

The Consortium for Graduate Study In Management (CGSM) FAQs

General Application Questions

What are the application deadlines for applying through The Consortium?

The first round [Consortium deadline](#) is **November 15, 2011**, while the second round Consortium deadline is **January 5, 2012**. Decision notification for both rounds will be by March 1, 2012. Fellowship and membership decisions will follow separately in mid-March.

In which round should I apply? Is there a benefit to apply in Round 1?

Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible, provided that you do not sacrifice the quality of your application to do so. If you find that you need more time to revise your essays or to retake the GMAT, for example, you should definitely take the extra time to do so.

If you apply in Round 1, we will review your application earlier, so you may receive an interview invitation earlier. However, we will be releasing both Round 1 and Round 2 decisions at the same time – by March 1, 2012. The Consortium determines the [application deadlines](#) so that you can plan accordingly for submitting your Consortium application to all member schools for which you wish to apply.

Am I at a disadvantage if I apply through The Consortium?

We encourage all applicants who can demonstrate their commitment to The Consortium's mission to apply via The Consortium. There are many benefits to Consortium membership, as well as the opportunity to apply for The Consortium Fellowship. Consortium applications are reviewed in the same way as the rest of our pool, although the [deadlines](#) are slightly different. Decision notification for Round 1 and Round 2 Consortium applicants will be March 1, 2012.

Will you accept the GRE instead of the GMAT?

No, for admission to the Berkeley MBA Program all applicants must submit a [GMAT score](#). We will not accept the GRE and will not consider GRE scores when making admissions decisions.

If I retake the GMAT after The Consortium application deadline, will you consider my new score?

The GMAT must be taken on or before The Consortium application deadline for the round in which you apply. The Consortium has [established deadlines](#) for taking the GMAT exam: November 1, 2011 for Round 1 and December 20, 2011 for Round 2.

Are there specific essays that I need to complete in addition to The Consortium essays?

You will be required to submit the following supplemental essays for Berkeley-Haas:

- 1) Describe a time when you questioned an established practice or thought within an organization. How did your actions create positive change? (250 word maximum)
- 2) Describe a time when you were a student of your own failure. What specific feedback or insight has continued to shape your development? (250 word maximum)
- 3) Describe a time when you led by inspiring or motivating others toward a shared goal. (250 word maximum)

What if I am a reapplicant?

Both Berkeley-Haas and The Consortium keep application materials from the previous two application cycles. If you applied more than two years ago, you are required to submit an entirely new application.

Re-applicants who applied in the last two years must submit a new application that includes all required data forms and essays, an updated résumé, one mission support recommendation and the application fee. You may re-use the following items: GMAT score if not expired, professional recommendations, and transcripts.

As a reapplicant to Berkeley-Haas, we strongly recommend that you use the optional essay (on the Berkeley Supplemental Application) to outline how you have improved your candidacy since your last application. The Admissions Committee will be looking for substantive change in your qualifications. We also recommend that you provide updated professional recommendations which may highlight your most current professional achievements, as well as speak to how you have enhanced your candidacy since you last applied. If you have taken the GMAT and TOEFL again, ask to have the new official scores sent to The Consortium and note your new score on the Test Score section of the application.

If I apply through The Consortium and am denied admission, am I still eligible to apply to the Berkeley Full-time MBA Program through one of its subsequent application rounds?

No. If you are denied admission to the Full-time Berkeley MBA program after applying through the Consortium, you are not eligible to apply to the Full-time program within the same academic cycle.

Interviews

Is it necessary to have an interview? When should I expect to receive an invitation to interview?

Once the Admissions Committee has reviewed your Consortium application, you may be invited to interview. Receiving an invitation should be taken as a sign of interest on the part of the Admissions Committee. Interviews are offered both with current students on campus and with alumni in cities around the world. Interview invitations generally start going out four weeks after the application

deadline, and continue to go out on a rolling basis up until the notification deadline. You will be notified by email if you are invited to interview.

MBA Scholarships

I was admitted through The Consortium and did not receive a Consortium Fellowship. Am I still eligible for other Berkeley MBA Scholarships?

Yes, you are eligible (and encouraged!) to apply for any of our MBA Scholarships. You can find information on our scholarships and other details to finance your MBA on our [Financial Aid](#) site.

Joint Degrees

I am interested in applying for a concurrent degree program (JD/MBA, MBA/MPH, MBA/MA in International Area Studies). Can I still apply through The Consortium?

[JD/MBA](#): JD/MBA concurrent degree applicants are not eligible to apply to the JD/MBA program through The Consortium. To apply for the JD/MBA concurrent degree, please apply directly through the Berkeley-Haas [application](#).

[MBA/MPH](#): You may apply to the MBA/MPH program through The Consortium. You should choose the MBA/MPH option when completing the Berkeley-Haas section of The Consortium application. Applicants to the MBA/MPH program do not need to complete any application materials separate from the MBA application. Please note that for fellowship recipients this only covers the first two years of the two-and-a-half year MBA program.

[MBA/MA – International & Area Studies](#): Enrollment in this concurrent degree program occurs during the first year of the MBA Program. Applicants to the program must have completed at least one semester of graduate study on the Berkeley campus and have at least three semesters remaining. You are not required to indicate your interest on the Consortium application. Please note that for fellowship recipients this only covers the first two years of the MBA/MAIAS program.

Consortium Fellowships

I was admitted to Berkeley and another Consortium MBA program. My Consortium Fellowship was directed to another Consortium MBA program but I want to attend Berkeley. Can I direct my Fellowship to Berkeley even though I initially ranked it lower in my Consortium school rankings?

Fellowships cannot be redirected to other MBA programs within The Consortium. Your school ranking determines the order in which schools may consider you for The Consortium Fellowship. You are first considered for the Fellowship by your highest ranked school to which you were admitted. If that school

does not choose to award you the Fellowship, the option passes to your next highest ranked school to which you were admitted and so on. While many Consortium schools may admit you, only one Consortium school may offer you the Fellowship. After your application is submitted to The Consortium, you cannot change your school ranking.

As a recipient of a Consortium Fellowship, am I required to maintain a minimum grade point average while a student? What if I am a Consortium Member (and not a Fellowship recipient)?

Whether a Consortium Fellowship recipient or Consortium Member, you must remain in good academic standing (i.e., 3.0 GPA or higher) while a student at Berkeley-Haas.

I am a recipient of a Consortium Fellowship and would like to defer my acceptance for a year. May I defer my Consortium Fellowship as well?

Deferrals are very uncommon for the Berkeley MBA Program. In extreme circumstances, they may be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Director of Admissions. Deferral of a Consortium Fellowship is also reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

[General Berkeley FAQs](#)