Business Management Pre-Master’s Program FAQ

PROGRAM

1. **Is there any space available right now for the Pre-Master's Program?**
   There is space available for the Winter 2020 program. Applications will be available in June 2019. We recommend that students apply as soon as applications are available to reserve their space. For further questions contact: ipinfo@ucsd.edu.

2. **When is the deadline to apply?**
   For the 2020 winter quarter program, starting in January, it is recommended that students submit their applications no later than November 15th, 2019.

3. **When will applications for 2020 be available?**
   The applications will be available in June 2019. Applicants will need to complete the 2020 Pre-Master’s Supplemental application, along with the 2020 International Programs application.

4. **What are the differences between Business Management program and Business Management Pre-Master's program?**
   Pre-Master’s program closely follows the Business Management certificate program curriculum. In addition to it, Pre-Master’s program includes the development of leadership and teamwork skills; US academic institution and career preparation; and practice for the GRE. UC San Diego Extension and Rady will provide opportunities to help develop and acclimate Pre-Master’s Program students to further ensure a successful transition.

   The Pre-Master’s Program has stricter admission criteria, including a minimum GPA required, and additional required admissions documents. The Pre-Master’s program provides assistance in applying for conditional nomination at Rady School of Management. If the student is not accepted to the Rady School, the business team will connect the student to an alternative graduate program that partners with UC San Diego Extension and offers preferred consideration for admissions to their MBA program.

5. **Which Masters programs can students apply to at the Rady School of Management?**
   Students can apply to Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science in Business Analytics and Master of Finance. For more information about the programs, please click here.

6. **What is the difference in completing two quarters versus three quarters of the Business Management Certificate Pre-Master’s Track?**
   In the optional third quarter, student will be able to take a capstone course in their area of specialization, two advanced business courses in area of specialization and elective courses based student’s interests.
7. **Does a student’s specialization Pre-Master’s program need to be aligned with the specialization in the Rady Master’s program? (For example, if a student is specializing in leadership in the Pre-Master’s program, can he/she specialize in marketing for the MBA program?)**

   The student’s specialization in the Pre-Master’s program does not need to be aligned with any specialization in the Rady Master’s program.

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**ELIGIBILITY for PRE-MASTER’S PROGRAM & CONDITIONAL NOMINATION to the Rady SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**

Upon successful completion of the criteria outlined below, the students will be officially accepted in the Pre-Master’s Program and will receive a Conditional Nomination issued by Rady into the appropriate advanced degreed program:

- Complete International Programs application with supplemental form
- Personal Statement*
- Evidence of English Language Proficiency; TOEFL 90, IELTS 7.0, or PTE 65
- Copy of diploma from a four-year accredited university required before start date of the Pre-Master’s Program.
- Official academic transcripts officially translated to English indicating an equivalent U.S. GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Resume or CV
- Two dated and signed letters of recommendation from an employer or former professor on academic or company letterhead
- Interview screening or video cover letter, if requested

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8. **Does the recommendation letter need to be obtained within last two years?**

   Recent recommendation letters are highly preferred. Recommendations should generally be from your professional network — someone who knows you well enough to provide us with insight regarding your professional qualifications and potential for contribution. The most effective recommenders are those willing to speak on your behalf and supplement the application materials. Two recommendations are required; both do not need to be from your place of employment.

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9. **Does the language score need to be obtained within last two years?**

   Yes. The iBT TOEFL score is valid for two years after the test date.

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10. **Will a student be eligible for a language waiver?**

    Demonstrated proficiency in the English language is required for all international applicants whose native language is not English. Students are eligible for a waiver if they have received at least a B average while studying full-time for one uninterrupted year at a university-level institution in which English is the language of instruction and in a country in which English is the dominant language. If an applicant is not eligible for a waiver, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking and receiving passing scores on one of the below exams:
The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 90 for the Internet Based Test. TOEFL information and forms are available at the TOEFL website.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Training exam: The minimum IELTS score is Band 7.0. IELTS registration information is available on the IELTS website.

The Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic). The minimum PTE academic score required for graduate admission is overall score 65. Registration and test information is available on the Pearson website.

11. If a student has a three year degree and a master’s degree, will that suffice for the admission requirement?
   Equivalency of a four–year U.S. bachelor’s degree is required. Thirty-six consecutive units of post-graduate, college-level courses taken prior to applying may fulfill the four–year requirement. Courses may be non–degree work.

12. If the student has not graduated from college yet, can he/she still apply for the Pre-Master’s Program?
   Students must submit a copy of their diploma from a four-year accredited university before start date of the Pre-Master’s Program.

13. If the student does not have any previous work experience, can he/she still apply to the Pre-Master’s Program?
   Business Management Pre-Master’s Program does not require work experience, but work experience is highly recommended if they are considering applying for MBA program at Rady.
ELIGIBILITY for OFFICIAL NOMINATION to the RADY SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Official nomination into the Rady School of Business will be contingent upon the student’s successful completion of an additional set of criteria as outline below, which is to be completed by the student during his or her tenure in the Pre-Master’s Program.

General Requirements:
- One letter of recommendation from appropriate Extension instructor or internship supervisor
- One letter of recommendation from English Language Institute, if applicable
- Extension transcripts indicating at least 3.0 GPA
- Interview screening with appropriate Rady representatives

Program Specific Requirements:
- MBA
  - GRE 320 combined score or GMAT equivalent
  - 500 word essay
- Master of Finance
  - GRE Math 70%, English 50%
  - Additional evidence of quantitative knowledge, if required
- Master of Science in Business Analytics
  - GRE Math 70%, English 50%
  - Additional evidence of quantitative knowledge, if required

14. If the student has completed a related master’s degree, will Rady be willing to make substitutions for some of the required coursework?
   No, except for a few cases. Rady will make the final decision on any possible exceptions.

15. What makes a good candidate for Rady?
   - **TOEFL iBT score of 100** or more with a speaking score of 27 is preferred
   - A High GRE Quantitative score is important
   - Official nomination to Rady is contingent on Rady Admissions. All candidates, even highly qualified candidates, will be subject to Rady’s strict admissions criteria.
THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

16. **When is the deadline to apply?**
   For the 2020 winter quarter program, starting in January, it recommended that students submit their application no later than November 15th, 2019.

17. **How long does it take to receive Conditional Nomination from Rady?**
   After a student submits the application, it will take approximately two weeks for Rady to respond and offer the Conditional Nomination.

18. **Will students directly enter the Rady School of Management after completing the Business Management Pre-Master’s program?**
   Students who get accepted in the Pre-Master Program will receive a Conditional Nomination issued by Rady into the appropriate advanced degreed program. Official nomination into the Rady School of Business will be contingent upon the student’s successful completion of an additional set of criteria, which is to be completed by the student during his tenure in the Pre-Master’s Program.

19. **Will a representative from the Rady School of Management be assigned to a student?**
   The representative will be assigned to the student by Rady once the student arrives in San Diego and is ready to start the Pre-Master’s Program.

20. **Once students receive the Official Nomination from Rady, how long can students defer the master’s program?**
   An admission deferral for one year may be granted after review of your file and with a written explanation from you for the deferral request. The $10,000 Rady Fellowship is not guaranteed with the deferral.

21. **Can students transfer their Pre-Master’s Program units to the Graduate Program?**
   No, the Business Management Pre-Master’s Program prepares students to get into the graduate program, but not to substitute for the graduate program.

COSTS, FEES AND FINANCING

22. **Does this program need to be paid in full?**
   Yes.

23. **Who is eligible for the $10,000 USD Fellowship?**
   Students who receive Official Nomination to Rady will receive a $10,000 fellowship to be applied to tuition at Rady.

24. **If I successfully complete all the requirements, will I be guaranteed admission into Rady?**
   The Official Nomination, and the associated $10,000 Fellowship, into Rady is subject to the competitiveness of that year’s candidate pool.
GENERAL INFORMATION

25. What options does the student have if he/she is not accepted into Rady School of Management?
   The Business Management Pre-Master’s Program prepares students to pursue advanced degree business programs. Students could also apply on their own to an alternate Master’s program at a different university. If the student is interested in pursuing another well-respected local university, our business team will provide an introduction to the Admissions Representative at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU). Given our partnership with this university, PLNU will offer preferred consideration for admissions to their MBA program. Additional university partnerships will be added.

26. How can students prepare for the GRE test?
   Students will start preparing for the GRE soon after they start the program. It is recommended that student schedule themselves to take the test in February at the appropriate proctored facility. Test scores will be available 10-15 days later. If the student is not happy with his/her score, he/she will have a chance to take the test one more time before having to submit the score to Rady by the April 1st deadline. The cost of the GRE test is not covered by the program.

27. Can a student participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT) for one year before entering into the Rady?
   After the student successfully finishes three consecutive quarters of study, they are eligible to apply for OPT. However, if the student prefers to wait until one year later to enroll in Rady, it will be at Rady’s discretion on whether they will defer the student’s enrollment year and the associated Fellowship. Please keep in mind the Official nomination, and the associated $10,000 Fellowship, into Rady is subjective to the competitiveness of that year’s candidate pool.

28. What should I do during the one quarter before the Rady’s Master program?
   After completing the Pre-Master’s Program, students may stay in-country for 5 months. Student may have following options:
   a. Go home or take a break
   b. Academic Internship Program