

NYU

Stern School of Business

Paula Steisel Goldfarb

Director of Admissions and Financial Aid
Answers your questions



What is the first thing you look for in an MBA applicant?

There are several components of our MBA application process: academic excellence is one of the key components. Another important component that we look at is career history and goals, and we look very closely at a student's professional background before they come in and where they want to go in the future. And the third area that we review is personal characteristics. We are such a strong community, a community of leaders, a community of people from different backgrounds, different places, and we want to learn more about students and not just what's written on the resumes and transcripts.

There are a lot of qualified applicants from India applying, so does that increase competition for Indian applicants and do you take the best among those applicants?

We have a very holistic process, so we look at every applicant individually based on the merits of their application. We look at the academics, the career history, interpersonal characteristics, and all these things come together to give us a picture of what this student is going to contribute to the Stern community. There is no quota system.

Have the number of applications gone down, post recent world events?

We have seen a tremendous and continued interest in Stern and part of it is because of NYC. Students are really attracted to Stern because of our community, and they realize the kind of opportunities they have once they graduate from a New York business school. We have been fortunate to see students who have a high level of interest in our program.

Do you have any minimum GMAT scores for admission?

We study every applicant individually and we have no cut offs or minimum scores.

What about financial assistance for applicants? Do you have scholarships, assistantships or fellowships?

Everybody is considered for scholarships, and first priority is given to students who apply for our first application deadline. We encourage students who want to apply for scholarships to apply by the first deadline. We have teaching assistantships to provide students with tuition remission. It's really a great way for students to fund their education and get work experience as they partner with the faculty members, administrative departments and so on. We also have a special program, the Stern Consulting Corps, where students can work for 10 hours per week with a small business or consulting firms in NYC. This is truly a unique program available only at NYU Stern.

If a student cannot afford to pay for his or her education, would NYU help the student?

We'll help the students through the entire financial aid process and provide as much information as possible. We walk the student step by step so they can see what options are available for the individual student.

How were your placements for the last graduating batch?

In 2004, our full time placement rate was 92%, and for summer internships in 2005, it was 98%. We as a school have made a huge commitment to our career development office, and we partner with different companies in NYC and around the world.

Would you consider applicants with no work experience?

Every year we do look at applicants regardless of whether they have work experience or not, and every applicant will get a full review. We look at the whole application, work experience, what they want to do, where they want to go. We also look at the academics and the personal characteristics.

Do you have any specific suggestions for students who are applying for admissions?

One of the things that I encourage students to think about is the **fit** with the school. Our application is individually designed. One of our essay questions asks you to describe yourself creatively. This really tells the student what kind of school we are and the strong community that we have. Taking that first step to apply is key in determining whether our MBA is right for you.