

Admission Directors: Ilana Van Allen, Vickie Euyoque, Adrian Aguirre, and Lina Koror.

- **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

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, so grab this opportunity with both hands. All the best!

JheelJain: I wanted to know what role would work experience play for an MBA application and how important it is ? Can one apply with work experience? Is Articleship (as required by Chartered Accountants Institute) considered as work experience?

Ilana: Thank you for this question! Your work experience is one of the many components the Admissions Committee evaluates as a part of your application. We use this to assess your transferable skills, leadership skills, and career trajectory, along with how this past experience ties back to your future career goals. Regarding the "Articleship" -- it is considered part of your work experience but generally we take into account full-time post-undergraduate experience as your primary work experience. For more information on how we evaluate work experience, I recommend you visit this blog: https://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/mba_...ience.html

Rak91: When you are reading applicants' essays, what are the main traits and qualities you look for?

Ilana: Great question. Ultimately what you're going to want to do is make sure you answer the questions we ask in a direct, clear, and concise way! I also recommend you think of your essays as a story, and that this story should also be supported in the other parts of your application, too. I think this MBA Insider blog post should also help: https://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/mba_...ction.html

Spongecake: I understand that the average number of years of work experience is 5. Are there applicants who possess significant work experience that would place and or age them out of the program? E.g. more years than average or a significant number of years in leadership?

Ilana: The average of 5 years is just an average, and we have many students who have fewer or more years of work experience. We look more at the quality -- not quantity -- of your work experience and whether you can make a compelling case that you're ready for an MBA at this moment in time when you're applying. Also think through your short-term career goals, and what roles you see yourself in post-MBA, and that it aligns and makes sense with your career history.

Kadirissa: I was reading about the MBA specializations and felt very attracted to the Entrepreneurship one. On your website, it says that some courses are required. Do applicants compete for spaces or does anybody just choose their specialization after having coursed those subjects?

Lina: Specializations are completely optional. To complete a specialization you must complete 4 out of however many electives are being offered for that specialization. There is no special distinction on your degree but it is something you can include on your resume. There is a core curriculum that all 1st years must complete. Please visit our website for more info: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... e-schedule](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...e-schedule)

Pdelatorre: How does the career placement services differ in UCLA from other universities and if it is highly oriented towards companies in certain region of the country or a sector in particular?

Lina: Our Parker Career Management Center is one of key offerings of our program for our students. We have a highly ranked and very robust team that routinely works with our students to help them get into their internship and full-time jobs of their dreams. You might want to visit their page to learn more about their resources: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... eer-impact](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...eer-impact)

We help students find matches in companies across the US and the different parts of the world in a variety of industries. We are also able to leverage our location and alumni in this process. For specific results, I would encourage you see our employment report from last year: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/ ... %C5%B8.PDF](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/...%C5%B8.PDF).

Aassam: If I get a sponsorship from my employer, would I be discarded for any additional scholarships?

Adrian: The simple answer is no. you can still get fellowships

Mikehaueisen: What role does compensation information play in assessing our work experience and our candidacy? How might this info help or hurt our application?

Ilana: Because compensation can vary between companies and industries, and also we acknowledge salaries vary vastly around the world, it would not really impact the admissions evaluation process. This data helps our career center track pre-MBA to post-MBA salary trends.

mbakid22: How do you assess applicants with GRE scores compared to those with GMAT scores? Are you simply using a converter tool or are there other specifics you're looking at? Are GRE applicants at a disadvantage?

Lina: We have no preference for one test or another. We have our own way of evaluating GRE scores but to give you a rough idea to see where you stand with the class profile you can always use a converter online.

Aassam: Does the Anderson Christian Fellowship invite all Christian denominations to join? (i.e. Catholics)

Lina: Our clubs are open to all and are very inclusive! I would suggest visiting their club page and reaching out to the club officers for additional info: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/club ...wship-acf](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/club...wship-acf)

Amsheppe: Do dual nationals get counted as Internationals?

Ilana: If you have dual citizenship, the primary citizenship you indicate will be used.

Sumanrao: What resources UCLA has to help someone switch career from clinical side to business side of healthcare.

Carolyn: Many of our students are career switchers and we have a strong record of helping the almost two thirds of our students that are actually considering switching both industry and function during their MBA. The list of resources is pretty vast. You might want to check out this link: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... eer-impact](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...eer-impact) and for healthcare specifically you should visit this page too: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu ... areer-path](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fu...areer-path)

MadhusudhanGMAT: There is this section in the application which asks for sources of information. Could you please mention what is that impact on the application and the intent behind that questions?

Adrian: This is an optional section that helps us evaluate the effectiveness.

Amsheppe: How do you determine in which order you read applications after deadline has passed? Visitors from afar may arrange for a visit after their file has been read and already decided.

Adrian: We will randomly assign the applications after the deadline and every application is read by multiple readers in our team. You can certainly visit our campus by going to our events page. If you are planing to visit campus and you have been asked to interview you can select to also interview on campus or via Skype.

Moderator: Can you make us aware of new happenings at UCLA? Any new initiatives, program options, proposed changes in the curriculum, or appointment of new professors etc.

Vickie: We are constantly evolving as a program and making sure that we respond to the needs of our students and the changing business landscape. Here are some of our current initiatives - we have a new building slated to open in Dec. 2019; we're in the process of hiring a new school Dean; Anderson Accelerator; and Impact@Anderson. For more information, please visit our News and Events page - <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events>.

MadhusudhanGMAT: Are replicants at a disadvantage during the application process. How do you typically evaluate the profile of a person who is applying the second time within 2-3 years. What do you look for?

Adrian: we are always looking at all applications with fresh eyes and don't hold our previous votes against you in the new season. We look forward to seeing how you have made your application more competitive and have you have taken the time to stand out from the rest of the applicant pool. Some introspection and self awareness goes a long way.

Kadirissa: Regarding recommendation letters, I would like to know whether i should choose an ex boss who i worked with 5 years ago for 2 years, or another ex boss who i worked with 2 years ago for 1 year? My question is what weights more: how much he knows you or in which step of your career did he know you?

Vickie: It's up to you to decide who you want to choose as your recommender. In either of your cases, you want to make sure that your recommender can speak to your continued growth since you worked with them.

Questions received via email...

I'm interested in working for Disney's parks and resorts but have no experience in the industry. Is there anything I can do before starting my MBA (aside from getting a new job) to increase my chances of being interviewed?

Ilana: A majority of our students transition into post-MBA careers that are completely different industry and functions. Our Parker Career Management Center will work with you to help you position yourself as a more desirable candidate. We cannot speak to this specific division at Disney (though I do know of multiple Anderson alumni who have worked for Disney Parks), but you're going to want to think through what transferable skills you have to achieve these post-MBA goals that this organization may be seeking.

How does the admissions committee view lower amounts of work experience? I will be applying with 2 years experience but will have 3 by the time I matriculate. Is this a detriment to my application if I experience a significant promotion?

Ilana: The average of 5 years is just an average, and we have many students who have fewer or more years of work experience. We look more at the quality -- not quantity -- of your work experience and whether you can make a compelling case that you're ready for an MBA at this moment in time when you're applying.

Is there difference in chances for some one applying in R2 Vs R3?

Lina: R1 and R2 are very comparable, it just depends when you believe you have a strong application. R3 is our more competitive round since most of the class is admitted in R1 and R2. Please refer to our blog: https://mbablogs.anderson.ucla.edu/mba_ly-in.html

Moderator: Thanks everyone for attending this chat. I also thank members of the UCLA admission staff for spending time with applicants in the chat room and answering their questions.

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>

Ilana: Thank you all for joining us on today's UCLA Anderson chat! If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us at mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu

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-person-2018>
- Campus Experience Programming: <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/fundamentals/events>
- MBA Brochure: [http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/sites/degrees/mba/UCLAAnderson MBA Brochure 2018.pdf](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/sites/degrees/mba/UCLAAnderson_MBA_Brochure_2018.pdf)
- MBA Brochure: http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/Documents/degree_2018.pdf