ADVISING GUIDE
for W&M Students considering the
Master of Science in Business Analytics

The Mason School of Business has provided this preliminary advising guide for those students interested in pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics. For the most current and accurate information on program, please visit www.MSBA.mason.wm.edu.

Admissions Information:

Applications are available online in the Admissions section of the MSBA website. Admission into the MS in Business Analytics is a competitive process. Our admissions process is designed to identify students who will thrive academically and professionally in an intense, quantitative learning environment. All applications for the fall 2016 term will be considered on a rolling admissions basis. You may apply at any time but applying early may be to your benefit. In some cases some application requirements can be waived for current WM students.

- **Academic Transcripts** – To expedite the admission process, the Admissions Committee accepts unofficial transcripts from each of the colleges and universities you have attended as a registered student (regardless of the number of courses taken), including summer school, evening classes, etc. If you are accepted and you chose to enroll, you will be required to submit official transcripts. The Committee is looking for strong academic achievement in quantitative coursework.
- **GMAT/GRE** - Score reports are not required for W&M students with GPAs 3.25 or higher.
- **Resume & Employment History** – You will need to provide a resume that includes any volunteer, internship or work experience. Please highlight any experience with programming or data analysis.
- **Personal Statement** – The Admissions Committee wants to know why a Master of Science in Business Analytics is the next logical step towards achieving your short-term and long-term professional goals (800 words or less). You can also share additional information in an optional statement that will further elaborate and support your application (250 words or less).
- **Recommendations** - Two recommendations are required. It is strongly recommended that applicants request at least one recommendation from an academic reference who can evaluate your quantitative capabilities which are important for your success in this quantitative program.
- **Application Fee** - The application fee is waived for current W&M students, W&M alumni, and U.S. military (both active duty and veterans).
- **Interview** - An interview is a required element of the admission process, and is offered by invitation only to candidates whose applications have already passed through an initial evaluation.
- **International Students** – There are additional requirements for international students. Please see the website for more information.
- **Prerequisites** – Probability & Statistics, Linear Algebra, Python Programming, R Programming, and business foundation coursework in finance, financial accounting, operations management, and marketing. Students can apply to the program with a plan to complete the prerequisites prior to enrollment. See the MSBA Program website (mason.wm.edu/programs/msba/admissions/prerequisites) and subsequent information on this sheet on how to satisfy these requirements if you have not taken courses on some of these topics in your previous educational experiences.

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact Brian Nigg, Associate Director of the MSBA Program at brian.nigg@mason.wm.edu or call him at 757-221-1763. Please see the back page for guidance on fulfilling pre-requisites for the program.
Guidance for Fulfiling Prerequisites

The following courses are currently offered at W&M or on-line through third parties. In addition, the MSBA program will accept transfer credit for the equivalent of these courses. For prerequisites satisfied through online courses, an applicant must either provide documentation from the provider that the course was successfully completed or else take a competency exam that the MSBA Office will administer.

Probability and Statistics: BUAD 231 Business Statistics or MATH 451 & Math 452 (together) or ECON 307, KINE 394, MATH 351, PSYC 301, SOCL 353. Outside university or community college courses in Probability & Statistics will be evaluated for meeting this prerequisite. Virginia Residents can take MTH240 from the Virginia Community College system to meet this prerequisite. If a student has taken MATH106 and/or AP Statistics, an additional college level course in probability and statistics must be taken.

Linear Algebra: MATH 211 Linear Algebra or higher. Outside university coursework (including community college) in Linear Algebra will be evaluated for this prerequisite; please submit a transcript and a syllabus for the course. It is also possible to satisfy this requirement by completing a self-study on designated MSBA Linear Algebra concepts or an online MIT linear algebra course that is free and then completing a competency test that will be provided by the MSBA program. See the website for details.

R Programming: BUAD 460 Big Data Analytics or one of the following options:

1. Submit a syllabus from a previous course that demonstrates a significant exposure to R programming that will be evaluated by the MSBA Program Office.
2. Complete the following online course offered through Coursera.org and forward a copy of the certificate to the MSBA Admissions Office:
   - R Programming ($49 verified certificate)

Python Programming: CSCI 141 Introduction to Programming or one of the following options:

1. Submit a syllabus from a previous course that demonstrates a significant exposure to Python programming which will be evaluated by the MSBA Admissions Office.
2. If you have taught yourself Python, you can request a competency test from the MSBA Program Office prior to enrollment. See our website for more details on references on self-teaching via books and online resources.
3. Complete both of the following online courses offered through Coursera.org and forward copies of the certificate to the MSBA Admissions Office:
   - Programming for Everybody (Getting Started Python) ($49 verified certificate)
   - Python Data Structures ($49 verified certificate)

Business Foundation Courses: Prospective students are required to have exposure to finance, accounting, marketing, and operations management before enrolling into the program. This requirement can be fulfilled by submitting transcripts from prior course work, either at the undergraduate or masters level, or by submitting certificates of completion for these Coursera.org courses ($49 each including a certificate of completion) from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania:

- Introduction to Corporate Finance
- Introduction to Financial Accounting
- Introduction to Marketing
- Introduction to Operations Management