Mission

The Nelson Rusche College of Business provides a student-focused learning environment where quality students and respected faculty interact to develop knowledge and skills relevant for success in a changing business climate.
Graduate Programs and Objectives

The College of Business offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree, the Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.A.) degree, and the Master of Science (M.S.) degree with a major in computer science. The M.B.A. program provides advanced training in the theory and practice of management. The program is designed to enhance the managerial decision-making skills of the student and to prepare the student to progress through increasing levels of responsibility. The M.P.A. Program is designed to prepare the student for a career in professional accounting and to meet the education requirements for CPA certification in the state of Texas. The M.S. program and its purposes are described in the Department of Computer Science section of this bulletin.

M.B.A. Program

Admission

Entrance into the M.B.A. program is open to all students holding a baccalaureate degree without regard to major. It is not necessary to have any previous business course work to be admitted. Applicants should take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) at least two months prior to enrollment (scores more than five years old at the time of application are not normally accepted). An admission application form must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Graduate School and official transcripts must be sent from all colleges and universities attended. The deadline for receipt of all material (including GMAT score) is 30 days prior to registration for the semester in which the student desires to enroll.

The acceptance decision is based on a combination of undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and GMAT score. To be accepted, a candidate must have a minimum GMAT exam score of 450 and satisfy one of the two following admission formulae: 1) Earn a value of at least 1000 using the formula (overall GPA x200) + GMAT exam score, or 2) Earn a value of at least 1050 using the formula (upper-division GPAx200) + GMAT exam score. For purposes of this formula, “upper-division” is defined to be either the last 60 hours of undergraduate course-work (excluding freshman-level courses) or all junior/ senior courses. A student whose native language is not English also must present a score of at least 213 on the computer-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 550 on the paper based test. Exceptions to these standards are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants to the MBA program should note that while their score on the Analytical Writing Assessment portion of the GMAT exam does not influence their admission status to the program, this score does influence the total number of classes that are required to earn the MBA degree. A score of less than 4.0 on this portion of the GMAT exam will result in the admitted student having to take BCM 520, which is a technical writing course and is in addition to the usual required course work for the MBA degree.

Program of Study

Each M.B.A. student’s degree plan is customized according to his or her background. Students lacking math or computer skills begin with one or more of the following undergraduate “prerequisite” courses: CSC 121, MTH 143, MTH 144, and MTH 220 (see the General Bulletin for descriptions).

Graduate course work is divided into two categories: “leveling” courses and a required core. Leveling courses cover the common body of business knowledge that would normally be found in an undergraduate business curriculum. The following 21 semester hours are included: ACC
501, CSC 503, ECO 502, ECO 515, FIN 504, MGT 512, and MKT 508. Depending on the student’s background, some or all of the leveling courses may be waived by the M.B.A. director. For a course to be waived, the student must normally have completed comparable undergraduate or graduate business course work from a regionally accredited university with grades of B or better within the last five years. The following undergraduate courses (or their equivalents) are the most helpful: ACC 231; CSC 340; ECO 231, 232, 339; FIN 333; MGT 370, 371, 463; MKT 351 (see the General Bulletin for descriptions).

All M.B.A. candidates are required to complete a 36-semester-hour core. These courses refine business knowledge by exploring business theories and applications and applying the knowledge to real-world situations. The core consists of: ACC 511, BLW 537, ECO 520, FIN 514, MGT 571, MGT 577, MGT 517, MKT 513, and 12 semester hours of approved business electives. Each M.B.A. student must make a grade of “B” or better in the capstone MGT 517 course to satisfy the university comprehensive exam requirement. MGT 517 must be taken in the last semester of study, but may be taken simultaneously with other MBA course.

The M.B.A. Program offers two majors and six areas of emphasis. Students who select their electives so as to have 18 hours in management may declare a major in that subject. Otherwise, the major will be in general business and an emphasis area may be chosen, but is not required. Emphasis areas require specific graduate courses to be taken for electives. Keeping in mind that leveling graduate courses do not qualify for elective courses, the requirements for the six areas of emphasis are:

- Accounting: Three graduate elective courses in the area of Accounting
- Finance: Three graduate elective courses in the area of Finance
- Human Resources Management: Four graduate elective courses: MGT 550, GBU 550, MGT 557, MGT 570, and MGT 573.
- International Business: Four graduate elective courses with a focus on international business, including (but not limited to): MGT 522, MKT 552, FIN 510, and BLW 547
- Marketing: Three graduate elective courses in the area of Marketing.

**M.P.A. Program**

The M.P.A. is an integrated undergraduate/graduate program that requires 156 semester credit hours of course work, of which 120 hours are undergraduate and 36 hours are graduate. Upon completion, the student is simultaneously awarded a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a Master of Professional Accountancy degree, each with a major in accounting. To begin the undergraduate portion of the M.P.A. Program, a student need only be admitted to the university as described in the General Bulletin. Admission to the graduate portion of the M.P.A. Program is a two-step process as described in the Gerald W. Schlief School of Accountancy section later in this bulletin.

The stand alone M.P.A. Program is open to all students holding a baccalaureate degree without regard to major. To be admitted to graduate status as an accounting major, a student must meet the requirements for admission to graduate school. Prior to admission to candidacy, the student must have completed courses equivalent to ACC 231, ACC 232, ACC 331, ACC 332, ACC 333, ACC 343, ACC 437, ACC 465, ECO 502, ECO 515 and FIN 504.

M.P.A. students are subject to the same test score requirements as described for the M.B.A. program above, and degree requirements for the M.P.A. are outlined in the Gerald W. Schlief School of Accountancy section. The determination of which bulletin to follow is made
according to the criteria published in the General Bulletin.

**M.B.A./M.P.A. Program Notes**

1. All requirements must be completed within six years of first graduate enrollment.
2. To remain in good standing, students must have a 3.0 GPA (B average) on all graduate work.
3. No Ds and no more than two Cs may be counted toward graduate degree requirements.
4. No more than two graduate classes may be repeated (only the higher grade counts for repeats). The GPA may not be improved by retaking a course at another university.
5. With consent of the appropriate program director, at most six hours of graduate course work may be transferred in from an AACSB-accredited school.

**Minors**

A graduate student enrolled in another department of the university may minor in either general business or management. The general business minor consists of nine to 15 hours of business courses numbered 500 and higher from at least three different subject areas. The management minor consists of nine to 15 hours of management courses numbered 500 and higher. No non-business major may have more than 50 percent of his or her graduate program in business courses.

The M.B.A. and M.P.A. degree programs are accredited by AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Accreditation assures quality and promotes excellence and continuous improvement in undergraduate and graduate education for business administration. These programs meet exacting standards in areas such as faculty qualifications, curriculum, admissions and resources.