

**Admission Directors:** Ilana Van Allen, Dorry Guerra, and Lina Koror.

**Current Students:** Brett Sanchez and Carolyn Wright.

- **UCLA Class of 2021 Discussion:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-ucla-anderson-mba-applicants-2019-intake-class-of-268518.html>
- **UCLA Decision Tracker and Historical Admit Data:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/anderson-187/decision-tracker.html>
- **UCLA Reviews:** [https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business\\_school/ucla-anderson-14](https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business_school/ucla-anderson-14)

**Moderator:** Hi Everyone, We are now officially starting the chat with the UCLA team. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions about applying to UCLA's MBA program. The current students are very eagerly looking forward to sharing their experiences with you, so please grab this opportunity with both hands. All the best!

**Private:** I'm an indian applicant with a 3 years graduate degree in commerce that makes total of 16 years of education If i ought to apply for Full time MBA, Is it necessary for me to have 16 years of education completed?

**Lina:** You are welcome to apply with a 3 year degree but the rest of your application needs to be exceptionally strong to compete against other applicants. if you would like your academic records to equate a 4 year degree you would need to complete either a masters degree or post graduate degree/diploma

**Private:** I believe I met you at the Forte Forum in Chicago, Dorry. I did not get a chance to ask you if there are any classes or clubs with a sustainability focus at Anderson?

**Ilana:** Yes, we have a lot of different options for those interested in sustainability -- I recommend you look at this website for more information on class options [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... areer-path](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...areer-path). We also have a Leaders in Sustainability Certificate program (that is available to all UCLA graduate students), which gives you the opportunity to further specialize and take classes with a focus on sustainability <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/lis/>

**Carolyn:** We also have a Net Impact chapter that tackles sustainability from multiple angles from reducing plastic use on-campus to pushing for more sustainability focused leadership roles around campus. You can find out more here: [https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/clu ... impact-\(ni\)](https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/clu...impact-(ni))

**Ephes:** What makes a good candidate to ucla? What excites you most in an applicant?

**Dorry:** Hi there! Our three pillars (basically our "core values") are share success, think fearlessly, and drive change. In addition to a strong academic (gpa, gmat OR gre) and strong professional profile, we like to see that there is nice fit between our own core values and ours. One way to demonstrate this is through your past and current extracurricular and volunteer activities (which you tell us about in your application, resume, and/or essays) the clubs/activities you're interested in joining at Anderson, as well as your career goals (and how there's alignment between what you'd like to achieve and what resources/expertise we offer). For more information, check out our MBA blog, where we answer this question and others! <http://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/>

**RSrocks:** What are some of the options available to students for financing their MBA? Does the school provide any loans or have tie ups with banks that do?

**Brett:** In short, yes Anderson provides a variety of financial aid options. For example, fellowships and access to loans for U.S. and international students. Our financial aid team is open to having one-on-one phone conversations with applicants if you are interested in speaking with them! You can also find a lot more information about financial aid on our website here: [https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f ... /financing](https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f.../financing)

**Gospurs927:** Hello and thanks for answering our questions! I'm applying through the Consortium and am curious to know whether my recommenders will need to answer the Anderson-specific questions (common LOR) in addition to the Consortium-specific questions.

**Lina:** Whatever is in the Consortium application is what needs to be completed by you and your recommenders.

**Munir151991:** I'm curious how UCLA considers sections of the GMAT. Is Quant weighed more than verbal?

**Dorry:** We don't weigh one part of the exam more than the other, nor are there any minimum requirements, BUT, I would recommend trying to achieve some kind of balance between the verbal and quant, if possible.

**Izulman:** may I know the key differences between price and easton centers

**Ilana:** Price and Easton are two of our Centers of Excellence at UCLA Anderson (here is more information on all of them: <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers>) Our Price Center focuses on Entrepreneurship (<http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers/price>), and our Easton Center focuses on Technology (<https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers/easton>). These centers act as a hub on campus that brings together students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the industry -- they help support courses, programming, events, and conferences.

**Izulman:** What examples of initiatives or resources at ucla (classes, seminars, forum etc) that focus on emerging markets?

**Carolyn:** There are multiple ways to focus on emerging markets. There are new electives each year that focus on specific markets based on faculty research. Many of our global immersion courses are also focused on emerging markets. For example, a group of students went to South Africa this summer and another group are going to Vietnam are going this winter. We also have a Certificate in Global Management: <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers/cgm>

**PNishant:** I have great things about the Parker Career Management Center and I wish to transition to finance after my MBA. What percentage of people, would you estimate, make a career transition at UCLA

**Brett:** Great question pnishant! As someone who leaned heavily on the Parker Career Center to land an internship in finance, I can absolutely confirm that Parker does a great job. In fact, in large part due to Parker, Anderson is an excellent place for career switchers. More than 90% of Anderson students end up changing industry or function from their pre-MBA experience, and about 70% end up switching industry AND function!

**Mrpocketkings:** I am planning to visit UCLA in the coming months. While clicking through each day of the MBA experience calendar, I don't see any open class visits available. Is it possible to reach out to a student I have been talking to and see if they are ok with me shadowing them for a class?

**Lina:** We are currently working on posting class visits and hope they will be listed on the website by sometime next week. We are hoping to start class visits the 3rd week of October until the end of November.

**Munir151991:** I'm wondering if you could provide us any statistics about post-grad careers (i-banking, consulting, tech, etc.). Curious to hear from Brett Sanchez about his recruiting experience to Moelis

**Carolyn:** Hello, I'll let Brett talk about his recruiting experience more in a minute but I wanted to provide you with the employment report that should provide the statistics you're looking for here: [https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents ... %C5%B8.PDF](https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents...%C5%B8.PDF)

**Lina:** I would also suggest visiting this link: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ...](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...) ortunities to review additional Financing Opportunities

**Brett:** The job search resources for students interested in banking are very structured, and highly effective. Nearly every major investment bank (both bulge bracket and boutique) visits campus throughout the Fall quarter, and the Anderson alumni are VERY accessible and willing to help. What's more, something like 90% of Anderson students who landed internships in banking this year also received full-time offers at the end of the summer, which speaks to the preparation and education that Anderson provides for students focused on banking/finance. I also know that my classmates outside of banking had a very similar experience!

**Munir151991:** I have heard that financial aid/scholarships are more available in private school MBA programs. Is there any truth to this?

**Ilana:** We offer very competitive loan options and merit-based fellowships to our admitted applicants. Fellowships can cover up to full tuition, as based on the strength of your application against the rest of your pool. We also offer named donor fellowships, too. Second year students are also eligible to receive additional fellowship funds based on their performance and activities in the first year. I recommend you reach out to our financial aid team to schedule a one-on-one appointment if you'd like any more information about our financial aid opportunities.

**PinakiRDas:** How do you view an applicant who is deeply technical i.e. gained technical if not managerial skills over last 10 years? Moving to a managerial role will be one primary motivation to go for an MBA

**Dorry:** We do have many applicants who come from technical/engineering backgrounds. For those candidates, my recommendation is to articulate all the ways you have managed/led a team or developed your management/leadership skills at work or in any extracurricular/volunteer activities NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

**Ilana:** I completely agree with what Dorry said. It's all about communicating the transferable skills you've gained, and also the skills you'd like to gain while you're in the MBA program -- getting an MBA to help you gain managerial skills and transition from the technical side to business side is a very logical reason to get an MBA.

**Harvard2019:** What are the few direction/courses/fields within UCLA MBA program which you wouldn't call its strengths?

**Brett:** Anderson actually intentionally steers clear of labeling any specific career path as the primary focus. We offer a wide breadth of career resources, regardless of career track. So while we have fewer students pursuing careers in certain industries, those students still get highly tailored career advice through the Parker series (a mandatory class on job search skills), one-on-one career adviser appointments, and through the ACT (Anderson Career Team) program. If you want to read more about the career resources available, you can do so here: [https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f ... eer-impact](https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f...eer-impact)

**Arun93:** I have a couple of questions regarding the application process. 1. Do I need to add all valid Gmat scores in the application ? ; 2. Can I include a paid full-time internship be added in career section ?

**Lina:** Hi Arun! We only need self-reported scores on the application if you are invited to interview. If you were working full-time (40hrs +) you can include your internship in the career section

**Rakhimenon:** What is the best program in your opinion that usually is a good fit for engineers with technical experience but no significant management experience?

**Dorry:** Hi there, our answers to PinakiRDas might be helpful for you as well, so please take a look. As for our program recommendations, this should really be guided by your own interests, goals, and experience. Having said that, we see many folks with technical/engineering background go into the Technology Sector in a product management capacity. This is no means a requirement or a recommendation, just a reflection of what we see

**PNishant:** How much importance is given to other curricular actv during selection process

**Ilana:** Interview invitations are sent on a rolling basis, and can come anytime before the Round decision date and as early as potentially 1 week after submission.

**Anisha79:** How much importance is given to extra curricular activities during selection process?

**Carolyn:** We have a very student lead environment on-campus and definitely appreciate hearing about your previous extra-curricular activities to learn more about your interests. However, the admissions team looks at that as just one part of your whole application.

**Abhi077:** How relevant do you consider a candidate's work experience? Do you measure the quality or the span he/she has worked in an organisation? Can a candidate be able to compensate low work experience with a good GMAT score and demonstration of some leadership skills in the community around

**Dorry:** Work experience is a key component of the application. What we consider relevant is quality of work experience over quantity. We look for the impact you've made at your place of work, as well as any impact you've made in your community/in your extracurricular and volunteer activities. If you have fewer years of work experience, the academic section of the application (gpa and gmat/gre) and the extracurricular/volunteer piece will be looked at more closely. Having said that, please do list any leadership and internship experience you may have had, as well as any part-time work experience you've had

**PNishant:** How useful, would you say, is the LA location for someone who is interested in Finance and for someone who is interested in starting his/her own organization

**Ilana:** LA is definitely a great place for those interested in pursuing a career in Finance -- pretty much every major bank has an office in Los Angeles, and many actively recruit our Anderson MBA students. Our students also have the ability to not only pursue a summer internship, but can also do in-year internships, too, given that UCLA is so centrally located in Los Angeles. With your interests in starting your organization, Los Angeles is known for it's start-up scene -- there is an area called Silicon Beach (just 15 minutes from UCLA) that is a big hub for start-ups and tech companies. Also make sure to look into our Business Creation Option of our Capstone Project -- you get the chance to launch a business while you're in school! [https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f ... ne-project](https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/f...ne-project)

**Moderator:** Brett and Carolyn, Any tips to applicants with respect to essay drafting and interviews?

**Carolyn:** Start your essays early! I had multiple people read my essays to make sure I was fully describing my journey to the MBA program and staying true to my personality. For interviews, make sure you have done your research about UCLA Anderson and are prepared to explain why you're hoping to pursue the MBA at UCLA.

**Jaswang:** How does age weigh into admissions for full time? I've read that full time typically does not favor applicants 35+

**Ilana:** We care about what you've done in the time that you've worked, not how old you are, and whether you can make a compelling case that the MBA program is right for you at this moment in time. This applies to those who fall above and below our average age for our class. It's quality, not quantity!

**JosieRod145:** What's one thing you'd change about Anderson?

**Carolyn:** In the past couple years we've seen an increase in the number of applicants and students who express an interest in Social Impact work. I'd like to see UCLA continuing to innovate to meet those needs so that all students can access those courses as part of their time on-campus. Fortunately, our Net Impact chapter is growing and we're expanding our course offerings so I expect to see this area only becoming stronger in the years to come.

**Ephes:** How important a masters degree to you? Do you assess a candidate gpa of a master degree rather than that of undergrad?

**Lina:** An undergraduate degree is a requirement but not a masters or graduate degree. If you have completed a master's degree please add that to your application or anything else that will make you a competitive applicant.

### Questions received via email...

With so many extra-curricular activities available, how many activities do UCLA MBA students participate in?

**Carolyn:** Students have a leadership roles in 2-4 clubs/organizations and then are members of between 4-6. It definitely is up to the student's individual goals and how they want to contribute to the community, but Anderson's campus is very student driven and my classmates are all very involved!

Hi, I am an international applicant. My school uses a 4.0 GPA scale but my transcript doesn't indicate my GPA. Should I still report it?

**Lina:** Please report whatever your school lists on your transcripts.

What is the most important thing to consider as a reapplicant?

**Dorry:** For reapplicants, we want to know what you have done since you last applied to enhance your candidacy. That may look something like retaking the gmat or gre, perhaps adding more volunteer activities to your repertoire, or taking on more responsibilities at work or even getting a promotion. Please also restate your short-term and long-term goals in the essay. (Note: We offer a streamlined application process for reapplicants, where you submit one 750 word essay stating the above as opposed to writing two separate essays, as well as one letter of rec as opposed to two.)

Any guidance on how to approach essays?

**Ilana:** First and foremost, make sure you are clearly answering the questions we are asking! We recommend you think of your essays as a story about yourself and tell the story of what were you doing before business school, what do you want to do after business school, and how is an MBA (and in this case, an MBA from UCLA Anderson) is going to help you be successful in achieving your goals! The essays should make sense in the context of the rest of your application, too. I recommend you read our recent Application Insider blog post that may help further: [http://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/mba\\_application.html](http://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/mba_application.html)

(A) Apart from overall GMAT score, does admission committee also considers Quant and Verbal scores? (B) How much weight is given to AWA and IR?

**Dorry:** We do not give any specific weight to the various sections of the exam. Please make sure you are completing the ENTIRE exam and trying your best to score as well as you can in each section (of course, that goes without saying!) For the quant and verbal section, try to achieve a balance if you can. The AWA is also an importance piece that indicates your potential performance in the classroom (as does every section really), so don't neglect it

Does your employer(Organisation) matter more than your wide spread experience across different domains?

**Carolyn:** We care about what you've accomplished, your contributions at your previous employers, and what skills you've learned through your various work experiences.

Is TOEFL/IELTS waiver possible? If so under which circumstances?

**Lina:** We require all international applicants to provide TOEFL or IELTS scores (with exception of those educated in Australia, Barbados, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom), regardless of the language of instruction during your undergraduate studies. This is a requirement from UCLA Graduate Division, which is the division that oversees all graduate admissions. For more information about the TOEFL/IELTS requirement from UCLA Graduate Division, you can visit their website: <https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/english/#Minimum>

How do we apply for deferred admissions?

**Lina:** UCLA Anderson does not grant admission deferrals. All admission offers must be either accepted or declined. Those who decline an offer may use the streamlined renewal process to re-apply the following year and be evaluated within the new pool of applicants.

**Moderator:** Alright! Let's wrap up here. My sincere thanks to members of the UCLA admissions and current students for spending time with us and answering applicants' questions today. I would also like to thank all participants for asking insightful questions in this chat session.

Transcript of this chat will be posted in UCLA forum in few days. Don't forget to continue discussing your app progress/updates in UCLA discussion thread.. [https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all- ... 68518.html](https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-...68518.html)

**Dorry:** Thanks, everyone! Best of luck as you put together your applicants. A reminder that our R1 deadline is October 2!

**Ilna:** Our pleasure! Should anyone have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu) Good luck to everyone on your MBA journey and the application process!

## IMP Links and Resources for Prospective Applicants

- Stay in Touch via our Inquiry Form: <https://apply.anderson.ucla.edu/register/inquiry>
- UCLA Anderson MBA Insider Blog (with a weekly post on Application Insider tips written by the AdCom): <http://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/>
- Upcoming Big Event – Access Anderson Open House (Saturday, October 13): [https://apply.anderson.ucla.edu/register/... erson-2018](https://apply.anderson.ucla.edu/register/...erson-2018)
- Campus Experience Programming: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... ons/ events](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...ons/events)
- MBA Brochure: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/ ... e\\_2018.pdf](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/...e_2018.pdf)