

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school	Public
Academic calendar	Semester

### SURVEY SAYS...

*Solid preparation in:*  
Accounting  
Quantitative skills

### STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	16,000
Enrollment of MBA Program	327
% male/female	56/44
% out-of-state	5
% part-time	75
% minorities	13
% international	17
Average age at entry	27
Average years work experience at entry	4

### ACADEMICS

<b>Academic Experience Rating</b>	<b>77</b>
Student/faculty ratio	30:1
Profs interesting rating	70
Profs accessible rating	86
% female faculty	18
% minority faculty	9

### Joint Degrees

MBA/MPH, full-time, part-time, 72 total credits required, 2–3 years to complete program; MBA/MS, full-time, 72 total credits required, 2–3 years to complete program; Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Nursing, 2–3 years.

### Prominent Alumni

John Bakane, CEO, Mills; Daryl Byrd, CEO and President, Iberia Bank; Susan Story, CEO and President, Gulf Power Company; James Woodward, Chancellor, UNC; Stephen Zelnak, CEO and President, Martin Marietta Materials.

### Academics

The School of Business at The University of Alabama at Birmingham offers its students concentrations in finance, information technology management, and health care management. "It's a great program" with a "metropolitan" location. Generally known for its medical and health sciences—with highly respected and well-funded research programs, and for strong schools of medicine and nursing—UAB offers in the School of Business several combined degree programs, including MBA/Master of Public Health, MBA/Master of Science in Health Administration and MBA/Master of Science in Nursing.

Students without a business background are required to take foundational courses in subjects including organizational behavior, corporate finance, marketing concepts, and microeconomic analysis. These comprise 21 of the 51 credits required for graduation. Five advanced courses in specific areas including a seminar in marketing policy and at least one course relating to international business are also required, and the remaining classes focus on the student's area of specialization. There are opportunities for study abroad after completing 36 credit hours through agreements with schools in Spain, Italy, and England.

Students praise the "strong academics," the flexible scheduling, and especially the quality of their professors "who have a great deal of academic and real-world experience." The program also has an "excellent reputation as a quality MBA program," and students agree that "the school's prestige," which is based on solid teaching and good administration, "is growing." "The professors really know their field. They bring real-world experience to the classroom." The administration also is a "very solid team, focused on improving the business school."

The university points with pride to the high ranking of its graduates when taking CPA and CFA exams—finance graduates of UAB pass the CFA exam at a rate 20 percent higher than the national average, for example—but some students feel that there may be too much emphasis on the numbers side of business practice. "The experience has been great in reference to understanding the mathematical side of business," but "I would like to have some classes that focus on terminology with not so much math work," one student says.

### Career and Placement

There is a Career Services Office located in the School of Business building at UAB, which offers career counseling, coaching, practical workshops on areas such as resume writing and job searching, and an online database of jobs as well as a database to which students may upload their resumes. About three quarters of UAB's MBA student are working professionals, and most candidates for the degree have several years of work experience, so perhaps it's not surprising that they ask for "better recruitment programs for business. The career fairs are heavy in sciences and social sciences," one student believes. However, "location in a metro setting in the Southeast," is a plus: Birmingham is the largest city in Alabama and one of the largest cities in the Southeast. "It is a good state university, and it is located in a great city," which are factors that students agree are helpful in their job searches.

Regions Bank, Alabama Power, Wal-Mart, Baptist Health Systems, AT&T, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association are among those who have hired UAB graduates.

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### **Student Life and Environment**

Most students pursuing an MBA take classes in the late afternoons and evenings at UAB. Opinions are mixed on whether this allows them the opportunity to connect with campus life and their fellow students or if it's more of a hindrance. "I'm part-time so I don't really have a chance to attend activities for full-time students. I'm at campus for school, group meetings, and study time," explains one student. Happy with the level of activity and interaction or not, most find their fellow students "friendly and enjoyable to be around," and "good, hardworking people" who are also "very diverse. "Extremely intelligent, but not very socially oriented," says another student. "Most of all our students have lots of work experience." In common with many MBA programs, UAB appeals to those who already live nearby: "Most work full-time. Most live full-time in [the] community," one student reports.

Birmingham itself has changed over the years from a center for manufacturing, once known as the Pittsburgh of the South for its steel industry, to a center for the information technology business, and for medical research, with a quality of life that ranks it high on most national surveys.

### **Admissions**

Academic GPA rank and scores on the GMAT are considered very important by those making admissions decisions for the graduate business programs at UAB, followed by work experience personal essays and letters of recommendation. A minimum score of 480 on the GMAT is required. In 2006 the average score for those admitted is 553, and the average GPA is 3.2. Non-native English speakers must score at least 550 on the TOEFL, and all students are required to have passed a course in business calculus with a grade of C or better in the 5 years preceding admission, or to pass a proficiency exam or, once admitted, to schedule a course in it. At least 2 years of work experience is preferred for admission; the average student admitted has 4 years.

### **FINANCIAL FACTS**

Annual tuition	\$5,202/\$3,005
Fees	\$177
Cost of books	\$1,000
Room & board (on campus)	\$1,000

### **ADMISSIONS**

<b>Admissions Selectivity Rating</b>	<b>74</b>
# of applications received	276
% applicants accepted	81
% acceptees attending	77
Average GMAT	553
Range of GMAT	510-600
Average GPA	3.2
TOEFL required of international students	Yes
Minimum TOEFL (paper/computer/web)	550/213/80
Application fee	\$50
International application fee	\$75
Regular application deadline	7/1
Regular notification	8/1
Early decision program?	No
Deferment available	Yes
Maximum length of deferment	1 year
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy	Must meet UAB MBA admission requirements, transfer courses must be from AACSB accredited program and equivalent to our required courses. We will accept up to 25% of the degree program in transfer work with a minimum "B" grade.
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	Yes

**Applicants Also Look At**  
 Samford University

### **EMPLOYMENT PROFILE**

<b>Career Rating</b>	<b>84</b>
Average base starting salary	\$59,400