Master of Business Administration

The Penn State Harrisburg MBA lets you customize your path to a career-enhancing advanced degree, based on your educational background, professional interests, and scheduling needs.

- Independent study and thesis courses provide you the opportunity to explore a specific topic of your choosing. Many students select real problems or projects from their workplace to study, gaining academic credit and real world business solutions in the process.
- The degree offers tracks of study that allow you to customize the program to your professional needs and interests and that represent high-demand areas of expertise such as accounting, business analytics, finance, and supply chain management.
- Depending on your educational background, you may substitute some prescribed courses or need fewer required foundation credits.
- Scheduling is flexible — with day and evening classes; on-site, online, and hybrid courses; and accelerated, one-day-per-week, and other options. You can attend full-or part-time.
- The program encourages a global perspective, and provides financial support of up to $2,000 for students participating in business-focused Penn State Harrisburg international study tours. Students have opportunities to study abroad during ten-day trips to places like England, China, Greece, or Germany.

Contact

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Penn State
Harrisburg

School of Business Administration

Master of Business Administration

Curriculum

The M.B.A. program at Penn State Harrisburg is a 30-credit degree program, providing that students have the appropriate foundation. The 30 credits include 21 prescribed credits and 9 elective credits.

Prescribed Courses (21 credits)

The prescribed courses are intended to develop general competence for overall management.

- ACCT 540 Accounting for Managerial Decisions (3)
- BUS 510 Business Analytics and Decision Modeling (3)
- BUS 515 Business Ethics, Governance and Law (3)
- BUS 588 Strategic Management (3)
- FINAN 521 Corporate Finance OR FINAN 530 Advanced Corporate Finance (3)
- INFSY 540 Information Resources Management (3)
- MRKT 514 Strategic Marketing (3)

Elective Courses (9 credits)

Electives allow students to select additional courses of interest. Electives include courses offered by the School of Business Administration such as Accounting (ACCT), Business (BUS), Finance (FINAN), Information Systems (INFSY), Management (MNGMT), Marketing (MRKT) and Supply Chain and Information Systems (SC&IS). Other electives may be selected from courses offered by other academic programs given approval from a faculty advisor or the program.

Testimonials

I credit my MBA independent study research for helping me analyze tools I need to reach my work goals. It was the best class I've taken. I could relate what I learned from Dr. Young and my research to my position at work.

Chris Rowland
TE Connectivity

Courses

Tracks of Electives

Accounting

The objective of this Track is to provide the student, when combined with an undergraduate degree in accounting or comparable additional coursework, with the stipulated number of academic credits to satisfy the educational requirements for CPA licensure in Pennsylvania and most other states. Emphasis is placed on advanced level accounting skills including auditing, financial reporting, and taxation.

Business Analytics

The objective of this Track is to provide the student with data analytical skills that enable them to gain data insights and transform data into strategic decisions.

Finance

The objective of this Track is to examine and apply complex economic and financial models and techniques in decision making. Electives for the Finance Track cover four areas: corporate finance, investment, financial institution, and international finance. This Track also assists the student in preparation for the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) exam.

Information Systems

The objective of this Track is to develop a comprehensive understanding of information technology management and the software development competencies and tools that facilitate better business decisions. The required course for this track provides knowledge of object-oriented software development. Electives cover both information technology areas such as database management, web development and data mining, and management of information technology areas such as e-commerce, software engineering and global information technology.

Strategic Leadership and Innovation

The objective of this Track is to provide students with the knowledge necessary for understanding the process of innovation and the organizational characteristics that facilitate the process. Upon completing the track, students will have the competencies necessary for leading the formulation and implementation of an entrepreneurial strategy.

Supply Chain Management

The objective of this Track is to provide the competencies and tools for developing the effective and efficient physical flow of goods as well as the information and financial flows necessary to effect them. Emphasis is both on organizations needing to design, maintain, and optimize their supply chains, and those that provide the requisite enabling services such as those engaged in transportation, warehousing, information intermediaries, and third-party combinations.

General Business

The objective of this Track is to provide for students who wish to develop a broad generalist program, or who have a particular personal or professional goals not met by one of the other tracks. Select 9 graduate credits, in consultation with an adviser.

More details on tracks available on the MBA program site, harrisburg.psu.edu/mba.

Program Requirements for Admission

Applications from prospective students with business or non-business degrees are welcome. Applicants are evaluated for their potential to be successful in a quality M.B.A. program based on their entire admission portfolio consisting of undergraduate degree, GMAT or GRE scores, work experience and letters of recommendation.

Applicants with significant work experience may be admitted with a lower GMAT score while applicants with limited work experience may be admitted with a higher GMAT score and an outstanding undergraduate background. Students accepted to our M.B.A. program have, on average, a 3.4 undergraduate GPA, 540 GMAT score, and five years of work experience.

Requirements	More Information
GPA	Decisions are based primarily on undergraduate junior/senior grade-point average and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores.
Supporting Materials	✓ A copy of official transcripts (email to: hbg-gradadmit@lists.psu.edu) ✓ GMAT or GRE* test scores (the test must have been taken within the past five years). *This requirement may be waived for select applicants. Refer to the MBA Program Requirements for Admission for details. ✓ Résumé ✓ Two letters of recommendation The letter should cover the following: (a) a candidate's qualities that contribute to success of his/her graduate study and career advancement, (b) weaknesses, (c) time management skills, and (d) ability to handle pressure. References submitted via the online application will receive an e-mail providing uploading instructions.

Beta Gamma Sigma members, please refer to the MBA website for details on an application fee waiver.

Deadline for Domestic Students

Semester	Deadline
Fall	July 18 (April 30 for candidates seeking a graduate assistantship)
Spring	November 18
Summer	April 18

Deadline for International Students (needing I-20)

Semester	Deadline
Fall	May 31
Spring	September 30
Summer	February 28

Visit the program's website for complete details.