covered through our TA Gap Funding Program.

MBA APPLICATION DEADLINES

PRIORITY DEADLINES FOR U.S. RESIDENTS

- » April 1 - Seeking a graduate assistantship for the upcoming year
- » April 1 - Summer
- » June 1 - Fall
- » November 1 - Spring

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

- » April 1 - Priority deadline for seeking a graduate assistantship for the upcoming year
- » May 1 - Fall
- » October 1 - Spring

[FINAL DEADLINE SET BY GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CAN BE VIEWED HERE.](#)

ACCREDITATION AND RANKINGS

Accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

#16 Best Online MBA Programs in the South (2023), *Fortune Education*

#19 in 25 Most Affordable Online MBAs in 2022-23, *Fortune Education*

#20 Best Accelerated Online MBA Programs (2023), *Fortune Education*

#27 Best Online MBA Programs - No GMAT/GRE Required (2023), *Fortune Education*

#28 Best Online MBA Programs (2022), *Fortune Education*

#94 Best Online MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

#127 Best Full-Time MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

#213 Best Part-Time MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

#20 Best MBA Degree Programs Online (2020), *Learn.org*

#23 Best No-GMAT Online MBA Programs (2020), *College Consensus*



MBA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- [Online Graduate School Application, Non-Refundable Application Fee and Official Transcript\(s\)](#)
- Statement of Purpose
 - » No more than two pages, double-spaced
 - » The personal essay provides an opportunity to highlight the unique qualities and experiences that distinguish you as an applicant and demonstrates your written communication skills. You may want to comment on your long-term career objectives and how graduate education will help you attain your goals. Discuss your most important strengths and abilities, as well as the weaknesses or shortcomings you want to address while in the program.
- Prompt Response
 - » Applicants will receive a prompt question that requires a two-page response.
- Three Letters of Recommendation
 - » Academic or professional recommenders commenting on your ability to be successful in the MBA program
 - » Recommenders receive an email to upload their letters to the application once their contact information is entered
- Current Resumé
 - » While not required, work experience after the bachelor's degree is valued. Please include part-time, full-time, management and military work experience, along with relevant dates of employment.
- Requirements for International Applicants
 - » [English Proficiency Exam Score](#) completed within the last two years sent to International Admissions
 - » International applicants should contact [International Admissions in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services](#) to submit all supporting materials, including applicable test scores, and to ensure all transcripts are properly converted for evaluation. International Admissions can also answer I-20 and visa-related questions.

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

- » Supply Chain and Logistics
- » Communications/Public Relations
- » Public Health
- » Human Capital Development
- » Management
- » Economic Development
- » Sport Security Management
- » Instructional Technology and Design
- » Non-Profit Studies

TRANSFER CREDITS

- At the discretion of the academic program, up to one-third (33%) of the credit hours required to complete a graduate degree program may be transferred from other accredited institutions. The coursework to be transferred is time-limited; it must have been taken within the time allowed for the graduate degree program. The credit must carry a letter or numeric grade of "B" or better. Course credit applied to another earned degree cannot be transferred. Transfer grades will not be calculated in the USM GPA. Transfer credit is not automatic and will be awarded only after course content is evaluated and approved by the graduate committee chair and/or graduate committee, school director and graduate dean. Students will supply syllabi, course descriptions, and other requested materials for review.
- **Non-degree status** - Students who want to take MBA courses for purposes other than the attainment of a graduate degree, or who meet admission requirements for the Southern Miss Graduate School and would like to begin taking courses before completing the MBA application, may take up to 12 hours of MBA classes under non-degree status. Students seeking non-degree hours must meet all prerequisites, submit a non-degree application to the Graduate School, pay the non-refundable application fee, receive approval to enroll from the MBA advisor, and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Students who are later admitted into the MBA program may transfer these hours to the required program coursework. A total sum of no more than one-third (33%) of combined transfer and non-degree coursework may be applied toward a graduate degree.

DUAL-DEGREE PATHWAYS

Southern Miss Business offers Dual-Degree Pathways for business students to earn two degrees at one time, including sharing credit hours. MBA applicants can choose to pursue a Master of Public Health (MBA/MPH), Master of Science in Sport Management (MBA/MSSM), or a Master of Library and Information Science (MBA/MLIS). To qualify as a dual-degree candidate, applicants must apply to each degree program separately. Applicants must meet the requirements and prerequisites in both programs to qualify for admittance.



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