

MASTER OF BUSINESS (MBA) DEGREE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Why get an MBA?

An MBA demonstrates to employers that you are committed to being a business leader and professional. An MBA can also assist with reaching your goals, which may include: an advanced position in your field; the desire to change careers; the chance to develop a deeper understanding of the functional areas of business so you can better apply your knowledge, skills and abilities to create solutions for your company.

2. Why should I get my MBA at Clarke?

- **You have options:** Students can select from 3 certifications as part of their MBA – project management professional, human resources professional or managerial professional, allowing you to tailor your degree to your needs. Students may also choose to go on to complete the fast track MOL degree. Therefore, receiving two graduate degrees in just three years.
- **Tax Conscious Program:** For students with tuition reimbursement plans through their employers, this program provides a tax-friendly option for graduate education. The curriculum rotation was designed to ensure the total amount paid each year remains close to the tax cap of \$5,250, to reduce tax implications for students. When comparing programs, students may wish to compare tax implications in consideration for the total cost of a degree, as employers do not cover out of pocket cost such as taxes. Students should consult their employer reimbursement plan and tax advisor for more information.
- **Solid reputation and track record:** Clarke has a proven track record with nearly 30 years of experience in offering graduate business education.
- **Quality and value:** We believe in an educational experience based on value. The courses are offered primarily by full-time faculty, many with doctoral degrees and all with significant industry experience. By utilizing full-time faculty, students benefit from having professors equipped with the latest educational delivery and industry knowledge. Faculty are actively engaged with students and focused on their success.
- **Designed to fit your life:** The hybrid format is designed with working students in mind. Full-time students will take one course, or a class-and-a-half at a time. As an example, an 8-week first session class, an 8-week second session class, plus a 16-week class that meets every other week, which would result in a student taking a class and a half at a time. We understand that most students are working full time and many have families. Some schools offer courses in a more abbreviated format, but our focus is on knowledge acquisition and application versus memorization and speed of individual course completion. In this format, full-time students (9 credit hours per semester) can complete their MBA in two years. This schedule is very manageable for busy professionals.
- **Innovative delivery:** MBA students want to be engaged and actively learning and applying this knowledge outside of the classroom. In the Clarke University MBA program, students have the opportunity to work on real-world projects, apply concepts to work situations, utilize case scenarios for application of knowledge, and utilize a simulation in the capstone course to pull together all of the functional areas of business in order to run a simulated company.

3. What are the requirements for admission to the MBA at Clarke? Do I need to take an entrance exam?

Entrance requirements and GMAT requirements are located at www.clarke.edu/graduate/mba. A GMAT is only required when undergraduate GPA was below 3.0 in the last 60 hours of coursework.

4. Do I need to start in the Fall or can I begin in any session?

Students may begin in August, October, January or March. Students are welcome to apply online at any time. MBA applicants may apply at www.clarke.edu/graduate/apply.

5. In what format are the MBA classes held?

The classes are in a variety of hybrid formats, depending on the semester. Hybrid classes have half of the instruction in the classroom and the remainder online. Classes meet once a week for two hours and 10 minutes on either Monday or Thursday. Class times are either from 5:20-7:30 p.m. or 7:50-10 p.m. The format is designed so that working professionals with families can still manage a full-time load of studies. A full-time load is considered nine credit hours (three classes per semester).

6. Why are the MBA courses offered in an 8-week or 16-week session versus an abbreviated session?

For some courses, students need a longer time to process information and more time for the application of knowledge. Therefore, we have found that students are much more successful in courses such as Accounting, Finance and Global Strategic Management (capstone) with an extended 16-week, every-other-week meeting format. We believe in offering courses in a timeframe that allows students not just to memorize facts but to also apply and evaluate information in the form of case studies, simulations and real-world applications.

7. How many credit hours are in the MBA degree?

The MBA degree is a 33-credit hour program.

8. How long will it take me to finish the MBA?

Students can typically complete the program in four semesters or two years. Students can take up to seven years to complete the program.

9. Where do I find information on Graduate Studies' academic policies and procedures, enrollment procedures, graduation requirements and grading?

Visit Clarke's Academic Catalog "Introduction to Graduate Studies" section at www.clarke.edu/catalog.

10. Where do I find information in the Academic Catalog in regards to the MBA, including outcomes, admission requirements, transferring of courses into the program, early-access undergraduate requirements and curriculum?

Visit Clarke's Academic Catalog "Master of Business Administration" section at www.clarke.edu/catalog.

11. How much is tuition?

Tuition rate starting Fall 2016: \$535 per credit hour, plus \$35 per credit hour technology and student services fee. You can access tuition rates and fees by visiting www.clarke.edu/tuitionandfees.

12. How do I find out if I qualify for student loan deferment/financial aid?

Please contact Clarke University's Financial Aid Office or learn more at www.clarke.edu/financialaid.