



## Perspective from the Director of MBA Programs on why the GMAT or GRE exam is included in admission requirements for the Virginia Tech Evening MBA program

As you explore options in graduate education which will enable you to be prepared for career growth, whether becoming more competitive for promotion at your current employer or perhaps considering a pivot where a different skillset will be required, the master of business administration (MBA) degree is a well-established and recognized degree. And one from Virginia Tech brings with it an extensive network of Hokies to connect with along your professional journey.

Being successful in the VT MBA program requires students to be prepared. Prepared to make the significant investment in time dedicated to your graduate studies, to funding the degree and receiving support from your employer and significant others in your life. The MBA degree program from Virginia Tech is rigorous in nature and quantitative work, be it accounting, finance, economics or statistics will require you to be ready from the start. How can you demonstrate this as an applicant?

Undergraduate course work and your employment history may give indications of your mastery and experience in quantitative work. Personal statements and recommendation help round out the picture of you as an applicant. And submission of a standardized test score, GMAT or GRE, will demonstrate several things:

- You spent the time to prepare for the exam, getting you back in to the mode of studying and taking an exam. Applicants will often share that studying for the GMAT was either a good refresher or learning opportunity that made entry into the MBA coursework easier. Don't have time to study or take the test? How will you have time for classes and the course work?
- You appreciate that your classmates will have met the same rigorous application requirements as you, meaning that all MBA students are ready to learn and while every student brings varied backgrounds, you are all academically able to succeed in the classroom. If you want to perform at a high level, you'll want to be assured that others in your classroom will be ready as well.
- You used taking the exam as an opportunity to overcome test anxiety you may have experienced as an undergraduate. But you're an adult now and you can change your outlook with some practice.
- You want this opportunity. You are willing to prove you deserve a seat at the MBA table and are ready to go. While we understand it is easier to have a low entry bar to a program, would you value the degree as much if you weren't required to put forth your best effort?

While the Evening MBA program has target scores, falling short of 600 on the GMAT or 154 on the GRE is not an automatic disqualifier.

If you take a standardized test and don't achieve a score you expected, please reach out to the MBA Program to discuss options.

Waivers of the exam are considered when at least five years of professional experience speak to your readiness, although we have seen more experienced learners use MBAMath, or, GMAT Business Fundamentals or Executive Assessment to prepare prior to matriculation. If you believe you may qualify for a waiver, please reach out to [mba@vt.edu](mailto:mba@vt.edu) to inquiry about additional criteria.