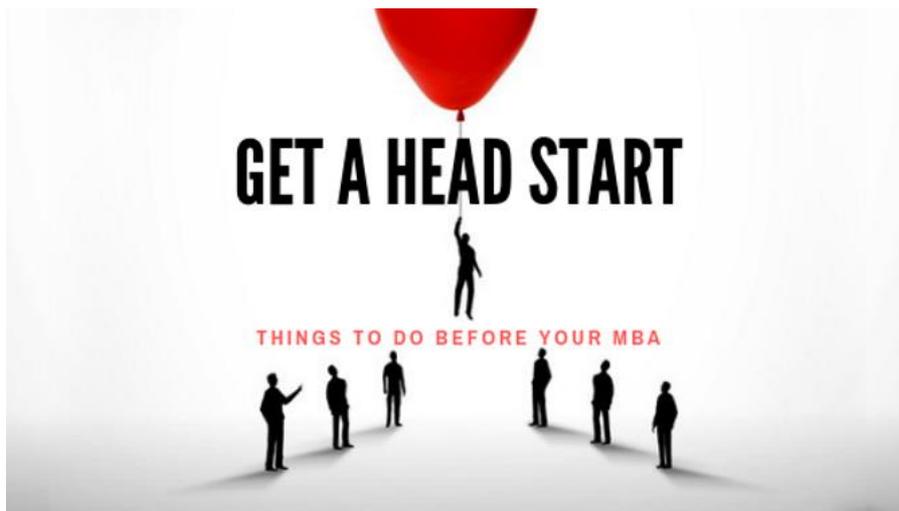


Pre-MBA Preparation

Things to do before you start your MBA program



1) Networking: Learn how to network, which is not just calling up people and asking for a job. Networking is an art where you get people in your story and your future potential and motivate them to help you. Prepare a good story about your profile - where your pre-MBA profile seamlessly connects with your MBA and your post-MBA goals, and reach various companies to understand the post-MBA roles they offer and how you can fit into them. Just telling an alum you want to work in Consulting is not good enough: What kind of consulting? Which practice? What areas you want to impact? How are you suitable for that role? Why are you interested in that firm? - are all questions you will have to answer if you want an employer to take interest in you.

2) Academic Preparation: Especially focus on learning Accounting. The Accounting course in the first semester in the MBA can become a big pain point for students with non-

finance background. The purpose of this course is not to teach you accounting, but to teach you how to use accounting for business decisions, and thus the professor will assume you know Accounting. Weakness in Accounting will impact your performance in other finance courses as well. Thus, before arriving on campus you must reach a level where you understand the line items in financial statements and can comfortably build such statements from raw business data.

3) Expand your Knowledge: Read about various industries different from your own, as that knowledge will help you in case studies, class discussions, assignments and in the interview. Free online newsletters such as Knowledge@Wharton, [Mckinsey.com](https://www.mckinsey.com) newsletters, Dealbook (New York Times) can provide valuable overview of current business issues and the opportunities and challenges of various industries.

4) Learn Analytics: In today's Digital age, it is difficult to imagine any career where one can function without Analytics. So, although you are not expected to build the complex analytics software (unless you are a tech person working in analytics), a potential employer will definitely expect you to work with such platforms to drive business decisions. There are several online courses available in Business Analytics which can build your analytics credentials if you have not had such exposure in your pre-MBA career.

5) Prepare a plan-B: Although it is good to pursue your main career interest during the MBA, it is good to have a plan-B in case you don't get your first-choice job. A good plan-B is one which you can easily get and which is a natural extension of your previous job as then you won't have to work very hard to convince an employer to hire you.

6) Improve personal efficiency/ time management: Successful MBA students are adept in time management and can extract the maximum outcome from their limited time. With too many things happen at the same time, you will struggle to cope if you don't manage your time well. Thus, focus on improving your efficiency and learn how to plan your time so that you can maximize the opportunities of higher education and also have some fun along the way.

7) Adopt a fitness regimen: For super-busy MBA students, fitness often become a low-priority. To prevent yourself from getting horribly out of shape and to manage stress, schedule low-intensity and sustainable exercise time in your schedule.

8) Start job search early: Before starting your MBA, prepare a list of potential employers and important people from LinkedIn. Look beyond the school's alumni network, and tap into your own personal and professional network. Connect with only your classmates, but also current second-year students and recent alums. The recent alums have a big say in recruitment in the companies they work in. Second year students also can influence your recruitment in the companies they are joining after graduation. They can not only provide valuable contacts, but also help you will interview preparation to shape your MBA experience.

9) Brush up on hobbies: Find something you are interested in that allows you to bond with your classmates outside the classroom. You will make the most important friendships and networks during sports, extra curricular and social activities. No wonder, Golf is the preferred socializing event for corporate executives around the world.

10) Social Media: Improve your LinkedIn profile; start sharing / discussing stuff about your career interests, and continue the same through the MBA and the rest of your career. No employer in this world would ever hire you without reviewing your LinkedIn profile and activity. Also review your instagram, facebook, twitter and other social account and get rid of embarrassing stuff if any.