

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school	Public
Environment	Town
Academic calendar	Semester

SURVEY SAYS . . .

Friendly students
 Good peer network
 Smart classrooms
Solid preparation in:
 General management
 Teamwork

STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	18,000
Enrollment of business school	48
% male/female	0/100
% out-of-state	12
% international	50
Average age at entry	24

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	69
Student/faculty ratio	40:1
Profs interesting rating	68
Profs accessible rating	80

Joint Degrees

JD/MBA (with University of Idaho) 4 years.

Academics

Washington State's College of Business has gained a strong national reputation for its "fantastic" study environment and "relatively low tuition," but its many attributes are no secret to WSU undergrads. Many students like the school so much that they decide to remain Cougars. "I completed my undergrad at WSU and enjoyed the experience so much that I wanted to complete my graduate degree here as well," one student says.

The school offers classes at WSU's main campus in Pullman, and at its satellite campuses in Spokane, Vancouver, Washington, and the Tri-Cities area in the southeastern part of the state. Course work is offered in accounting, finance; insurance and real estate; information systems; management and operations; marketing; and hospitality business management. Master of Accounting, Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Technology Management, and Doctor of Philosophy (in business administration) degrees are available.

The recently revamped MBA program is "directed toward non-business undergraduate majors" and "accepts students with less than 1 year [of work] experience." Opinions of the intro-level courses are mixed: One student said his first semester was "a bit weak." Though difficult, it was "really just busywork." By all accounts, things pick up from there, with course work "designed around the issues and direction of the changing business world." There's an "emphasis on teamwork," and assignments are connected to "real-life experience." Professors are "highly experienced." One student says, "The quality of [the] faculty is by far the biggest asset." Professors maintain close contact with students through a "cohort system that allows for smaller classes and greater [student] teacher interaction." This can be a mixed blessing, however. While the faculty includes "some of the best research minds" in the field, some professors "don't know the first thing about teaching," one student says. Fortunately, "The program coordinators listen to and respect student feedback." The school's administrative staff is "on a first-name basis with all the students." They "will go out of their way to help you solve/remedy a problem," though their "speed of handling affairs" could improve.

Career and Placement

The Carson Center for Professional Development encourages student involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities. The center also polishes students' resume and interviewing skills and utilizes "alumni and faculty connections" to help students gain real-world experience through jobs and internships. These efforts are, for the most part, successful. The "proud alumni base" is particularly helpful; many here believe that WSU's greatest strength is the "dedication to each other" shown by fellow Cougars. Some students, however, would like to see more direct "interaction with outside companies." Another student says the program is "so new [that] they do not have the reputation with employers that some other MBA programs have."

Student Life and Environment

Students at WSU hail from "extremely diverse backgrounds." However, as most students "lack real working experience," this diversity is generally of the cultural variety: "About half" the students in some years are foreign-born, and "All of the students are friendly and intelligent." Students describe their classmates as "mature individuals"—the average age at entry into the program is 25—"who are attending business school to better themselves for their future careers." They're "open-minded," perhaps to a fault: "They do not have very strong opinions about much in the world," one student reports. Many have part-time jobs on campus, and almost all are "willing to help others" with course

CHERYL OLIVER, MBA@WSU.EDU
PO Box 644744, PULLMAN, WA 99164-4744 UNITED STATES
PHONE: 509-335-7617 • FAX: 509-335-4735
E-MAIL: MBA@WSU.EDU • WEBSITE: WWW.WSU.EDU/MBA

work. While a few students believe that “the course load is usually too heavy to take part in extracurricular activities,” “Most manage their time very well.” Students say that because of the smaller groups in the cohort system, peers in the program “turn into life-long friends.”

There are two camps here. The first could be described as the nothing-to-do camp, which claims that life here “is just going to school for classes and returning home [to] study—there’s not much entertainment in this city.” The other camp says Pullman is a “wonderful college town,” and that the campus is “very lively.” The campus reportedly has a “perfect gym” that houses “great sports programs.” Some students are “involved in organized sports and activities with [the] professors and administration.” One student writes, “I am involved in two organizations on campus (MBA Association and Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity). I currently hold two jobs totaling 25 hours a week. I live with other MBA students so that we can do much [of] our homework together.”

Admissions

WSU’s MBA program accepts applications from those with a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited undergraduate institution. All undergraduate fields of study are considered. To be qualified for regular admission, an applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the final 60 hours of undergraduate course work, or for 12 or more credits of recognized graduate-level course work. International applicants also must have a score of 580 or better on the TOEFL. GMAT scores and three letters of recommendation are required of all applicants. In addition to the above requirements, to be qualified for regular admission to the Master of Accounting program, an applicant must have a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition (in-state/ out-of-state)	\$10,000/\$19,000
Fees	\$683
Cost of books	\$1,080
Room & board	\$8,720
Average grant	\$4,000

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Selectivity Rating	81
# of applications received	128
% applicants accepted	58
% acceptees attending	38
Average GMAT	570
Range of GMAT	480–650
Average GPA	3.72
TOEFL required of international students	Yes
Minimum TOEFL (paper/computer)	580/237
Application fee	\$35
Regular application deadline	3/1
Regular notification	4/1
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy	Transfer students will only be able to apply 6 credits of elective course work to the WSU MBA on a case by case basis.
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	Yes