



Dedman College

Pre-MBA and Pre-Corporate Studies

SMU Advising Center
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Develop and demonstrate the following skills for an MBA application or any business career –

According to *Stanford's Graduate School of Business*, best MBA program 2003, *U.S. News & World Report* –

Choose a major that you find interesting and engaging. Many MBA students come from pure liberal arts backgrounds, majoring in everything from economics to religious studies. Demonstrate intellectual vitality, strong academic aptitude, and initiative; pursue an honors project or do a senior thesis. While you are not required to take business classes before entering an MBA program, business school curricula assume a solid foundation in quantitative skills. You can't be afraid of numbers and so you may want to take a couple of classes in economics, math, statistics, and/or science.

- Strong writing skills – practice all forms of writing!
- Critical and analytical thinking skills – distinguish good from bad arguments
- Technical skills – develop computer proficiency
- Mathematical and quantitative reasoning – grow comfortable with numbers
- Cultural knowledge – seek diverse experiences and courses
- Organizational skills – manage time and work – make presentations
- Leadership skills – hold the vision and empower others
- Interpersonal and teamwork skills – accomplish goals with others
- Professional progress – get internships and 2-3 years of work experience before applying

According to top MBA programs, any of these Dedman College majors can be a strong choice.

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|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| History | Sociology | Markets and Culture |
| English | Anthropology | Statistics |
| Foreign Languages | Political Science | Biology |
| International Studies | Economics | Chemistry |
| Philosophy | Psychology | Physics |
| Public Policy | Geology | Environmental Science |

Develop a four-year academic plan – example for a major in History

Ask your academic advisor to help you plan your Pre-MBA and pre-corporate degree. Build the foundation and expertise that you want by combining courses from your major, general education, electives, and study abroad.

| General Education 41 credits | HISTORY MAJOR 33 credits | Pre-MBA electives 48 credits |
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| <p><i>English:</i> Rhetoric I and II</p> <p><i>Math:</i> Calculus</p> <p><i>Computers & Info Tech:</i> Info Tech in Business</p> <p><i>Science:</i> Intro Environmental Essentials of Biology</p> <p><i>Perspectives:</i> <i>Art:</i> Basics of Photography <i>Literature:</i> Lit of Minorities <i>Philosophy:</i> Ways of Being</p> <p>Religious</p> <p><i>Economics:</i> Microeconomics</p> <p><i>Behavioral Science:</i> Intro Psychology</p> <p><i>Cultural Formations:</i> Clash of Cultures The Scientific Method</p> <p><i>Wellness I and II</i></p> | <p>From Pew to Bleacher: American Culture and Institutions</p> <p>American Politics: FDR to Bush</p> <p>American Cultural History</p> <p>Economic History of Europe</p> <p>Europe in the Modern World</p> <p>The Modern Middle East: From the Ottoman Empire to OPEC</p> <p>Conflicts in the Modern Middle East</p> <p>Latin America in the Modern Era</p> <p>History of the Caribbean</p> <p>Junior Seminar in Research and Writing</p> <p>Internship in History – <i>such as The Sixth Floor Museum, The Dallas Historical Society, or Refugee Services of Texas</i></p> | <p>Foreign Language – Spanish</p> <p>Internship in Spanish – <i>such as The US Mexico Consulate, US Mexico Chamber of Commerce, or VMS Univision Telemundo</i></p> <p>Macroeconomics</p> <p>Corporate Ethics</p> <p>Statistics for Modern Business Decisions</p> <p>Money and Banking</p> <p>International Trade</p> <p>Intro Accounting</p> <p>Writing for Business</p> <p>Intro Advertising</p> <p>Logic</p> <p>Resources and the Environment</p> <p>Human Ecology</p> <p>The Art of Acting</p> |

Select your major, foreign language, and study abroad with your business interests in mind.

The contacts you make during study abroad may be great networking opportunities. Considering the world's changing markets, the following advice from The Association of Departments of Foreign Languages is more relevant today than it was in 1983.

For a student who plans to complete the MBA, an undergraduate degree in foreign languages would seem to be an obvious choice. The U.S. invested over \$100 billion in Spanish-speaking countries alone during the last twenty-five years. Select your company; learn all you can; join the company; transfer to the international division; learn the company policies, procedures, markets; then, instead of saying, "I speak Spanish, send me to your country," say, "I know your company, the territory, the competition, marketing, and I speak Spanish."

Dedman College majors offer unlimited possibilities for developing and demonstrating skills for a business career. CEOs with similar majors include –

"Literature is unbelievably helpful because no matter what business you are in, you are dealing with interpersonal relationships...it gives you an appreciation of what makes people tick."

Michael Eisner, CEO, Walt Disney Corporation

Undergraduate major: English literature and theater

"A study of the past gives the present perspective."

Carlton (Carly) Fiorina, Chairman, President, and CEO for Hewlett-Packard

Undergraduate majors: medieval history and philosophy

"To have an understanding of the history and culture of Koreans, Japanese, Indians and Chinese was invaluable."

John Loose, CEO, Corning

Undergraduate major: East Asian history

Meg Whitman, CEO, E-Bay

Undergraduate major: economics

Alan G. Lafley, President and CEO, Procter and Gamble Company

Undergraduate major: history

Jill Barad, CEO, Mattel Inc.

Undergraduate majors: psychology and English

Steve Case, CEO and Co-founder, America Online

Undergraduate major: political science