

## UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School Admissions Questions and Answers

*Following the technical difficulties we experienced with our chat software during the scheduled Admissions Chats, we decided to offer prospective students the opportunity to have their Admissions questions answered by a member of our Admissions Staff. Below is a sampling of frequently asked general Admissions questions, along with a response.*

**Question: I am concerned about my GMAT score. How detrimental will this score be to my admission to Kenan-Flagler?**

Answer: The Admissions Committee will definitely weigh your GMAT score along with the other factors of your application. For example, we will review such factors that include, but are not limited to, your work experience (including specific responsibilities, work progressions, leadership, management, and teamwork experience), extra-curricular and community experiences, international experiences, recommendations from supervisors, and academic record, along with reading your essays. Your admissions interview is also an important factor for admission. We are unable to tell you whether your GMAT score will be detrimental to your admission not only for the reasons stated above, but because the strength of the applicant pool varies each year. This year's incoming first year class had a wide range of GMAT scores, with the median GMAT score at 690. If you are below this median score, you might consider retaking your GMAT as we only look at the higher score. You might also consider highlighting, in other parts of your application, the strength of your analytical and quantitative skills. You might also consider taking quantitative classes such as calculus, statistics, accounting and microeconomics if you have not already taken those courses (or took those courses during your undergraduate studies but did not get a good grade) and submit your grades to us, in an effort to demonstrate your quantitative skills.

**Question: I am concerned about my GPA. It is lower than your average, but I have been working for 4 years. Will my GPA adversely affect my admission to Kenan-Flagler?**

Answer: The same answer applies as above with regard to the GMAT. The Admissions Committee will definitely weigh your academic record along with the other factors of your application. For example, we will review such factors that include, but are not limited to, your work experience (including specific responsibilities, work progressions, leadership, management, and teamwork experience), extra-curricular and community experiences, international experiences, recommendations from supervisors, GMAT score, along with reading your essays. Your admissions interview is also an important factor for admission. Whether you took quantitative courses such as accounting, calculus, microeconomics and statistics and received strong grades in those courses is important. If you did not get good grades in these and other quantitative courses, you might consider retaking these courses and submitting your

grades to us. You might also consider highlighting, in other parts of your application, the strength of your analytical and quantitative skills. You may also write an optional essay explaining the strength of your quantitative skills despite your lower GPA.

**Question: Does applying for a dual degree/dual program affect my application to Kenan-Flagler in any way?**

Answer: No, it does not. Your application to Kenan-Flagler is a separate application considered on its own merits.

**Question: I have been working for less than two years since college. Will I still be considered for your program?**

Answer: We recommend that our applicants have a minimum of two years work experience post-college by the time you actually begin the MBA program, not at the time you apply. While this is not a requirement, it is a strong recommendation. Most importantly, we would need to know what your work experience has been - your job responsibilities, the skills you have developed, and whether you have any leadership, management and teamwork experience. In your essays and interview, it would also be helpful for you to explain why you would like to obtain your MBA at this point in your career. But certainly, if you have had strong work experience for two years before the start of the MBA program, your application would be considered. For your information, this year's entering first year class had an average of 5.2 years of work experience.

**Question: If accepted, can I defer my enrollment?**

Answer: No, we do not allow deferrals except for military deployment.

**Question: Do you have a lot of career changers apply?**

Answer: Yes, approximately 50% of our applicants are career changers.

**Question: Do you encourage applicants to take courses at community colleges before they apply?**

Answer: As explained above, you may consider taking quantitative classes such as calculus, statistics, accounting and microeconomics if you have not already taken those courses (or took those courses during your undergraduate studies but did not get a good grade) and submit your grades to us, in an effort to demonstrate your quantitative skills. Alternatively, you may indicate in an optional essay and in your interview your willingness, if admitted, to enroll in our summer session of quantitative courses such as these called the Analytical Skills Workshop.

**Question: What kinds of questions will I be asked during my Admissions Interview? What is the interviewer looking for?**

Answer: During the Admissions Interview, the interviewer will be assessing such factors including, but not limited to, strong communications skills, your work experience and accomplishments, your interests and accomplishments outside of work, your short and long term goals, your interest in Kenan-Flagler, and how Kenan-Flagler can help you achieve your goals. Each interviewer asks different questions related to these, and other, topics.

**Question: I am an older applicant. How will the Admissions Committee view my application?**

Answer: The average age of this year's entering class is 28. When reviewing applications of applicants, no matter what age, the Admissions Committee will closely examine the applicant's work experience, specifically the progression of jobs and the responsibilities and skills that the applicant has developed. The Admissions Committee will also evaluate why the candidate wants to pursue an MBA at this point in their career and how the applicant articulates how their previously developed skills will transfer to the goals they wish to achieve.

**Question: I am not able to provide a recommendation from a current supervisor because 1) I have not told my supervisor I am applying to business school or 2) I have not been at this job for very long and don't feel this supervisor knows me well enough. Can I submit a reference from a professor? Peer?**

Answer: We prefer recommendations from a person who is in a supervisory capacity who has had a chance to closely observe your work and can comment on your skills. If you have not informed your current supervisor that you will be applying to business school, or do not feel your current supervisor has worked with you long enough to best comment on your skills, we recommend that you submit a recommendation from a former supervisor or client. We also recommend that you indicate in an optional essay why you are not providing a recommendation from a current supervisor.

**Question: What is the process for applying for financial aid?**

Answer: Financial aid is awarded on an individual basis and is explained more fully on our website, <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Tuition/index.cfm>.

**Question: What was hiring like for students last year?**

Answer: Employment statistics are also available on our website. Last year, there was a 97% placement for first year internships. For more information please follow this link: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/careerServices/placement.cfm>.

**Question: Can you connect me with a current student?**

Answer: Yes! We have started a new program this year called the MBA Ambassadors Program, which links prospective students to current students. You can contact a current student by clicking on this link: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/programs/MBA/interviewsVisits/Ambassadors/index.cfm>. This is an exciting program because you can link to a student based on parameters such as geographic region, career concentration, undergraduate major, etc.

**Question: Does Kenan-Flagler look at the overall GMAT score, or at the verbal and quantitative scores separately?**

**Answer:** We look at both the overall score as well as the individual scores. For example, an applicant could have a very high GMAT score but a very low verbal score within the GMAT, indicating that perhaps they do not have a strong command of the English language. Reversely, an applicant could have a strong GMAT score with a very low quantitative component, suggesting that perhaps their quantitative skills could use improvement.

**Question: I am not able to get a copy of my official transcript sent to Kenan-Flagler before the application deadline, is it acceptable for me to send a copy in the meantime?**

Answer: Yes, we will accept an unofficial copy of your transcript, but require an official copy of your transcript if you are accepted into the program. For more specific details about transcript requirements, please see our website at: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/requirements.cfm>.

**Question: I am living in a foreign country. May I schedule a phone interview instead of a campus interview?**

Answer: Our interviews are by invitation only. Of course, if you are unable to visit campus, a phone interview is acceptable, as we understand that not all our candidates are able to visit for their interview. Our interview policy is stated more fully on our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/interviewsVisits/index.cfm>.

**Question: What documents do I need to submit for admission? What tests do you require?**

Answer: All Kenan-Flagler admissions requirements are explained on our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/requirements.cfm>.

**Question: What deadline do you recommend that international students apply in? Do I have a better chance of getting accepted in a certain deadline?**

Answer: We accept international applicants in all rounds of our application deadlines. Since each year the quality and quantity of the applicant pool varies, we can't anticipate what this year's deadlines will hold. Our recommendation is that if you are interested in applying, you

apply in the earliest deadline that you are able to. In past years, our experience has been that we have had fewer spots to offer applicants in our 4<sup>th</sup> deadline, as our class starts to fill at that point.

**Question: Where do Kenan-Flagler graduates work after graduation?**

Answer: Our graduates are employed by companies all over the world. For a list of recent companies who have hired our students, along with other information about recruiting, please click on this link: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/careerServices/recruit.cfm>. Please also be advised that we will have forthcoming chats about career services, as well as about specific career concentrations that Kenan-Flagler offers.

**Question: What is the ideal time to take the GMAT?**

Answer: You should take the GMAT at a time that is convenient for you to adequately prepare, and to be able to submit your score for the deadline in which you want to apply.

**Question: Can I meet with a member of the Admissions Staff before applying?**

Answer: You may set up an informational interview with one of our admissions staff and take a tour of Kenan-Flagler. You can arrange this by contacting the Kenan-Flagler Admissions Office directly.

**Question: Do I have to take the TOEFL exam? I have been working in the US/working for a US company/took a graduate course in the US/am living in the US....**

Answer: Applicants do not need to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score if:

- You earned an undergraduate degree or graduate degree at a U.S. college or university
- Your total education was conducted in English in a native English-speaking country

For more information regarding TOEFL requirements, please visit our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/requirements.cfm>.

**Question: How is an application reviewed?**

Answer: The application is reviewed by several members of our Admissions staff who read through the application in its entirety, with a final read by an Associate Director, who then presents the application to the entire Admissions Committee for discussion and review.

**Question: What are your application fees and deadlines?**

Answer: For application fees and deadlines, please see our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/requirements.cfm>.

**Question: Do you offer scholarships? Can I work during school to pay for my tuition?**

Answer: We do offer merit fellowships. Information on fellowship opportunities can be found on our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Tuition/fellowships.cfm>. To be considered for a fellowship, you just need to apply to Kenan-Flagler by our third deadline (January 8, 2009). Typically, students do not work while enrolled in the MBA program due to the time demands of the program. For more information on student loans and financial aid, please visit our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Tuition/aid.cfm>.

**Question: If I enroll, can I qualify for in-state tuition after my first year?**

Answer: For in-state tuition requirements, please visit our website for more detailed information on who qualifies: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Tuition/residency.cfm>.

**Question: I was denied last year and will be reapplying. Do I need to write new essays and have a new interview?**

Answer: You do not need to submit new essays, but we do recommend that you have another admissions interview. For information regarding reapplication requirements, please visit our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/requirements.cfm>.

**Question: Are admissions decisions made on a rolling basis? How soon after I apply will I find out if I was admitted?**

Answer: Decisions are not made on a rolling basis. You will be informed of your admissions decision depending in which deadline you applied. For application deadlines and decision release dates, please visit our website: <http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/Programs/MBA/Apply/deadlines.cfm>.

**Question: I have taken MBA courses at another university/am currently enrolled in another MBA program. Will Kenan-Flagler accept transfer credit if I am admitted?**

Answer: No, Kenan-Flagler does not accept transfer credit.

**Question: Will the Admissions Committee be reading the new essay added this year?**

Answer: The essay to which you referred will be read and reviewed by the student volunteers, but the Admissions Committee will also be able to read the essay.

***For additional specific questions about application requirements, please contact our Records Room Manager, Sharon Moore, directly at [Sharon moore@unc.edu](mailto:Sharon_moore@unc.edu).***

***For additional general admissions questions, please email [mba\\_info@unc.edu](mailto:mba_info@unc.edu).***