

FALL 2025 TRADITIONAL MPA ADMISSIONS ESSAYS

Written and video essays provide us with additional information regarding your potential for success in the MPA program and an opportunity to assess your communication and presentation skills. This is your opportunity to give us insight into your strengths, skillsets, and goals. Strong essays convey research, reflection, and your motivations for pursuing an MPA degree, specifically at the McCombs School of Business. Three essays are required for your Texas McCombs MPA admissions application. You can submit an optional statement if you would like to provide additional information regarding your application.

Written Essay 1 (Required) (Between 350-500 words)

Upload a PDF document in the admissions application.

Explain why you are interested in pursuing a master's degree in accounting and how this degree will help you to achieve your career goals.

Written Essay 2 (Required) (Between 250-350 words)

Upload a PDF document in the admissions application.

Students in the MPA program come from a wide variety of academic backgrounds. Irrespective of background, one common characteristic of successful MPA students is analytical aptitude. This means that successful MPA students can analyze and interpret information to identify and solve problems and make effective decisions.

Explain how you have used analytical skills either in a class or in a professional, volunteer, or extracurricular (student or other organization) experience. How did you analyze or interpret information to answer a complex question, improve a process, find a solution to a problem, or make a decision?

Video Essay (Required) (One minute)

Record and upload your video essay to a video-sharing platform such as YouTube or Vimeo or to a cloud storage site such as Google Drive. Please do not use TikTok. Provide a link to your video in the admissions application. If the video link is password protected, also provide the login information.

Tips: Be professional, try not to read off a script (we want to see you as your peers, instructors or employers see you!), and don't worry about fancy editing techniques. Review your video's privacy settings and ensure that they are not overly restrictive. For example, YouTube videos should be "Unlisted" or "Public" rather than "Private." Make sure that your link does not expire and that you do not remove your video until you receive an admissions decision.

Imagine that you are in attendance at MPA orientation. Introduce yourself to your new classmates, faculty members, and potential employers. Present a thoughtful introduction.

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Optional Statement (Written) (No word limit)

Optional: Upload a PDF document in the admissions application.

Please address any information that you believe your application would be incomplete without and that sheds more light on your unique potential to succeed in the MPA program and contribute to the University community and the profession.

If you have completed additional Accounting, Business, Math, or Economics courses beyond the required prerequisites which have not been added to your transcript (e.g., transfer or study abroad courses) or which you plan to complete before starting our program, please provide a list with the name of the college/university, course number, course title, semester/year of completion (or expected completion), and final grade (if available).

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