The Mason School of Business has provided this advising guide for those students interested in pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics. Please visit our website for the most current details on the program.

Admissions Information:

Applications are available online in the Admissions section of the MSBA website. Admission into the MSBA Program is a competitive process. Our admissions process is designed to identify students who will thrive academically and professionally in an intense, quantitative learning environment. There is a special priority application deadline for W&M undergrads of November 1, 2016 with an enrollment decision promised by November 15, 2016. After that, there several other rounds (December 1st, February 1st and rolling thereafter should spaces remain available). 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** - GRE/GMAT Score Reports are required for all international candidates and recommended for domestic candidates with an undergraduate GPA below 3.25. While only recommended for some domestic candidates, if your academic background lacks a strong quantitative foundation, candidates may also benefit from submitting a score that can indicate a strong quantitative affinity.

- **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.

- **Application Fee** - The application fee is waived for current W&M students and W&M alumni.

- **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** – Students can apply to the program with a plan to complete the prerequisites prior to matriculation into the program. See the MSBA Program website prerequisite page and/or the subsequent pages of this guide on how to satisfy these requirements, if you have not taken courses covering 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.

**Guidance for Fulfilling Prerequisites**

The following courses are currently offered at W&M or online 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:** This prerequisite can be met by one of the following two options:

1. Coursework completed in one of the following W&M classes: BUAD 231 Business Statistics, ECON 307, KINE 394, MATH 351, PSYC 301, or SOCL 353. Or coursework completed in both MATH 451 & Math 452. If a student has taken MATH106 and/or AP Statistics and/or Probability, an additional higher-level college level course must be completed.
2. Other university or community college courses in Probability & Statistics will be evaluated for meeting this prerequisite. There are online classes offered through University of Maryland's University College (UMUC-Intro to Statistics) and Virginia's Community College System (VCCS-MTH 240) that have been pre-approved by the faculty. If you plan to take an alternative Probability and Statistics, please submit the class for curriculum approval before enrolling.

**Linear Algebra:** This prerequisite can be met by one of the following three options:

1. MATH210 Linearity, MATH 211 Linear Algebra or higher at W&M. In addition, Linear Algebra coursework at a community college or other university can be evaluated. If so, please submit a transcript and a syllabus for the course for approval.
2. Complete a self-study of the Linear Algebra concepts that are required for the program and successfully complete a competency test that will be provided by the MSBA Program. Click here for details on self-study. There is also a free online MIT linear algebra course (below). After self-study is concluded, students must successfully complete a competency test that will be provided by the MSBA program. MIT course: [http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mathematics/18-06sc-linear-algebra-fall-2011/](http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mathematics/18-06sc-linear-algebra-fall-2011/)
3. Register, attend and complete the MSBA program's Linear Algebra Boot Camp on site at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. Details to be announced in the spring.

**Python Programming:** This prerequisite can be met by one of the following four options:

1. CISI 141 Introduction to Programming at W&M or 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 the 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 certificates to the MSBA Admissions Office:
   - [Programming for Everybody (Getting Started Python)](https://www.coursera.org/specializations/getting-started-python) ($79 verified certificate)
   - [Python Data Structures](https://www.coursera.org/specializations/python-data-structures) ($79 verified certificate)
4. Register, attend and complete the MSBA program's one-week Python Boot Camp on site at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. Details to be announced in the spring.
**R Programming:** This prerequisite can be met by **one** of the following three 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)
3. Register, attend and complete the MSBA program's one-week R Programming Boot Camp on site at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business. *Details to be announced in the spring.*

**Business Foundation Courses:** Prospective students are required to have exposure to finance, financial accounting, marketing, and operations management before enrolling into the program. This requirement can be fulfilled by submitting transcripts from prior course work at W&M or another university or community college, or by submitting certificates of completion for these Coursera.org courses ($95 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**