

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

***MASTER OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM***

**2022-23**



Contact: Whitney Branch, Graduate Programs Coordinator  
601.266.4831 | [whitney.branch@usm.edu](mailto:whitney.branch@usm.edu)



## MBA PREREQUISITES

- All applicants must demonstrate proficiency by earning a grade of B or better in a three-hour course (undergraduate or graduate) in the following three subjects:
  - » Accounting | ACC 200, ACC 220, BA 611 or the equivalent
  - » Finance | FIN 300, BA 670 or the equivalent
  - » Statistics | BA 201 or the equivalent

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS

- Certificate program consists of four online classes (accounting, finance, management, and marketing). Those needing a statistics prerequisite can take an undergraduate statistics course. Students earn the certificate for a better foundation in business concepts before entering the MBA program.

## ADMISSION STATUS

- Admission into the MBA program is comparative and competitive. An applicant may be admitted on a regular basis, a conditional basis, or denied admission into the program. The committee reviews the entire application package when making admission decisions. The minimum standards for each status are provided in the [Graduate Bulletin](#).
- A minimum 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours is required for regular admission.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- **Tuition.** Business Services provides current [tuition rates](#). Graduate Admissions provides more information about [financial aid opportunities](#).
- **Graduate Assistantships (GAs)** - A limited number of GAs are available to select full-time students and are awarded on a competitive and comparative basis. **GAs can only be awarded to students admitted under the regular admission status.**

## MBA APPLICATION DEADLINES

### PRIORITY DEADLINES FOR U.S. RESIDENTS

- » April 1 – Seeking a graduate assistantship for the upcoming year
- » April 1 – Summer
- » June 1 – Fall
- » November 1 – Spring

[FINAL DEADLINE SET BY GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CAN BE VIEWED HERE.](#)

## ACCREDITATION AND RANKINGS

Accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

**#19** Best Online MBA Programs in the South (2021), *Fortune Education*

**#56** Best Online MBA Programs in 2021, *Fortune Education*

**#94** Best Online MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

**#127** Best Full-Time MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

**#213** Best Part-Time MBA Programs (2021), *U.S. News & World Report*

**#20** Best MBA Degree Programs Online (2020), *Learn.org*

**#23** Best No-GMAT Online MBA Programs (2020), *College Consensus*

A **Top** Online Sports Management MBA Program (2019-20), *Online MBA Page – MBA with Sport Event Security Management Emphasis*

**#1** Best Online MBA Programs in Mississippi (2019), *College Consensus*

**#17** Best Online MBA Programs (2018), *Affordable Colleges Online*

**#41** Best MBA Degree Programs Online (2018), *Best College Reviews*



## MBA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

---

- [Online Graduate School Application, Non-Refundable Application Fee and Official Transcript\(s\)](#)
  - » Select the Business Administration MBA or the Sport Event Security Management MBA when beginning the application.
- GMAT/GRE Scores
  - » Automatically waived for all applicants through spring 2022
- Statement of Purpose
  - » No more than two pages, double-spaced
  - » The personal essay provides an opportunity to highlight the unique qualities and experiences that distinguish you as an applicant and demonstrates your written communication skills. You may wish to comment on your long-term career objectives and how graduate education will help you attain your goals. Discuss your most important strengths and abilities, as well as the weaknesses or shortcomings you wish to address while in the program.
- Three Letters of Recommendation
  - » Academic or professional recommenders commenting on your ability to be successful in the MBA program
  - » Recommenders receive an e-mail to upload their letters to the application once their contact information is entered
- Current Résumé
  - » While not required, work experience after the bachelor's degree is valued. Please include part-time, full-time, management, and military work experience, along with relevant dates of employment. On average, MBA students have seven years of post-baccalaureate professional experience.
- Cover Letter
  - » A professional letter to highlight and expound on the applicant's résumé must be included as an introduction to the committee.
- Requirements for International Applicants
  - » [English Proficiency Exam Score](#) completed within the last two years sent to International Admissions
  - » International applicants should contact [International Admissions in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services](#) to submit all supporting materials, including applicable test scores, and to ensure all transcripts are properly converted for evaluation. International Admissions can also answer I-20 and visa-related questions.

## MBA CURRICULUM

- The MBA program at Southern Miss is a non-thesis program and requires the completion of 33 credit hours (eight core and three elective courses) with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- The asynchronous online option does not require specific meeting times.
- Hybrid night class format on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses
- MBA courses typically follow this schedule:

### BEHAVIORAL MODULE

**MGT 600 | Organizational Behavior and Leadership | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

**MKT 600 | Marketing Management | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

### FINANCIAL MODULE

**ACC 611 | Managerial Accounting | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

**FIN 611 | Financial Management | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

### ANALYSIS MODULE

**MGT 611 | Analytical Decision Making | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Spring | Semester Online: Fall

**MGT 650 | Global Business Systems | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Spring | Semester Online: Fall

### STRATEGY MODULE

**ED 620 | Global Location and Trade | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

**MGT 660 | Global Business Strategy (Capstone) | 3 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Fall | Semester Online: Spring

### BUSINESS ELECTIVES

**3 Approved Graduate Electives | 9 hrs**  
Semester Hybrid: Summer/Fall/Spring  
Semester Online: Summer/Fall/Spring

---

*MGT 660 is the capstone course, and enrollment is subject to departmental approval. Before graduation, all MBA candidates must complete a final comprehensive project, which is administered in MGT 660. Students should have already completed the behavioral and financial modules and have already completed or enrolled simultaneously in the other courses in the analysis and strategy modules. Electives can be taken before or after MGT 660. It may take online students admitted in the fall and on-campus students admitted in the spring longer than three semesters (full-time) or six semesters (part-time taking two classes a semester) due to the course rotation.*



Approved electives are subject to change and vary from semester to semester. Options typically include, but are not limited to, the following:

- » Coaching and Mentoring
- » Community Data Analytics
- » Cybersecurity and White-Collar Crime
- » Digital Merchandising/Marketing and Analytics
- » Economic Development for Defense Communities
- » Executive-Level Analytics
- » Fraud and Valuation
- » Introduction to Sport Security Management
- » Marketing Analytics
- » Nonprofit Board and Volunteer Development
- » Nonprofits and Social Change
- » Project Management
- » Seminar in Entrepreneurship
- » Sport Event Emergency Response Planning
- » Study Abroad (Asian Studies, British Studies and Italian Studies)
- » Threat and Risk Assessment of Sport Venues
- » Other specialized options available

## SPORT EVENT SECURITY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

- The only program of its kind in the United States
- Offered in partnership with the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS<sup>3</sup>)
- Select the Sport Event Security Management MBA when beginning the Graduate School application.
- Complete three sport security courses as electives:
  - » SM 620 – Introduction to Sport Security Management – 3 hours
  - » SM 626 – Threat and Risk Assessment of Sport Venues – 3 hours
  - » SM 628 – Sport Event Emergency Response Planning – 3 hours



## TRANSFER CREDITS

- At the discretion of the academic program, up to one-third (33%) of the credit hours required to complete a graduate degree program may be transferred from other accredited institutions. The coursework to be transferred is time-limited; it must have been taken within the time allowed for the graduate degree program. The credit must carry a letter or numeric grade of “B” or better. Course credit applied to another earned degree cannot be transferred. Transfer grades will not be calculated in the USM GPA. Transfer credit is not automatic and will be awarded only after course content is evaluated and approved by the graduate committee chair and/or graduate committee, school director, and graduate dean. Students will supply syllabi, course descriptions, and other requested materials for review.
- **Non-degree status** - Students who wish to take MBA courses for purposes other than the attainment of a graduate degree, or who meet admission requirements for the Southern Miss Graduate School and would like to begin taking courses before completing the MBA application, may take up to 12 hours of MBA classes under non-degree status. Students seeking non-degree hours must meet all prerequisites, submit a non-degree application to the Graduate School, pay the non-refundable application fee, receive approval to enroll from the MBA director, and maintain a GPA of 3.0. Students who are later admitted into the MBA program may transfer these hours to the required program coursework. A total sum of no more than one-third (33%) of combined transfer and non-degree coursework may be applied toward a graduate degree.

## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Applicants who would like to pursue a Master of Public Health (MBA/MPH) or Master of Science in Sport Management (MBA/MSSM) in addition to the MBA must apply to each degree program separately. Applicants must meet the requirements and prerequisites in both programs to qualify for admittance.

