

2009-2010 Essays & Recommendation Topic (Rank 33~40)

33 Purdue University--West Lafayette (Krannert)

	Deadline	Notification by
Early	November 1	December 15
Final	February 1	March 20

TOEFL

The minimum Internet-based test scores required for admission are Writing 18 , Speaking 18, Listening 14, Reading 19, and Total 77

Essays

Discuss your long and short term career goals, how these goals developed, and what you hope to gain from graduate study at Krannert. Limit your responses to no more than 500 words.

Describe a situation in which you had to work with a diverse group of people (those with backgrounds or opinions different from your own) to accomplish something. What conflicts arose and how did you resolve these conflicts? What did you learn about yourself and accomplishing work as a group that you can bring to Krannert? Limit your response to no more than 500 words.

Describe a major obstacle you have faced in your professional, academic, or personal life. How did you overcome this obstacle? How did this experience foster your personal and professional development? Limit your response to no more than 500 words.

Additional Information(*Optional*)

Please provide any additional information that was not captured within your application. If you feel you've already provided us with sufficient information about yourself, you need not add anything here. (250 words or less)

Recommendation

My knowledge of the applicant's skills is based on *
professional affiliation
academic affiliation

Define how long and in what context(s) you have known the applicant, including the peer group with which you are making comparisons. (500 words)

Describe the applicant's strengths. (500 words)

How could the applicant improve professionally/academically? What aspect of the applicant would you most like to change? What efforts has the applicant taken to show improvement? (500 words)

Would you enjoy working for or being in class with this applicant? Why or why not? (500 words)

What do you think motivates the candidate's application to Purdue University's Krannert School of Management? (500 words)

Does the applicant have realistic professional ambitions or unrealistic expectations of entitlement? (500 words)

For non-native English speakers, please comment on the applicant's verbal and written English ability? (500 words)

34 Boston College (Carroll)

	Deadline	Notification by
Round 1	November 15, 2009	January 15, 2010
Round 2	January 15, 2010	March 15, 2010
Round 3	March 15, 2010	May 1, 2010
Round 4	April 15, 2010	June 1, 2010

TOEFL

The minimum required score on the TOEFL is 100 on the internet-based test.

Essay Questions:

1. Define long term success in your specific area of interest. How have your previous experiences prepared you for this professional career? What specific short-term career objectives have you set to assist you in achieving your long-term career plans? (2 pages and 12 point font - double spaced)
2. Why have you selected the MBA or MSF program in the Carroll School of Management at Boston College? (1 page and 12 point font - double spaced)

Optional Essay

Please provide any additional information that will highlight unique aspects of your candidacy to the Admissions Committee. The Committee welcomes additional comments you may wish to provide in support of your application.

Reccommendation

- How long have you known the applicant?
- What is, or was, your relationship to the applicant?
- What are the applicant's talents or strengths?
- In what areas can the applicant improve?

Please give us your appraisal of the applicant by rating each of the characteristics below.

- Analytical Ability
- Integrity
- Maturity
- Interpersonal Skills / Teamwork
- Oral Communication Skills
- Written Communication Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Leadership Potential
- Motivation / Initiative
- Potential for Career Advancement
- Quantitative Ability
- Judgement

For MBA, MSF, and MSA applicants, please comment on the candidate's achievements, motivation, integrity, and potential to study in a master's program. In this section, we are requesting that you create a Word document for your comments.

34 University of Florida (Hough)

Round 1	Nov 15, 2009
Round 2	Jan 15, 2010

Short Answer Questions (Answer in the spaces below, use additional sheets if necessary – max. 1 page)

- 1) In order of importance to you, list significant extracurricular activities, professional associations and civic organizations in which you have participated in school, work or the community (use the space provided below). Provide the dates of your involvement and indicate whether you were elected or appointed to any leadership positions.
- 2) Describe below, including dates, any significant cross-cultural experiences you have had outside of your home country, including study abroad, exchange programs, extensive international travel or residence in another country.
- 3) List below any other interests, hobbies or recreational activities you currently pursue in your free time.
- 4) If you have received any academic, professional, or civic honors or awards, have received any patents or authored any books, or have any other significant accomplishments that you would like the admissions committee to consider, please describe them below.
- 5) Explain the primary factors that influenced your decision to apply to the Florida MBA Programs.

Essays

Please respond to the following questions on separate sheets of paper. Please double-space your essays.

- 1) (All applicants) Describe how you would like to see your career develop. Explain how your academic background, prior professional experience and the Florida MBA degree will help you achieve your career goals. If your career goals are international, or you are an international student, please include as part of your career plans in what country or region you

plan to seek employment following completion of the program. Limit your response to 2-3 pages.

- 2) (Traditional Applicants Only) Describe a success that you achieved due to your self-motivation, persistence, and hard work. What motivated you? Limit your response to 1-2 pages.
- 3) (Optional) Please share any additional information that you think will assist the Admissions Committee in evaluating your application to the Florida MBA Programs. Limit your response to no more than 1 page.

Recommendation

- 1) How long have you known the applicant and under what circumstances?
- 2) What do you consider to be the applicant's strengths?
- 3) In what areas does the applicant need to improve?
- 4) Assess the applicant's interpersonal skills in working with peers, supervisors and, if appropriate, subordinates.
- 5) Describe the applicant's leadership potential and the likelihood of success in a business career.
- 6) Please complete the following evaluation matrix and indicate the group to which you are comparing the applicant: Other individuals within your organization who have exhibited managerial promise. Other individuals you know who have applied or are applying to graduate business school.
 - Intellectual Ability
 - Analytical Ability
 - Imagination and Creativity
 - Maturity
 - Organizational Skills
 - Ability to Work With Others
 - Leadership Potential
 - Self Confidence
 - Oral Presentation Skills
 - Written Communication Skills
 - Managerial/Career Potential
 - Intensity
- OVERALL EVALUATION
- 7) Additional Comments: Is there anything else you would like to share with the Admissions Committee about this applicant that will help us to evaluate his or her application?
- 8) Are you willing to speak with the Admissions Committee regarding this applicant? Yes No
- 9) Describe your level of commitment in recommending this applicant for the Florida MBA Programs:
 - Highly Recommend Recommend Recommend with Reservations Do Not Recommend

34 University of Notre Dame (Mendoza)

Early Deadline Completed application received by November 16, 2009 Decision sent by December 18, 2009
Preferred Deadline Completed application received by January 18, 2010 Decision sent by February 18, 2010
Third Deadline Completed application received by March 15, 2010 Decision sent by April 16, 2010

Essays

Your responses to the essay questions are extremely important in the selection process. Please use separate sheets of paper for each essay question and include your name on each sheet. Your essays should be typed and double-spaced. Each essay should be no longer than 2 pages each. Please complete the following essay.

- I. What are your career plans immediately after graduation? Explain how your past experiences prepare you for your desired position. What are your long-term career aspirations?
- II. Additionally, please complete any one of the following six essay questions.
 1. The MBA Values Statement is an important guide for our students and the bedrock of our shared community values. Please review the MBA Values Statement and then choose the one value you believe has had the most impact on your professional career to date. Be sure to give a specific example of how you have lived out that value in your professional

experience.

2. What do you view as your greatest professional failure to this point? How do you feel that a Notre Dame MBA would change the outcome of a similar situation in the future?

3. How has trust played a role in your professional experience? Give a specific example of how trust, or a lack of trust, has impacted your professional experience.

4. Describe a time when you were given a project or assignment in an area that was not well defined or where you had little expertise. Please explain exactly what you did and what the result or outcome was.

5. What brand would you most like to manage? Why? How would you improve it?

6. Walter B. Wriston, the storied late CEO of Citibank, wrote a book titled "Risk and Other Four Letter Words" in which he postulated that society's greatness is commensurate with its ability to take risk and, thus, to reward risk takers. Given the financial crisis of 2008-2009, do you feel that banks took on an acceptable or unacceptable level of risk? Why or why not? In either case, has the financial crisis changed your view of careers in finance? If so, how?

Recommendation

H. Please discuss the applicant's chief strengths with regard to having a successful managerial career.

I. Please comment on the ratings that you have assigned and make any additional statement about the applicant's record, potential or personal qualities which you believe would be helpful to the Admissions Committee in considering this person's application.

34 University of Washington (Foster)

October 15

November 15

January 15

Essay

Essay 1 - GOALS STATEMENT

Please provide an essay response to the following question. Observe the word limit and use a minimum font size of 10. Double-space your response and clearly label the essay with the topic and your full name.

Required for Full-time and Evening MBA Applicants (750 words maximum)

Essay 2 - OVERVIEW

Please provide an essay response to the following question. Observe the word limit and use a minimum font size of 10. Double-space your response and clearly label the essay with the topic and your full name. If you are applying to both the Full-time and Evening MBA program, you will need to submit the appropriate 2nd essay for both programs. Please upload both programs' essays in one document and use a Page Break to separate them.

Full-time MBA Applicants: PLANS FOR INVOLVEMENT (500 words maximum)

ESSAY 3 - CHOICE ESSAY

Please provide an essay response to one of the following questions. Observe the word limit and use a minimum font size of 10. Double-space your response and clearly label the essay with the topic and your full name.

Required for Full-time and Evening MBA Applicants (500 words maximum)

Answer one of the following:

1. Describe a situation in a work environment that either severely strained your relationship with co-workers or challenged your personal values. How did you resolve the situation?

2. At this point in your career what do you consider your most significant professional accomplishments? How have these particular accomplishments affected the career choices you have made?

ESSAY 4 - OPTIONAL ESSAY/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide an essay response to the following question. Observe the word limit and use a minimum font size of 10. Double-space your response and clearly label the essay with the topic and your full name. (250 words maximum)

Please include any other information that you believe would be helpful to the admissions committee in considering your application. For example, applicants have used this essay to explain a stretch of weak grades in college, an unusual job change, travel or time off not explained in the resume, or some particularly interesting or unique characteristic or experience that they were unable to discuss elsewhere in this application.

Recommendation

How long have you known the applicant? In what context? How often do you interact?

What are the applicant's greatest strengths?

Discuss areas where the applicant could improve.

Comment on the applicant's leadership abilities and interpersonal skills.

Comment on the personal motivation and initiative of the applicant.

Please comment on the ratings above. Feel free to make additional comments about the applicant's accomplishments, managerial potential and other personal qualities.

38 University of Illinois--Urbana-Champaign

December 1, 2009:	Application deadline for early admission decision
January 15, 2010:	International application deadline

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the goals you have set for yourself immediately following an MBA. How will the Illinois MBA combined with your skills and previous experience help you accomplish these goals? (Maximum of two pages)
2. Please provide a detailed example of your experience related to one of the following areas: a. Perseverance b. Innovation c. Leadership d. Teamwork
3. Tell us about your life outside work and school? (250-300 words)

OPTIONAL

4. Please provide any additional information that you would like to bring to the attention of the Admissions Committee. If you feel that your credentials and essays represent you adequately, you should not feel obligated to answer this question.

Recommendation

1. Discuss the applicant's ability to work with others. (Consider the applicant's ability to work with peers, supervisors, and subordinates; his or her ability to lead and to delegate responsibility; and his or her willingness to work in a team environment.)
2. Describe the applicant's ability to communicate orally and in writing. (If the applicant is a nonnative speaker of English, how well does he or she read, write, and speak English?)
3. Describe the applicant's outstanding abilities and talents.
4. In which areas could the applicant exhibit growth or improvement?
5. What is your impression of the applicant's capacity for graduate business education and potential for a successful career in management?
6. Add any additional comments or statements.

39 University of Maryland--College Park (Smith)

Application Deadline	Decision Mailing Date
November 1, 2009	January 15, 2010
December 15, 2009	February 15, 2010
January 15, 2010 *	April 15, 2010

Essays

REQUIRED ESSAY 1

Application essays allow the admissions committee to get to know you better both professionally and personally. Additionally, the essays are used to assess writing skills, which are critical in the graduate business degree program.

What are your specific post-graduate short-term and long-term goals? How will a graduate degree from the Robert H. Smith School of Business assist you in achieving your goals? Finally, please discuss your personal and professional motivations for pursuing a graduate degree. Please limit your response to 2 pages, double-spaced.

REQUIRED ESSAY 2

Choose one of the two essays below: (Note: Enter or upload response to the selected essay here.)

1. If salary was not a factor and your living expenses were covered, what would you do for a living and how would you spend your time?
2. If you could be the leader of an organization, what organization would you choose, and why? What changes would you make to

enhance the organization and what current strategies would you retain?

Please limit your response to 2 pages, double-spaced

OPTIONAL ESSAY

Please use this essay to provide the admissions committee with additional information that will assist us in evaluating your candidacy (for example, an explanation for gaps in employment history or an undergraduate grade point average that is less than 3.0).

Recommendation

1. What are the applicant's primary strengths and weaknesses?
(Please limit your response to 60 lines. Any text exceeding this limit will be cut off.)
2. How might these strengths and weaknesses affect his/her performance in a graduate business program and in a management career?
(Please limit your response to 60 lines. Any text exceeding this limit will be cut off.)
3. Discuss the applicant's competence in his/her area of responsibility or specialization, the ability to complete assignments, attention to details, and organizational and technical skills.
(Please limit your response to 60 lines. Any text exceeding this limit will be cut off.)
4. Does he/she work effectively in groups, perform well under stress, and accept constructive criticism?
(Please limit your response to 60 lines. Any text exceeding this limit will be cut off.)
5. Please indicate your overall recommendation for this candidate
 - Highly recommended
 - Recommended
 - Recommended, but with reservation
 - Not recommended

40 Boston University

Application Deadlines
November 15
January 15
March 15

Letters of Recommendation.

Choose evaluators who are in a position to assess your professional work experience. The most helpful evaluations demonstrate an awareness of your management potential. We recommend that you provide evaluations from current or former supervisors or managers. In some cases, evaluations addressing academic, extracurricular, and/or community performance will also be accepted.

40 Michigan State University (Broad)

Round	Online application deadline	Decisions mailed by
1	November 4, 2009	December 23, 2009
2	January 13, 2010	March 17, 2010
3	March 3, 2010	April 21, 2010
4	April 28, 2010	June 9, 2010

Essays

Essay A

(Required for all applicants except JD/MBA; JD/MBA applicants answer Essay E in lieu of Essay A.)

Describe both your short-term and long-term career goals. How compatible is your career progression (or professional accomplishments) to date with these goals? How will the Broad MBA from MSU help you achieve these professional goals? Please address why you believe now is the appropriate time to pursue the MBA as a part of your response (maximum of 700 words or 2 pages).

Essay B

(Required for all applicants.)

Describe your most significant professional achievement. Provide evidence of your leadership skills displayed, the actions you took, the influence you had on your organization, and the results attained. Please limit your response to 375 words or 1 page.

Essay C

(Required for all applicants.)

How has your background and life experiences including social, economic, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities and/or challenges shaped or influenced you as an individual and as a leader? How might you leverage your background to contribute to the Broad MBA community? Limit your response to 375 words or 1 page.

Essay D

(Optional for all applicants.)

You should only answer this question if you feel your complete application for admission does not adequately represent you. What other information do you believe is necessary in the assessment of your candidacy to the Broad MBA? 375 words or less (1 page), please.

Recommendation

In addition to the evaluation provided, you may choose to upload a formal letter. Please note that providing a formal letter is not required and the absence of one will not affect the strength of your recommendation or the applicant's overall candidacy to the Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University.

We ask that your letter be limited to 250 words or less (or 1 page).

40 Pennsylvania State University--University Park (Smeal)

Early Decision Deadline:

Submit by December 1, 2009

Expect a decision by January 31, 2010

Deadline for All International Applicants and Any Domestic Candidates Seeking Financial Aid:

Submit by February 1, 2010

Expect a decision by March 31, 2010

TOEFL

Internet-based 100

Speaking Section 20

Essay Questions

As far as possible please adhere to the one page limit per question. If it is imperative, you may have one additional paragraph beyond the one page limit.

Essay 1: Why are you choosing to get an MBA? How do you see a Smeal MBA influencing your future?

Essay 2: How do you see Principled Leadership impacting the business world today? Give an example of a time when you demonstrated Principled Leadership in your career or community.

Essay 3: Listed below are the values that embody the Penn State Smeal MBA community.

Penn State Smeal MBA Values:

* WE ARE individuals of character and integrity. We value honesty, humility, and hard work. We value passion, commitment and personal responsibility. We honor our obligation to each other and to the world in which we live.

* WE ARE a diverse community built on common values. We value each person's unique contributions to the community. We value trust, mutual respect and collaboration. We share our struggles and our successes - and have fun along the way.

* WE ARE leaders focused on learning and individual growth. We value intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, and a commitment to excellence. We value a curriculum that is relevant, innovative, practical, and demanding. We take risks and reach beyond our perceived limitations.

- * WE ARE the students, faculty, alumni, and staff of the Penn State Smeal MBA program.
- * WE ARE Penn State.

We value how these principles help us develop our future leaders. Please select ONE of the following questions to show how you embody the Penn State Smeal MBA culture.

- 3A - "We value each person's unique contributions to the community". What is your unique contribution to the Penn State Smeal MBA community?

- 3B - "We honor our obligation to each other and to the world in which we live". What obligation do you have to the world and how are you planning to make an impact?

- 3C - "We take risks and reach beyond our perceived limitations". Describe a time when you took a risk, and what you learned from the outcome.

Recommendation

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. What are the applicant's primary strengths or skills that would contribute to his/her success in graduate management study and later in a senior management position?
3. What qualities should the applicant improve upon for an effective managerial career?
4. How does the applicant perform under stressful situations?
5. What do you think motivates the candidate's application to the Smeal MBA at Penn State? Do you feel that the applicant is realistic in his/her professional ambitions?
6. Additional Comments:

40 Rice University (Jones)

November 9, 2009 (Priority Deadline)
 January 11, 2010
 February 22, 2010
 April 5, 2010 (Final Deadline)

Essays

ESSAY - Post-MBA Career Goals

Discuss your post-MBA career goals and how your work experience has influenced these goals. Include in your discussion: 'Why an MBA at this time?' and 'The industry or functional area you plan to pursue at the completion of your MBA.' (Maximum 750 words)

ESSAY - Team Experience

Describe a team experience wherein your leadership and interpersonal skills directly affected the outcome of the project. How will this experience impact your contribution as a team member at the Jones School? (Maximum 750 words)

ESSAY - Self-Reflection

Choose one of the following three essays (Maximum 750 words):

* Describe a defining moment or event that changed your life. Include its impact on you and how it may have altered your view of the world.

* If you took out a one-page advertisement of yourself in a magazine, what would it look like, and what would the headline be? In which magazine would it be, and why?

* What literary character best represents you, and why?

ESSAY - Optional

(Optional) Is there anything else that you would like the Admissions Committee to know about you? (1 page) Note: Reapplicants must submit this optional essay specifically addressing why your application should be reconsidered.

Recommendation

Are you aware of any circumstance or condition that would lead you to believe the applicant might not succeed academically?

.. Yes .. No If yes, please

explain. _____

Are you aware of any circumstance or condition that would lead you to believe the applicant might not be suitable for a responsible managerial position?

.. Yes .. No If yes, please

explain. _____

Have you ever had any reason to question the applicant's honesty or integrity?

.. Yes .. No If yes, please

explain. _____

Does the applicant possess any characteristics that you consider to be special talents or strengths?

In what areas can the applicant improve?

If the applicant is an international student, how well does he or she speak, write, and understand English?

Please provide any other comments that you think would help us evaluate the leadership potential of this applicant (you may use a separate sheet if you prefer).

Please provide us with an overall rating:

.. Strongly recommend .. Recommend . Recommend with reservations .. Do not recommend