

FAQs for the CDP/MBA Joint Degree

Q. What are the requirements for both degrees?

The MBA degree requires a total of 16 units of course work. Students complete 10.5 units in core areas of business, and 5.5 units of advanced electives. All students in the MBA program must complete a concentration. Students with less than three years full time work experience must also complete a professional internship which is designed to help you integrate program knowledge with professional experience.

The MA-CDP degree requires 12 units of course work. The master's program in Community Development and Planning requires a minimum of 12 graduate course units. These include six core CDP units, two skills courses, and five elective courses related to your particular interests. The final requirement for a CDP degree is the successful completion of a final MA project, which is either a research paper, practitioner project, or a thesis. We recommend students do an internship with a community organization to provide training in practical skills. However, the joint degree has been designed so that there is overlap in departmental courses meeting course requirements for both degrees.

Students completing the joint degree can choose to have their MBA concentration in **IDCE or Community Development and Planning**, which will be completed with electives taken for the CDP degree. In turn, students will complete the Enterprise Management stream in the CDP program, which will be fulfilled by core courses students complete for the MBA program.

Q. How long will it take me to complete the joint MBA/MA degree?

As a full-time student in the program, you can complete the joint degree in three years. The average course load per semester for students in the joint degree is 4 – 4.5 units.

Q. Will I have to take summer classes?

GSOM offers an accelerated summer semester. Students are encouraged to take summer courses since it will help lighten their course load during the academic year. Students will be advised on how many courses they should take and for how many summers based on their progress in the program and remaining requirements. The MBA summer courses run from mid-May to the end of June.

Q. Do I need to have a business or community development background to be considered for the joint degree?

No. Clark encourages applicants with diverse educational and professional backgrounds to apply, as it greatly enhances the learning experience of our students.

Q. What if I've taken business courses in the past: Can I waive or receive credit for MBA courses?

Yes, you may be eligible to receive credit. Waivers are granted for certain core MBA courses if you have completed a similar undergraduate or graduate course with a grade of B- or higher in the last 6 years prior to enrollment. We also accept up to 2 courses in transfer credit from other AACSB International accredited institutions.

Once your application is complete, your official transcript will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee for possible waivers. If granted, you will receive credit for these waivers, thereby reducing the number of units and time you need to obtain your MBA.

Q. Are there any prerequisites to apply for either program?

There are no prerequisites for either the MBA or IDCE/CDP program, although prior coursework in quantitative methods is highly recommended.

Q. What is required to apply to the joint degree program?

Students must apply to both programs individually. However, the personal statements, letters of recommendation, resume/vitae and TOEFL (if necessary), scores can be duplicate copies of ones sent to the other department. Please note in your application where the originals were sent.

For the MBA program, students will need to submit the following:

- MBA Application
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- Personal statement in regards to your career objectives, specifically discussing in some part the how the joint degree fits into these objectives
- Official transcripts, signed and sealed from each college you have attended
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- International Applicants Only.* Official score report from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

For the CDP program, students will need to submit the following:

- IDCE Graduate Application
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Personal statement in regards to your career objectives, specifically discussing in some part the how the joint degree fits into these objectives
- Official transcripts, signed and sealed from each college you have attended
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- International Applicants Only.* Official score report from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
Applicants from countries in which English is not the first language must submit either 1) a TOEFL score of at least 575 (233 on the computer-based test) or 2) a 90 on the iBT (Internet Based TOEFL) or 3) a minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS.

Students applying to the joint degree program will only pay **one application fee of \$50.**

Q. When is the application deadline for the joint degree program?

Applications for the joint degree program are only accepted for the Fall semester. The deadline for the Fall semester is January 15.

Q. How much does the joint degree program cost?

Tuition is set per the program guidelines. But scholarship and tuition remission is possible; seek the advice of your applicant or host department.

Q. Are there scholarships available?

Yes, scholarships are available for students in the joint degree program. Students are reviewed when they apply to the program for a scholarship. Scholarships are competitive and are awarded based on a student's previous academic performance and/or graduate test (GMAT or GRE) scores.

Q. What kind of jobs/careers will the joint degree prepare me for?

Nonprofit management, working with public and private spirited developers, corporations or other private entities that are particularly sensitive to social capital, equality, and public interests, including the environment.