



Interview with Yale Admissions

Q: What is special about your MBA program? In addition to its' excellent reputation, what differentiates it from other Top MBA programs?

A: At Yale SOM, mission matters. Our mission is to educate leaders for business and society. The mission provides both long-term strategic guidance on the school's direction and informs decisions and actions on a daily basis.

There are three aspects of the Yale SOM experience that support the mission and differentiate us from other MBA programs.

We are the business school most connected to its home institution, Yale University. Encouraging and creating opportunities for our MBA students to connect and team up with students from across the university allows a unique cross-pollination of ideas and expertise. From taking electives in any Yale classroom to innovations developed with students and faculty from across Yale at CITY (the Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale), this access has proven invaluable for many of our students.

We aim to be the most global U.S. business school, and our approach is based on meaningful connections and is greatly amplified by our membership to the Global Network for Advanced Management, a network of 32 top universities around the world.

And finally, we aim to be the best source for leaderships for all regions and sectors. Our curriculum is designed to provide MBA students with nuanced understanding of an increasingly interconnected world. From the integrated core curriculum taught from Organizational Perspectives, to our development of the raw case, our goal is to create a rigorous education based on real-life challenges that help our students develop leadership skills that are applicable in a complex global business environment and transcend industry.

Q: What are you looking for in an applicant?

A: The Admissions team is looking for a well-rounded class that reflects the talent, leadership, global mindset, and diversity to which Yale SOM aspires. We assemble the class one person at a time, looking at your individual story and background. In particular we look for academic preparedness, professional impact, leadership potential, and candidates who are good community members.

Q: Is it okay to be a career changer?

A: Yes! and the MBA is a great vehicle to help you make a pivot. In fact, over 70% of our students at Yale SOM end up making a change in function, industry, or both. The key to successfully communicating your aspirations is to show strong awareness.



Show us that you've spent some time reflecting. Let us know why you want to make a pivot, what skills and experience you have that will prove advantageous, and what skills and experience you need to develop. This is particularly important if you plan to make a significant change to your career, for example, changing both industries and functions.

The students who most successfully navigate a career change in their MBA program have already been laying the groundwork in thinking about, researching, and building skills for their desired goal. We want to hear about the work you've done already in this area.

It's also helpful to have a thoughtful path forward. Maybe particular classes, clubs, internships, FT roles that you would like to pursue. We won't hold you to it, but doing your research and forecasting a path forward is not only a good exercise for you, it signals to us that you're motivated and thoughtful in your approach.

Q: What kind of student excels at Yale SOM?

A: Students at Yale SOM tend to take an interest in each other's backgrounds, passions, and pursuits, rather than clustering with those that walk and talk the same. Our integrated curriculum and deep connection to the rest of Yale University encourages an inter-disciplinary approach to leadership and problem solving, building in a lot of opportunities for cross-pollination with people who are different from you. But it takes a group of students who are open to it, see value in it, and seek to challenge themselves to step beyond their comfort zones to see real outcomes.

Q: Is there anything new about your MBA application?

A: Yes, the Behavioral Assessment, which launched in 2019 but had been in development for six years prior. It is an online admissions tool administered by the research division of ETS that measures a set of interpersonal and intrapersonal competencies associated with academic success at Yale.

To truly fulfill Yale SOM's mission of educating leaders for business and society, we need a community of students whose backgrounds, experiences, and interests are diverse and expansive. If we limit ourselves to applicants who perform best on traditional academic measures like GMAT, GRE, or undergraduate GPA, we may miss out on candidates with extraordinary professional experience or personal backgrounds that would add vital perspectives to the classroom. At the same time, it's our responsibility to ensure we bring students into the program who will succeed in the classroom—we don't want to set up students for failure. The Behavioral Assessment gives us an additional piece of information to use in assessing who will perform effectively in the curriculum, specifically by helping us predict who will perform better than their academic history would suggest. So, it will allow us to take more chances on candidates without the strongest academic or testing profiles, but who nonetheless have what it takes



to succeed in the classroom and who undoubtedly will make significant contributions to our community because of their experience and perspective

Q: How can I be considered for a scholarship?

A: All applicants are automatically considered for a merit scholarship. There is no need to take any additional steps to be considered. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be notified at the same time you learn of your admission to the program. If you do not receive a merit scholarship, there are other means of financing your MBA studies, including outside scholarships for which you may be eligible. Please visit the [Affording Your MBA](#) page for more information.