

ECON-MPA FAQ

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



I'm already a senior by hours. Can I still apply to the ECON-MPA?

Yes, you can apply to the program with senior standing as long as you will complete your bachelor's degree in August (following admission to the ECON-MPA) or later. If you plan to complete your undergraduate degree in May (the same semester of admission to the ECON-MPA), you would not be eligible for ECON-MPA and should apply to the [traditional MPA program](#), instead. Please [contact Keri Ledezma](#) with any questions.

I do not meet the GPA requirements due to a past bad semester(s)/extenuating circumstances, but I am very interested in the ECON-MPA, and my recent scholastic performance is good. Can I still apply?

Due to the competitive nature of ECON-MPA admissions, your chances for admission would be greatly reduced by not meeting or exceeding the minimum GPA requirements. The purpose of the ECON-MPA (via the Select Admission Program) is to encourage UT undergraduate economics students with top academic records to remain at UT for the MPA degree. If your GPA does not meet the minimal requirements, we recommend that you raise your GPA while you complete your bachelor's degree and apply to the [traditional MPA](#).

Is there a way to apply online?

There currently is no online application available. However, a [downloadable application](#) is available. Applications and supporting materials must be delivered to the MPA Program Office, McCombs School of Business, GSB 4.112C.

Can I obtain a recommendation from a lecturer or my internship supervisor?

At least **three** recommendation letters must come from **tenure-track faculty** or **senior lecturers** at The University of Texas at Austin. This is a Graduate School requirement that cannot be waived. However, you can submit an optional *fourth* recommendation letter from a non-tenure-track faculty member or other reference.

Does gaining admission to the ECON-MPA assure admission to the MPA program?

Even if you are accepted into the Graduate School Select Admission Program, you are not guaranteed automatic admission to graduate school. You may be denied admission if your academic record falls below the standards set by the MPA program or the Office of Graduate Studies. In the final semester of your B.A. degree program, you will initiate a change in status from undergraduate to graduate standing by completing a form provided by the Graduate School. You may continue your graduate MPA coursework after acquiring graduate standing and completing your B.A. degree. If your status is changed to graduate standing but you are not awarded your B.A. degree, the graduate standing will be removed and the MPA degree progress will not continue until the B.A. degree is conferred. You must satisfy all MPA degree and program requirements to receive the MPA degree.

I am currently enrolled in one of the courses listed as required to meet the eligibility requirements. Can I still apply even though I do not have a final grade in this course yet?

Ideally, you should have completed all required courses at the time of application. However, if you are enrolled in one of the courses at the time of application (such as ECO 320L) and you have already completed the other pre-enrollment requirements prior to application, you can still apply for nomination to the ECON-MPA. Economics majors who wish to enroll in ACC 311 or ACC 312 in the McCombs School of Business in the fall or spring should complete an [Enrollment Control Petition](#). Traditional BBA courses that are typically restricted to McCombs business students are available to [all UT students during the summer](#). The [Business Economics Option Program](#) is highly recommended as an option to fulfill the accounting course requirements. Please contact [Keri Ledezma](#) if you have any questions regarding your situation.

Will I have access to the MPA academic and career services as soon as I am admitted to the ECON-MPA?

ECON-MPA participants will have access to certain MPA resources including, but not limited to, academic and career advisory services, academic and career workshops, and career networking/recruiting events.

Will I be eligible to sit for the CPA exam?

[CPA exam](#) eligibility requirements vary widely from state to state. Your educational background and the state in which you plan to sit for the exam will determine whether or not you will need to complete coursework above and beyond your MPA degree requirements in order to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam. If you wish to qualify for the CPA exam in Texas, you will need to complete courses beyond the B.A./MPA degree requirements if you have not completed any upper-division business coursework as an undergraduate student. As a result, you should consider incorporating upper-level business coursework, such as through [Business Economics Option Program](#), into your B.A. degree plan.