



# MD-MBA PROGRAMS

What to Know About the Application Process and Programs



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Over your time in college as a pre-med student, you might have discovered that you've got a knack for business-oriented courses. Or, you might have always wanted to venture into healthcare management in the future. Either way, you could be wondering whether a combined MD-MBA degree is right for you.

The medical school admissions process is cutthroat, and the business school applicant pool is competitive as well - so you can imagine how tough it is to pursue a combined degree. To help guide you through the application process, we have outlined the list of schools where you can receive the MD-MBA dual-degree, how the admissions process works, how to best prepare your application materials, and finally, how to figure out whether an MD-MBA program is actually right for you.

### Institutions that Offer MD-MBA Programs

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The question on your mind might be whether every medical school or every business school offers an MD-MBA program. The answer is no, but a lot of the top institutions do. So, go through our list carefully to guide your research on MD-MBA dual-degree programs:

MEDICAL SCHOOL	AFFILIATED BUSINESS SCHOOL
Baylor College of Medicine	Jones Graduate School of Management (Rice University)
Boston University School of Medicine	Boston University School of Management
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	Weatherhead School of Management
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons	Columbia Business School
Cornell University Weill Medical College	Johnson School of Business
Creighton University School of Medicine	Heider College of Business Creighton University

Dartmouth College  
Geisel School of Medicine

Tuck School of Business

Drexel University  
College of Medicine

Lebow College of Business  
at Drexel University

Duke University School of Medicine

Fuqua School of Business

East Carolina University  
Brody School of Medicine

ECU College of Business

Emory University School of Medicine

Goizueta Business School

Georgetown University  
School of Medicine

McDonough School of Business

Harvard Medical School

Harvard Business School

Indiana University School of Medicine

Kelley School of Business

Johns Hopkins  
University School of Medicine

Carey Business School

Medical University of South Carolina

Citadel's School of Business

Michigan State University  
College of Human Medicine

Eli Broad College of Business

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Zicklin School of Business  
at Baruch College

New York University Grossman  
School of Medicine

New York University  
Stern School of Business

Northwestern University Feinberg  
School of Medicine

Kellogg Graduate  
School of Management

Ohio State University College of Medicine

Fisher College of Business

Penn State College of Medicine

Smeal College of Business

Saint Louis University School of Medicine

John Cook School of Business

Sidney Kimmel Medical College  
of Thomas Jefferson University

Widener University  
School of Business Administration

Temple University  
Lewis Katz School of Medicine

Fox School of Business  
and Management

Texas A&M College of Medicine

Mays Business School

Texas Tech University  
Health Sciences Center

Texas Tech College of  
Business Administration

Tufts University School of Medicine

Northeastern University College of Business  
Administration and Heller Graduate School  
at Brandeis University

Tulane University School of Medicine

Freeman School of Business

UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers Business School

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

University of Arkansas at  
Little Rock Business School

University of California  
Davis School of Medicine

UC Davis Graduate  
School of Management

University of California  
Irvine School of Medicine

UC Irvine Paul Merage  
School of Business

University of California  
Los Angeles - Geffen School of Medicine

Anderson School of Management

University of Chicago Pritzker  
School of Medicine

The University of Chicago  
Booth School of Business

University of Central Florida  
School of Medicine

University of Central Florida  
College of Business Administration

University of Cincinnati  
College of Medicine

Linder College of Business

University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center

Leeds School of Business

University of Connecticut  
School of Medicine

University of Connecticut  
School of Business

University of Florida  
College of Medicine

Warrington College of Business

University of Hawaii  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

Manoa Schidler College of Business

University of Iowa  
Carver College of Medicine

Tippie School of Management

University of Kentucky  
College of Medicine

Gatton College of Business  
and Economics

University of Louisville  
School of Medicine

University of Louisville College of  
Business and Public Administration

University of Michigan  
Medical School

Ross School of Business

University of Minnesota  
Medical School

Carlson School of Management

University of Pennsylvania  
Perelman School of Medicine

The Wharton School

University of Rochester  
School of Medicine

Simon Graduate School of Business  
Administration

University of Southern California  
Keck School of Medicine

Marshall School of Business

University of Texas Health Center

University of Houston Clear Lake  
School of Business

University of Texas  
Southwestern Medical School

University of Texas at Dallas Jindal  
School of Management

Vanderbilt University  
School of Medicine

Owen Graduate School  
of Management

Wake Forest University  
School of Medicine

Babcock Graduate School  
of Management

Washington University  
School of Medicine in St. Louis

Olin Business School

Wright State University  
Boonshoft School of Medicine

Wright State University  
Raj Soin College of Business

Yale School of Medicine

Yale School of Management

As you can see, the list contains a lot of schools that are known for their esteemed medical programs, such as Baylor, ones particularly reputable for their business school, such as Indiana, and schools such as Harvard which are well-regarded for both.

## How the Admissions Process Works

The number of students who apply to MD-MBA programs varies from year to year and also depends on the institutions themselves. For instance, each year, [8-12 students from Penn's Perelman School of Medicine](#) apply for an MD-MBA, and the acceptance rates fluctuate based on the quality of the applicants. Before we dive into the required components of an MD-MBA degree, you need to understand how the medicine and business application portions occur. At Johns Hopkins' MD-MBA program, applicants have to meet the admissions criteria of the School of Medicine and be admitted to the MD program first. If they are accepted by the medical side, the admissions committee then forwards the file to the MBA admissions office to review their fit for the MBA program. If they meet the criteria, the candidate receives their decision from the dual-degree program before they start either school. If they don't meet the MBA criteria, they do still get an acceptance from the medical school.

Most other schools, however, want you to settle into your initial medical years before pursuing the business route for one year. Harvard, NYU, and Dartmouth all follow this path. At Dartmouth, you have to complete two years at the Geisel School of Medicine before applying to Tuck for the January admission cycle.

If accepted, your third year would be spent pursuing an MBA before diving into the MD clinical work period. Similarly, at Harvard, students admitted to HMS must apply for HBS in round 2 of the MBA admissions stage while in their second year of med school. You must meet the criteria for the standard two-year MBA program at HBS (GMAT/GRE, essays, 2 letters of recommendation, impressive resumé) before being considered for endorsement by HMS to join the five-year, dual-degree program. The endorsement is made based on your academic standing at your MD program.

At NYU on the other hand, students begin enrolling at Stern in the fourth year and stay through the fall and spring semesters. They then return to the medical school for the summer and fall of the fifth year, and finally, dedicate a semester to MBA coursework in the spring of the fifth year. So, they complete 3 years of medical school followed by one year of MBA, before going back to the MD program.

Gaining admission to medical school is no easy task in the first place. On top of a commitment to medicine, your MD-MBA application components also need to have a business focus, so you need to frame your dual-degree applications to reflect both interests.



## Required Components

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The application requirements vary by school, but they're similar in nature. To be selected for one of these dual-degree programs, you must meet the following criteria:

**Standardized Tests** – In order to apply to MD-MBA programs, naturally you must take the MCAT and the [GMAT or the GRE](#). Each of the programs requires the MCAT, but not all of them ask for your GMAT and GRE score. Johns Hopkins and Cornell, for example, only consider your MCAT score. Most other schools, such as NYU, Penn, and Ohio State require you to have taken the GMAT or the GRE by the time you apply to the business program. Because they're very competitive, you must bring strong numbers to the table that match the given business school's median as well.

**Essays** - You need to take advantage of your essays and frame a compelling narrative in order to convince admissions officers that you are worthy of acceptance. Regardless of whether you've already started medical school or not, your essays should address your career goals - how can a combination of medicine and business help you get there? Specifically, how can an MBA help you on top of having an MD and why is now the best time to get both degrees? The reader must understand why you've pursued an MD-MBA i.e., how your plans incorporate a background in business and medicine in order for you to succeed.

**Resumé** - Work experience is absolutely essential for any MBA candidate. Your resumé should contain experiences that connect to the business side of your interests in order for your career trajectory to make sense. If you're applying to the business portion of the MD-MBA program once you've already been admitted to the MD program, you must design your [resumé](#) very differently from your AMCAS activities list. Think about opportunities you've had that have been more managerial, demonstrate your leadership and collaboration skills, and convey how you perform in a business-oriented setting. Take advantage of action verbs, highlight your personal achievements and bring to focus activities besides where you've taken charge. Show that you'll bring a unique perspective to the classroom.

**Letters of Recommendation** - Your letters of recommendation for your MD-MBA should come from your managers and colleagues who have worked with you in teams and on projects. Your recommender must be familiar with your background and understand your reasoning behind pursuing the MD-MBA program so that they can reiterate why you're a strong fit in their letter.



## Is An MD-MBA For You?

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When thinking about an MD-MBA, you should not only consider the medical school, but remember that it also depends on the reputation of the business school to an extent. Given how competitive and specific this track is, while you're researching MD-MBA options, you might wonder if it's the correct path for you. The most important factor to consider is your career aspirations. Why do you want an MD-MBA? You not only have to reflect on this question for your written applications, but you'll have to address it in your interviews as well. An MD-MBA can be beneficial to you if you have your eyes set on jobs in healthcare management, running finances for a hospital, or being a consultant in a medicine-oriented setting. If you just want to be a physician, even if you're good at or interested in business-related subjects, an MD-MBA will not benefit you in the long run because you would just end up being a full-time doctor.

Thinking about timing is also important. Would pausing your medical education to dedicate time to business classes for a year cause a disruption in your learning flow? Does completing your degree in five years instead of the four years fit with your ambitions and timeline? Speaking of timing, you'll also have to balance your business classes on top of remembering everything you previously learned in your MD courses. If you think you'll struggle to balance all the work, an MD-MBA might not be a sustainable choice for you.

Finally, you should also put some thought into what your resumé currently looks like or will look like at the time of your application. You don't just need medical experience; your profile must also reflect a dedication to business. If you applied to medical school straight out of college without getting any professional work or internships under your belt (because you might have entirely been focused on pre-med activities), you're not going to stand a strong chance against other applicants who have probably had far more hands-on experience. If the business school admissions committee doesn't know how you work on a team or in leadership positions, they won't be confident about your ability to successfully contribute to the program.

An MD-MBA is by no means easy, as you have to take part in two programs that challenge you thoroughly throughout five years. But if you believe this is the route that will perfectly complement your dream career path, you should certainly go for it. Make sure you don't underestimate the components and put your best foot forward. Good luck!