

How do I know if an MBA is for me?

Questions to ask yourself about your career:

- What exactly do you want to do with your M.B.A. once you have it?
- Can you accomplish those career goals without an M.B.A.?
- Will an M.B.A. increase your perceived value by employers? How have you determined this?
- Will an M.B.A. enable you to earn a higher salary in your field of interest? How have you determined this?
- Have you asked anyone in your primary field of interest these questions? Did their answers definitively support your going to business school?
- What do you hope to get out of your time in business school?
- What disciplines do you want to focus on? Finance? Marketing? Nonprofit management? Entrepreneurship? Negotiation? Why? How will these skills help advance your career goals?

Questions to ask yourself about your everyday M.B.A. experience:

- Are you self-reliant, or do you depend on others for constant encouragement, evaluation, and/or affirmation?
- Are you comfortable with, and do you enjoy working with, people of varied backgrounds and skill sets?
- Can you seize the main points of an assignment and move on, or do you typically get bogged down in minute details?
- Are you comfortable speaking out in front of a group and arguing your positions in front of others?
- Do you like to think creatively?
- Are you disciplined enough to get up and attend classes on a daily basis?
- Are you prepared to sacrifice most weekday evenings to assignments, and many weekends to group meetings, projects, and other school-related activities?
- Are you adept at, and do you enjoy, managing several tasks simultaneously?
- Are you a go-getter? Is our personality more proactive than reactive?
- Are you 100 percent committed to business school, or do you have several other hobbies and interests competing for your time?