



## Michigan Ross Adcom Live Chat Transcript Sept 4, 2019



**Adcom Members:** Meredith Hartmann, Associate Director, Admissions, Michigan Ross

- **Ross Class of 2022 Discussion:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-michigan-ross-mba-applicants-2020-intake-297997.html>
  - **Ross Decision Tracker:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/ross-196/decision-tracker.html>
  - **Ross Reviews:** [https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business\\_school/ross-michigan-8](https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business_school/ross-michigan-8)
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**Moderator:** Hello everyone! Thanks for joining us today for this chat session with the Michigan Ross admissions team. We have today, Meredith Hartmann, Associate Director, Full-time MBA Admissions.

Welcome, Meredith! Before we start the Q&A, I would request you to introduce yourself and if there's any critical information you'd like to share beforehand with the students.

**Meredith:** Hi everyone! I'm very excited to be here - thank you for the opportunity. I'm Meredith Hartmann, and I joined the admissions team at Michigan Ross last year in October. I'm a Michigan native and a graduate of the University of Michigan. My love for it runs deep - it's where I met my husband, who is himself a Ross FTMBA grad! I have a background in environmental enforcement and nonprofit development, but I'm finding the world of admissions incredibly exciting. Let's get started!

I do want to share that while you already may be aware that our Round 1 deadline is coming up, you may not know that we are traveling to India in November to do the Round 1 Team Exercise in New Delhi.

If you're not familiar with the Team Exercise, our FTMBA Director did a great video about it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAXHTsiu13U>

**MBA42020:** Meredith - thank you for your time! My curiosity has the best of me and I am wondering what the picture is used for on the application?

**Meredith:** Nothing official it definitely isn't a requirement either. From a personal standpoint it helps put faces to applications.

**Businessconquerer:** Could you tell us what are the necessary requirements for qualifying for a scholarship?

**Meredith:** An application! You are automatically considered for a scholarship when you apply - you don't have to fill out anything extra.

**vishwajeetarora:** Hi, Meredith! How much importance would you give to graduation scores! If Someone didn't do well in his graduation but overall profile is good, does he have any chances of getting into such a prestigious school?

**Meredith:** Absolutely. We look at each application holistically, which means no one area will tank or save you. If you feel your undergraduate scores are not reflective of your potential, you can explain that in the optional essay.

**agodbole:** I applied to Ross in R3 for full time MBA and was waitlisted and ultimately not accepted.. Does Ross provide feedback for such applicants and also what advice would you give to re-applicants?

**Meredith:** We are unfortunately unable to provide feedback to applicants. In terms of advice, I would say use your Ross knowledge to your advantage, contact admissions, and control the controllables - update your resume, re-take the test if you think you can improve

**seldon2019:** Could you tell us the most important aspect that the admission assess on the application?

**Meredith:** All of it! we look at your application as a whole - you're a whole person, after all. You want to ensure you can put forward the strongest application possible. But do remember that no application is perfect - no one area is going to tank your candidacy!

**GMATForum:** Hi Meredith, I am planning to apply in round 2 and Ross is on the top of my list. Can you what share more about 1) multi-disciplinary project in the 1st year? 2) Does Ross appreciate Entrepreneurship ? I am a research Scientist at a key Automotive firm and am looking for startups in that domain post MBA

**Meredith:** Our MAP program is what we're best known for. It's where you serve for 7 weeks on a consulting project with a real company. More info here: [https://michiganross.umich.edu/programs ... iculum/map](https://michiganross.umich.edu/programs...iculum/map) It's a great experience for those who want to change careers, as we have tons of projects to choose from each year. Yes we do appreciate entrepreneurship - we are looking for traits like goal-orientation, resiliency, and adaptability, and that field is famous for those traits!

**GMATForum:** What is the average scholarship amount international candidates get? and how to increase my odds of getting one?

**Meredith:** I don't have our averages with me at the moment, but I do know we gave out a record amount last year to international candidates, and Indian candidates in particular. Scholarshipping is an art, rather than a science - we scholarship the top applications in each pool. To increase your odds, put forth the strongest application you can (regardless of round - there's no difference between round 1 or 2) and control the controllables

**nightblade354:** Hi Meredith, what makes Michigan different from other business schools? Why should a candidate choose Ross over Darden or any other University?

**Meredith:** We like to highlight three main things: Action based-learning, a close knit community, and Go Blue Go Anywhere (meaning we have excellent career outcomes in all fields and our grads go all over - they're not stuck in the US Midwest!) We are best known for ABL, and I encourage you to reach out to current students and alumni to put the community to the test

**kloppismydad:** How are undergraduate school GPAs evaluated, and what would you suggest to a candidate who has a gap in the completion of their degree?

**Meredith:** UG record is in part how we assess your academic readiness for the program, in conjunction with scores. It's only one part of the whole application. If you have a gap, you can explain it in the optional essay - lots of candidates do.

**Anshul0102:** While uploading the file in the essay section. Is it okay to include pictures in the essay which supports our essay.

**Meredith:** I haven't seen that, but you're certainly welcome to use the Optional Essay section for any additional information you want us to know!

**Anshul0102:** Also can you please elaborate on the what is valued in each of the Group in the essay section.

**Meredith:** We intentionally left our essays broad and gave the applicant lots of choice - we want applicants to be creative and let us 'peek behind the curtain' at who you are - what motivates you, inspires you, makes you get out of bed in the AM. This doesn't have to be professional in nature! Some of the most interesting essays have been very personal.

**seldon2019:** How you see the reapplicants? Is their chance same as the first time applicant?

**Meredith:** We really like our reapplicants! We are looking for traits like resiliency and adaptability, and reapplicants are specially poised to show that. It does depend, but since a reapplicant has been through a cycle, often they have Ross knowledge they can use to their advantage (and rightly so)

**vineeth2612:** Does a below average graduation percentile have a big impact while evaluating an application? If it does, the, can we compensate this by some way? Example a gmat score of 700+?

**Meredith:** We see lots of folks with 'below average' academic records. Those applicants will provide explanation in the OE. UG record is taken in conjunction with test scores to determine academic fitness for the program - it's only one data point

**Itgelee:** What backgrounds are you looking for the Tauber Institute?

**Meredith:** all sorts - you do not need an engineering background to be part of Tauber. There is a separate interview process for the Institute and they value diversity of experience as well

**Apt0810:** If we apply in Round 2, so does that reduce the chances of selection or cause any impact on the scholarship part.... specifically for Indian Male Engineers

**Meredith:** Not at all. My colleague recently ran the numbers and found no difference between rates of acceptance in r1 v r2. We scholarship equally between rounds as well

**ychcui:** Hi Meredith! I have a question for the GMAT - do you assign more weights to the verbal and quant sections versus the IR and AWA? Or are the four sections evaluated equally important?

**Meredith:** We look primarily at the verbal and quant sections - we've found those are the best indicators of academic performance (especially the quant section) as our program is heavily quantitative

**SageJiraiya:** Would not taking part in the TE hurt an application? I was planning on submitting my application in R2, but if it adds significant value to an application, wouldn't it be better to apply in R1?

**Meredith:** Not at all. The TE is 100% optional, and this is no less true for our international applicants who might find it harder to make it to a limited number of locations. The TE provides us another data point and the applicants another experience of the Ross community and culture, but we do NOT hold it against applicants unable to participate.

**saxenarakshit:** What makes Ross leadership course(s) unique/different?

**Meredith:** This is a big question to answer and to get more detail please reach out to me and/or current students but I would say here the integration of ABL. We provide lots of opportunities for hands-on experience. One example is the Crisis challenge <https://sanger.umich.edu/portfolio/crisis-challenge/>

**GMATForam:** Does Business & Sustainability MS?MBA joint degree count as STEM?

**Meredith:** It does! The Erb Institute offers very exciting opportunities, and they scholarship generously. The dual degree can be done in 2.5 years too. [https://erb.umich.edu/programs/erb-mbam ... xperience/](https://erb.umich.edu/programs/erb-mbam...xperience/)

**MBA42020:** What's the worst mistake one can make on an application?

**Meredith:** The worst mistake I've seen is uploading essays from other schools' applications. We know you're applying to other schools (and you should) but double check you're submitting the right things!

**apm1989:** Is the team exercise limited to round 1 only?

**Meredith:** Nope, we offer it on campus all 3 rounds and will be traveling internationally to do them in round 1 and 2

**flamey532:** Do school visits play any factor in admissions?

**Meredith:** We recommend them primarily so you can get a chance to get to know schools. For international applicants we understand how hard it is to make the trip, so they don't factor in to the decision

**MBA42020:** Can you walk us through how an admissions decision is made? Who reviews the application?

**Meredith:** \*waves\* I do! I and my team do an initial read to see who we want to interview, and we make a certain number of deny and WL decisions at the first read. After we have all the information, we do a second read and then get together to ensure we're on the same page before scholarshiping and admissions (this is the teensy pocket sized explanation of a big important process btw)

**Anshul0102:** Is the optional essay only meant for clarifying any weak areas in the application or it can also be used to highlight values not mentioned elsewhere in the application?

**Meredith:** It is for anything you want the admissions committee to know that isn't covered elsewhere in the app. Most applicants use it for the latter purpose, but I've seen the former plenty of times.

**blowice27:** Hi Meredith, do LORs from senior professionals count better than maybe like mid-level management person, if the LORs basically said the same

**Meredith:** They don't, and I want to emphasize that. We only require one, so choose carefully! You want to choose a person who knows you well and can speak to your accomplishments and professional growth in a detailed way (which is often your direct supervisor). Choosing someone high up who can't do this for you will actually hurt an application.

**GMATForam:** I would love to be a part of TE, is there any chance that you can conduct it online?

**Meredith:** We haven't explored that yet, but it's certainly worth considering! However it would be tough - we use the TE to help gauge how you work with other people in ambiguous situations, and an online experience might not be as helpful.

**ychcui:** I am from public-sector (urban planning) consulting and post-MBA I would like to shift into social-sector and non-profit consulting. Given your background in non-profit, can you please provide some insights about the advantages of Ross in the social-sector&non-profit?

**Meredith:** There are lots of opportunities to pivot to this space. The William Davidson Institute and Zell Lurie will help fund internships, Ross open Road is an opportunity to work on mini-consulting engagements with smaller social organizations...I'd advise you to reach out to me or Student Ambassadors to get more detail!

**MaHaMaHa:** My question is regarding LOR's. I am an entrepreneur. Will a LOR from the other co-founder who is also the CEO, work ?

**Meredith:** Absolutely. As long as this person can provide detailed perspective on who you are in the professional realm, they are a good choice

**Moderator:** Before we wrap up, any final advice to those who are putting final touches on their R1 apps?

**Meredith:** Yes! Follow our Program Director's blog - we just did a series on application tips that I hope prospective students will find helpful. [https://michiganross.umich.edu/graduate ... sions-blog](https://michiganross.umich.edu/graduate...sions-blog) And please don't be shy in reaching out to current students and AdCom members! Relationships are so important to this process, and we want you to get to know Ross!

**Moderator:** Well, time's up, everyone! This was a really productive hour! Thank you so much, Meredith, for taking the time out and interacting with the GMATClub community! I'm sure everyone will share my appreciation for your help here today!

**Meredith:** Thank you so much for this opportunity. I hope I've been helpful.