

Web Resources:

- MBA Admit Website: <http://mbaadmit.com/>
- MBA Admit Sub-forum on GMAT Club: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/ask-mba-admit-dr-shel-watts-104894.html>

Succeeding in Round 2 - Live Chat with Dr.Shel Watts (Founder and Lead Consultant, MBA ADMIT)	
Topic set by Narenn on Tue Dec 02 2014 21:22:23 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)	
21:31	MBAAdmit_DrShel Hello Everyone! We can begin in just a moment.
21:32	Ergen Hello DrShel.
21:32	pway Hi DrShel
21:32	Ksharma123 Good Morning Dr. Shel
21:32	mib_gglr4s Hi DrShel
21:33	MBAAdmit_DrShel I am so pleased to be here with the GMAT Club to provide insights to you all about some best practices to bear in mind with regard to Round 2 MBA admissions! Before we get started, let me note that given the time constraints we will only cover a set number of topics today, so I welcome you to visit our website and link to some great webinars we have offered
21:33	MBAAdmit_DrShel on topics from Success in Round 2, Getting into the Top-10 MBA programs, and Overriding a Low GPA and GMAT Score. The webinar and chat list is located here: http://mbaadmit.com/chat-transcripts/
21:33	MBAAdmit_DrShel Our general website is that details our low pricing is here: www.mbaadmit.com.
21:34	MBAAdmit_DrShel Let me start today by addressing a common question: Should you apply in Round 2 or is Round 2 simply too competitive?
21:34	MBAAdmit_DrShel The general topic today, of course, is Succeeding in Round 2!
21:34	MBAAdmit_DrShel I am happy to take questions about this and other topics after I elaborate first on 5 best practices you should take note of.
21:35	MBAAdmit_DrShel Every year, many candidates ask me this question. They are worried that they are at a disadvantage because they have waited until Round 2 and many seats have been allocated already at the top business schools during Round 1. Hence, there will be fewer overall seats to compete for in Round 2.
21:35	MBAAdmit_DrShel Adding to this, the number of MBA applicants to full-time MBA programs tends to be higher in Round 2 than in Round 1, partly because many candidates seek to take advantage of their free time during the winter holiday – time they can devote to preparing their MBA applications.
21:35	MBAAdmit_DrShel So, with more competition for a smaller number of seats, yes, Round 2 is competitive. But most top MBA programs realize that some of their best candidates will apply in Round 2, so they leave a healthy number of seats available for Round 2 candidates.
21:35	MBAAdmit_DrShel Over the years, we at MBA Admit.com have helped get candidates into top schools from Harvard to MIT during Round 2, including some long-shot candidates, such as a candidate with a 2.8 GPA into Stanford Business School. Success is possible!
21:36	MBAAdmit_DrShel So, let me walk you through about 5 best practices before I open things up for discussion. So here is a first best practice.

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21:36	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Best Practice #1: Distinguish yourself. Remember that at most of the top MBA programs, the shape of the incoming class has begun to form because the admissions committees have offered seats to great candidates in Round 1 and some people have accepted.
21:37	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Each business school wants a diversity of students, so if they have informally earmarked about 40 seats to East Asian foreign national men and they have already have 15 admits who have accepted the offer, there are potentially only 25 seats left for candidates from this pool.
21:37	MBAAdmit_DrShel	What becomes very important in Round 2, then, is that you offer a compelling portrait of your strong qualifications and of your uniqueness. Set yourself apart through what you write in your essays, the credentials you highlight, and what you are saying as you convey what makes you a great choice.
21:37	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Why should the admissions committee add you to the students they have already admitted? How will your unique experiences add to the diversity of the class and enhance learning? What important knowledge, talents, skills and qualities do you have to share? How do your long-term goals distinguish you?
21:37	MBAAdmit_DrShel	It is very important that you answer such questions excellently.
21:38	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Typically, when I review the applications of candidates who applied on their own and received poor outcomes, one of the biggest ways they could have improved their applications is with much better strategic content throughout both the essays and recommendations.
21:38	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Best Practice #2: Present a great blend of achievements and interests. You don't want to come across as a one-dimensional candidate at any time, but particularly not in Round 2.
21:38	MBAAdmit_DrShel	If the school has already admitted 50 management consultants and it only intends to admit 70 total, you won't help your cause by seeming wholly interchangeable with a candidate of a similar background.
21:38	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Don't focus only on professional achievements, if possible. Try to make references to other achievements, such as your successes in the extracurricular arena.
21:39	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Essays function in many ways like your marketing package. Use them skillfully!
21:39	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Best Practice #3: Recognize that recommendations should be a major asset – and get them prepared well in advance of the holidays!
21:39	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Recommendations usually weigh heavily in the MBA admissions process and can usually be as important as the essays.
21:39	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Great recommendations can help distinguish you through a third-party lens and can make the difference between acceptance and rejection.
21:40	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Candidates can be rejected from top business schools on the basis of one unexceptional recommendation alone, especially if they are a part of a very competitive profile, such as a private equity professional, investment banker, management consultant or engineer.
21:40	MBAAdmit_DrShel	You want your recommendation writers to acknowledge you are a strong performer, you stand out from your peers, you have great future potential, and you will excel as an MBA candidate.
21:40	MBAAdmit_DrShel	It is wonderful when the recommendation writers can highlight your leadership successes also.
21:41	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Approach recommendation writers early to ensure the recommendations are done in time.
21:41	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Best Practice #4: Take care in presenting your short-term goal and use your long-term goal as a major selling point.
21:41	MBAAdmit_DrShel	The way in which you present your short-term goals to the admissions committee can have a notable impact on your outcomes.

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21:41	MBAAdmit_DrShel	These days, some top MBA programs ask you to define your short-term goal in just one sentence on the application form itself. They use this as “weeder” information.
21:42	MBAAdmit_DrShel	If you write something that sounds completely unreasonable given your background, they will be concerned they cannot place you in your desired position (which hurts their placement statistics), thus your attractiveness as a candidate goes down.
21:42	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Do not offer the admissions committee a reason to reject you by giving them a short-term goal they won't think you can achieve.
21:42	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Also, use your long-term goals as a major selling point. Use your long-term goals and distinct wording to set yourself apart and present yourself as a leader who will be very influential in the future.
21:42	MBAAdmit_DrShel	I have worked with many candidates who have come to me after they were rejected from top business schools after applying on their own, and it was clear that their long-term goal was a factor in the rejection.
21:43	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Sometimes the goal was just too vague. Sometimes it did not make sense based on their history of interests or achievements.
21:43	MBAAdmit_DrShel	For re-applicants, once we fix how they presented their long-term goals and strengthen their essay content overall, they fare much better in admissions, both in Round 1 and Round 2.
21:43	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Finally, the last best practices before I start addressing your specific questions....
21:43	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Best Practice #5: Make sure you interview excellently – and your preparations should include learning from Round 1 interview experiences.
21:44	MBAAdmit_DrShel	After you submit your applications, interviews will be the next step. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare.
21:44	MBAAdmit_DrShel	An excellent interview can be important for a successful application. The more you prepare and rehearse, the better you will likely fare during an actual interview.
21:44	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Research commonly asked MBA interview questions and also research the questions that seemed to have been asked frequently at the business schools to which you are invited to interview.
21:44	MBAAdmit_DrShel	By Round 2, there is often information available for you to draw on about trends in MBA admissions interviewing for specific schools for that year.
21:45	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Check chat rooms like those here on the GMAT Club. The GMAT Club is such an excellent organization!
21:45	MBAAdmit_DrShel	As a Round 2 candidate, you have the advantage of using this information to your benefit.
21:45	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Okay, that's it for the best practices for now, but be sure to check our website and benefit from other advice we offer through webinars: http://mbaadmit.com/chat-transcripts/
21:46	Narenn	Thank you for the valuable Tips, Dr Watts!! Dear Members, This chat is now open for the discussion. Feel free to ask your questions to Dr. Watts.
21:46	mib_gglr4s	Thanks for the great inputs, Dr.Shel.
21:47	tyagigar	I am from India, I intend to write my exam end of dec(it is little late I know), I have not yet worked on applications.. do I stand any chance in round 2? Can I still make it to round 2?
21:48	joseph0alexander	Dr Shel I am taking my gmat in a few days and am a little shaky. I want to apply to R2. My schools look at the applications in the order in which they get them. I am thinking of taking gmat on the 9th and working well on my applications and taking the gmat again by mid January and updating the schools of my new score. What is your advice for me?

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21:48	Ksharma123	In Recommendations, what do you need to highlight ? What i mean is; I am working in India's biggest telecommunication company...will be getting recommendations from 2 former supervisor's....LT goal is to go in to Non-Profit...so, what qualities should be in focus to attract Admission Committee
21:48	Narenn	one sec guys
21:49	Narenn	Dr.Shel seems to have lost chat room connectivity
21:49	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Yes, am I back in yet...
21:50	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi all, can you see my posts now?
21:50	Narenn	Yes, Dr.Shel.
21:50	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Sorry for the tech blip... I was answering the question about making Round 2 and I think I was in the middle of saying that if you wait until end-Dec to take the GMAT. You have to be mindful that if you don't get the score you want you must be prepared to hold the apps. You are working on until round 1.... That can be frustrating, but taking the GMAT so late can actually put you in that situation if you don't get the score you want. But let me give you some reason to hope!
21:50	MBAAdmit_DrShel	I work with many candidates who take the GMAT that late and they nail the score they really want. They began preparing their apps in early December so all is well and they apply in Round 2 on schedule and get great outcomes. So if you are in that situation, just try to stay relaxed, don't stress yourself too much. The stress you place on yourself is often the reason why some people perform poorly on the GMAT. Ok, let's get to some other questions.
21:51	Ksharma123	I have 324/340 in GRE (V-156, Q 168 and AWA-3.5), TOEFL (R-30,L-29,S-27,W-23). I have started my own academic institute for unprivileged...I have 6 years of experience and MBA (Major in IT and HR) from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT, Kharagpur). I want to major in Marketing and Strategy.
21:52	Ksharma123	In Recommendations, what do you need to highlight? What I mean is; I am working in India's biggest telecommunication company...will be getting recommendations from 2 former supervisor's....LT goal is to go in to Non-Profit...so, what qualities should be in focus to attract Admission Committee
21:53	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Ok, let me answer the question about what should be in recommendations if you are at a telecom company and wanting to go into the nonprofit world...
21:53	MBAAdmit_DrShel	What matters most to the committee, in most cases, is to know that you are a top performer and that the people in your company think you are heading toward great success. They want to know you can be a great contributor in a business school setting. They also want to have a sense you are going to achieve great future goals. This holds regardless of what industry you are coming from or which you are going to. The higher ranked the school is, most often the more important it is that your recs portray you as having great leadership abilities.
21:55	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Ksharma123 also posted the note about qualifications... You have great qualifications! Some schools aren't crazy about taking the GRE as a score, even though they do accept the GRE. But it sounds like the rest of your profile is very compelling!
21:55	[1]Ergen	DrShel what if someone's goal is just to work and have a nice career in consulting industry? It is kinda short term with long intentions. Can it hurt the application? Do adcoms wait for eczotic answers?)
22:56	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi Ergen... It depends on the school. If you are talking about a Top-10 MBA program, they want to think that they are selecting the new leaders of industry, so an ambitious goal is good in most cases. If you say you want to be a partner in a consulting firm, that can be great but... it won't really be very distinguished if you leave it at that. For example, if someone were to write they want to become a partner at a consulting firm in order to lead the firm's expansion deeper into Eastern Europe, all of the sudden that sounds more interesting.

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21:56	navneetojha88	What is more important - A Score of 750 and a normal application & Interview or A score of 720 and an outstanding application & Interview
21:57	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi navneetojha88, It depends on your profile. If you are an Indian foreign national man, 720 will look somewhat low but it can still keep you in the running at top MBA programs, so the application should be excellent to compensate. But from that profile you really cannot afford a weak application regardless of the GMAT score strength. If you are an underrepresented profile - an applicant from a country that does not send many, like Norway... then there is more leeway on the GMAT score.
21:57	Ksharma123	I have received several awards over the years...Best performer and outstanding performer for consecutive year
21:57	sudd1	If i take GMAT in end of december and wish to apply for next year, do I have to pay \$28 again for the schools chosen before starting GMAT exam?
21:58	Ksharma123	I am planning not to apply in to those School's...like UCLA has clearly mentioned that they prefer GMAT over GRE...so, i am not applying in it....Other School's have mentioned that they have no preference.
21:58	Narenn	joseph0alexander, ask your question again. Dr.Shel cannot see the question you posted earlier
21:58	mib_gglr4s	Regarding the student who had 2.8 GPA and made it Stanford GSB. What are the major considerations? How did he/she stand out amid the low GPA?
21:59	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi, for Ty... you should definitely start applications now if you are looking at Round 2.
21:59	Ksharma123	I have 4.0 GPA in MBA from IIT
21:59	MBAAdmit_DrShel	It is sometimes best to do one set of MBA application essays, get those super strong, and then begin to leverage those into the applications of other schools. The first MBA application in general is what will take you the longest because you are working with original content.
21:59	MBAAdmit_DrShel	After that, for many subsequent applications, you can draw on at least about 50% of the prior content in order to write the MBA essays for the next school, since some of the questions will be similar. So the second and subsequent MBA applications after proceed more quickly. You should always customize responses for the individual schools, however.
22:00	MBAAdmit_DrShel	The good news for many of you seeking to apply to multiple schools is that many of the top MBA programs have converted to using the same recommendation form, so once you have a recommendation written for one school, you can use it for many other schools with less modification than was needed in the past.
22:01	Pway	Which of the top schools focus on GMAT the most.. asking coz while I do have an unusual profile, my biggest selling point is GMAT (770)
22:01	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi pway, On the whole, I think US schools weigh the GMAT more heavily than European MBA programs. And in the USA, the answer about the importance of the GMAT score depends on your profile. In general, schools that have very finance focused curriculums like Wharton will care a great deal about the GMAT. Schools like Columbia may be wanting higher scores this year in order to improve their ranking. Other schools like Stanford seek strong scores because of the elite nature of their MBA students - very smart people who can do very rigorous work. A 770 should serve you very well.
22:01	RameshKrishnan1	Hi Dr Shelly, I m an Indian National with 4 yrs of WE with a Fortune 500 manufacturing company in the Marketing profile. Have consistent GPAs till UG (Univ topper). GPA of 3.28 in Grads though. Have a lot of extra curricular (incl. international). Will the comparatively low GPA in Grad affect my application? How can I compensate for it?
22:02	jrymbei	Hi Shelley good morning. I have 10 years of experience in IT industry. My gmat score is 530. I am planning to apply in Mba japan -hitosubhashi ics and IUJ 1 year mba course in english. What do you suggest how I should prepare my application and my chances of getting admission?
22:03	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi Jrymbei....Well, you need to look closely at the average GMAT score for matriculating students at the

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		<p>schools you are interested in. If the 530 is far off, then your odds may be difficult. When I get candidates who are stuck in the 500 range on the GMAT and they are older, it is often a good idea to start looking at EMBA programs that often don't require such high GMAT scores. Alternatively, you can switch to the GRE as many candidates are able to get higher scores on the GRE than the GMAT. I believe most top schools prefer the GMAT as they know how to interpret it better. But if you have to choose between offering a GMAT in the 500s and offering a GRE in which you received a score around the 85 percentile and up, then the GRE in that instance might give you a better shot.</p>
22:03	sudd1	<p>If I take GMAT in end of December and wish to apply for next year, do I have to pay \$28 again for the schools chosen before starting GMAT exam?</p>
22:03	Ergen	<p>What do you think about my profile : WE 6 years, GMAT 720, GPA 4.0 Business Major.Job: Marketing manager in an international company (overall approx. 100million budget over the world). I am a marketing manager of the subsidiary in my country. One year mandatory military service. Political Activist. I am from a small post Soviet country from Eastern Europe. Want to apply to top5. Short term goal is consulting focused on pharmaceutical industry.</p>
22:04	MBAAdmit_DrShel	<p>Hi Ergen. You have an outstanding profile. I think that with very strong applications you can do wonderfully. Your credentials all seem very strong and compelling.</p>
22:04	cabel	<p>Hi, If I have my unofficial gmat score and my SOP/LOR ready, but my Official score may reach the university after the deadline, can I still go ahead and submit my application for that Round</p>
22:06	MBAAdmit_DrShel	<p>Hi Cabel, many of the top MBA programs only ask for the unofficial score at the beginning, and just want the official score if they admit you. That is to the advantage of some candidates because the unofficial score shows only one score, and you can thereby present your highest score to the committee and they don't need to see any other weaker scores before deciding whether to admit you.</p>
22:07	cabel	<p>Thank you, this is valuable information to me. I can complete a few applications on this basis.. Thanks again</p>
22:07	Ksharma123	<p>I have heard that Top 10 B-school's do not prefer candidates who want to open their own NON-profit organization. But, I am working on this from last 3 years and have my own start up also...Will it weaken my chances of getting in to Top B-school ?</p>
22:08	Ergen	<p>Sorry forget to write : marketing manager in a pharmaceutical company . Do you think scoring more than 720 would help me in any way? or keeping it is enough?</p>
22:08	RameshKrishnan1	<p>Hi Dr Shelly, m an Indian National with 4 yrs of WE with a Fortune 500 manufacturing company in the Marketing profile. Have consistent GPAs till UG (Univ topper). GPA of 3.28 in Grads though. Have a lot of extra curricular (incl. international). Will the comparatively low GPA in Grad affect my application? How can I compensate for it?</p>
22:08	joseph0alexander	<p>Dr Shel I am taking my gmat in a few days and am a little shaky. I want to apply to R2. My schools look at the applications in the order in which they get them. I am thinking of taking gmat on the 9th and working well on my applications and taking the gmat again by mid January and updating the schools of my new score. What is your advice for me?</p>
22:10	MBAAdmit_DrShel	<p>Hi joseph0alexander, the GMAT score is important so you should apply when you know you have a score that at least won't get you rejected by itself. If you get a solid score but want to try again to get it higher, consider going ahead and submitting the application and send in the higher score if you get it later.</p>
22:10	MBAAdmit_DrShel	<p>If you don't get a high score, it is usually not a good idea to submit the app and try to submit a stronger score later because some schools may not consider it.</p>
22:12	pway	<p>I am looking for a retail track.. I work in fashion so my job is not analytical but I have always been strong at it.. so you think 770 will still serve me well.. Bdw Wharton is one of my top reach schools, along with HBS.. Kellogg and Booth are the next choices.. Another question, is it worth applying to Stern now, with 2 deadline over.. I am quite interested in Stern but don't want to waste time and resources</p>
22:12	MBAAdmit_DrShel	<p>why do you say those are long shot schools. Is your GPA weak?</p>

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22:13	pway	I am an Indian so don't have a GPA.. got 69% in undergraduate.. highest in class was 85% or so.. I have 2 years exp now.. and nothing international or managerial.. So kind of worried..
22:14	MBAAdmit_DrShel	your performance in college may pose challenges. So you should try to choose a couple of clear safety schools but then try for some of the reach schools also. You absolutely need a first-rate application and recommendations, so put good time into that.
22:14	indiangmatnewbie	Hi Dr. Shel, thanks for taking the time out to talk to us. I would really appreciate a profile review, particularly for HBS Round 2. Indian Male, Engineering undergrad, Marketing postgrad, both places top 5% of the class, 3.5 years WE in a top FMCG, international work ex, strong extracurriculars and community service throughout. Short Term: MBB Consulting. Long Term: Own consulting firm. Stanford ding so far in Round 1.
22:14	indiangmatnewbie	730 GMAT, missed that.
22:15	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi indiangmatnewbie, don't be too discouraged from the one ding. Stanford is technically the hardest to get into by way of stats. Cast your net to other schools and if you don't get the outcomes you want get a good assessment of how to strengthen your apps. In fact, if you are planning on Round 2 apps, it is a good idea to get that assessment done before you submit the new Round 2 applications.
22:16	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi indiangmatnewbie, strong profile you just have to make sure that you distinguish yourself through the essay content as such a strong profile is rather common for your pool.
22:16	mib_gglr4s	Regarding the student who had 2.8 GPA and made it Stanford GSB. What are the major considerations? How did he/she stand out amid the low GPA?
22:17	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi mib_gglr4s, I have had multiple candidates get into Stanford, Harvard and Wharton with 2.8 and 2.7 GPAs. I can usually tell if someone with that background might be able to override it. Not everyone can.
22:19	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Here are some quick examples. One candidate to Wharton was on a scholarship from a developing country and was clearly a future leader of his country (going to undergrad in the USA); the country went into turmoil and he lost his government funded scholarship. Rather than dropping out of school, he took a full time job and continued on. His success at the consulting firm, his full time job during school, was so pronounced that they hired him in at the MBA level after he graduated from college. That was proof the work experience was solid. That was enough to make the committee ignore the GPA and he had a solid 720 GMAT score.
22:20	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Another example: A former NFL football player who excelled in business after he ended his national football career made it into a top-2 school. He had a 2.7 GPA.
22:21	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Another example: A lady who had a disastrous GPA in the first 3 years of college and dropped out of college because she got pregnant, worked her way up from a secretary role to an investment banking professional role, went back, finished the last 18 months of college with a 4.0... Overall GPA 2.8, got into Wharton.
22:21	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Another example: An East Asian foreign national with a 2.7 dropped out of college because of an illness. Spent a year recovering, came back to school and excelled. Got a Fortune 10 job and truly, truly excelled, was admitted to Harvard.
22:22	MBAAdmit_DrShel	OK, I am going to look for a few more questions to answer here...
22:22	MBAAdmit_DrShel	By the way, that former NFL player just referred his brother to me... I love getting relatives of candidates. It is very touching.
22:22	Ksharma123	I have heard that Top 10 B-school's do not prefer candidates who want to open their own NON-profit organization. But, I am working on this from last 3 years and have my own start up also...Will it weaken my chances of getting in to Top B-school ?
22:23	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Ksharma123 - as long as your nonprofit sounds big and full of impact, I think it can be attractive. Have worked with many such candidates successfully to top schools like Harvard and Columbia (full scholarship recipient)

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22:23	indiangmatnewbie	Hi Dr. Shel, any tips for Indian males applying for HBS Round 2? Non engineering work ex.
22:23	mib_gglr4s	wow, that's really great to hear Dr Shel. Thanks, really helpful
22:24	Ergen	What differences have you noted in attitudes between Wharton and Clumbia adcoms?
22:24	Ksharma123	Thanks Dr. Shel. Really appreciate your feedback.
22:24	sudd1	If i take GMAT in end of december and wish to apply for next year, do I have to pay \$28 again for the schools chosen before starting GMAT exam?
22:25	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi Sudd1, that question is very specific and you should inquire with the GMAT org, but I suspect the answer might be yes. If possible, though, don't send the score to the schools until you know what it is. Since many don't ask for all scores, only your top score, only present the best one.
22:25	indiangmatnewbie	Thanks for your advice Dr. Shel, will write on the thread that the mod posted earlier. Your advice is helpful.
22:26	MBAAdmit_DrShel	I think we have about 15 minutest left. I am reading thru to see what additionally I can address here...
22:26	emilymom	Hello, do you have any specific recommendations for anyone that has had a career break? I did keep myself busy for a few years taking care of family and focusing on personal development, but was not "working full time".
22:27	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Hi Emilymom... I take it from your chat name that you are a mom, right? Unfortunately you can face notable discrimination
22:27	MBAAdmit_DrShel	for the break... Where is the women's rights movement? I have yet to understand how this persists. You need to present that time skillfully.
22:28	MBAAdmit_DrShel	I had one candidate recently who had such a break for about 4 years to take care of her mother and we were able to craft the story effectively so that she has received an interview at INSEAD. Unfortunately, just saying you took time out for family reasons doesn't go down well sometimes.
22:29	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Similarly, when I have had some female candidates who left great jobs to follow their husbands in the husband's career, and then they had to explain why they went from a great company to a no-name company, I typically think you shouldn't say you were following your husband. Make a sensible storyline about why the choice made sense otherwise. If you did take the break for motherhood, I am very confident you can likely find great ways to make the break sound productive such that it doesn't stand in the way of admission to some top MBA programs.
22:29	emilymom	Thanks very much. I hope more moms will enter the MBA programs in the future.
22:29	j_rymbei	Hello Dr. Shel. My GMAT score is low-530, I've 10 year experience in IT services, I lead and manage a team and projects for multiple clients across different geographic location US and Japan. I am planning to apply for 1 yr MBA in JAPAN which are taught in english, as my focus is in ASIA and Japan. How do you suggest I should structure my application to comp
22:29	Ergen	DrShel, I will repeat my question. What differences have you noted in attitudes between Wharton and Columbia adcoms?
22:30	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Ergen - attitudes among whom?
22:30	Ergen	Adcoms. For example one can focus on one thing in candidates, another on other things. Are there any specific differences?
22:32	RameshKrishnan1	Dr Shel, how do adcoms assess the significance of a community service, especially one that was done during a full time work parallel. What constitutes significant community service?
22:32	rekhasahu	Hi Dr. Shel. I have a similar profile, 11+ years of WE in IT, in a major MNC, I lead and manage a team and projects,

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		and work in a very multi cultural cross functional team spread across the world. Does having higher WE help, if the GMAT scores are not 700+?
22:32	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Ergen, I think Columbia and Wharton are pretty similar in their attitudes toward candidates with regard to how you are asking this questions. A school like Harvard emphasizes leadership more. Wharton and Columbia can be more accepting if you have one flaw in the candidacy but everything else is solid and you have also presented an outstanding application. Stanford loves entrepreneurs and innovators.
22:32	j_rymbei	Dr Shel can you please look into my question, It would be really helpful to me
22:33	MBAAdmit_DrShel	Columbia Jan-start is a good option if you have a notable flaw in your profile but are strong in many other ways.
22:33	Ergen	Thanks DrShel.

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