



YALE SOM Q&A

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

A: The Yale School of Management is a mission drive school. Our founding mission is to educate leaders for business and society, and this mission serves to inform everything that we do. Our aim is to develop leaders who have the ability to think broadly about the challenges we face in an increasingly complex world, and who have the ability to be decision-makers in environments where we have to consider multiple stakeholders, influencers, and consequences of our decisions. We believe the mission has never been more relevant.

There are three aspects of the Yale curricular experience that are unique to Yale and differentiate us from other top programs.

1. **Connection to Yale University.** When you come to the Yale School of Management, you come to Yale University, giving you access to the sharpest minds of academia and resources of a world-renowned university. Perhaps the most prominent example of this is the fact that the second-year curriculum is all electives, electives that you can take in any Yale University classroom. This allows you to customize your curriculum and expand your network.

Another example is our joint degree offering. We have 10 different joint degree programs giving you the ability to build deep connections across campus and benefit from additional perspectives in the classroom conversation. Other examples include students' access to prominent speakers and events across the Yale campus – Nobel prize winners, NGO presidents, government leaders, etc. Co-hosting conferences and launching start-ups out of the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking – a hub for entrepreneurship at Yale.

We see value in giving access to our students to customize their curriculum, expand their network and learn from diverse perspectives and areas of expertise.

2. **Global opportunities.** We were the first school to require global study, and now our global offerings are more expansive and diverse than other schools. Many of our students go abroad two times during their two years at SOM. The main driver of the abundance of global opportunities is our initiation of the Global Network for Advanced Management, now a network of 32 universities across 6 continents, including the Technion.

Yale SOM students have a menu of five course types, and within each are numerous offerings. In a typical year our students have around 60 different global courses to choose from. The five course types range from Yale faculty-led International



Experience trips, to courses hosted by peers in the Global Network, to our Global Social Entrepreneurship trips.

- 3. The innovative integrated core curriculum.** Most business schools take a disciplined-based approach to the MBA core. Our 10-course integrated core curriculum is organized by stakeholder perspectives encouraging you to view business from multiple lens. For example, the core class titles include, the Customer, the Investor, the Innovator, and so on. Within each class we incorporate various business disciplines, making the learning environment dynamic and real-world.

Some of the core classes are team-taught by faculty with different areas of expertise, and oftentimes cases will be discussed across core classes, so you can see the cases from various perspectives.

Hopefully these three curricular aspects give you a sense for how Yale values the interconnectedness of things and the importance of developing the ability to think broadly. We want you to connect across campus, we want you to connect across the globe, and we want you to be able to draw connections across stakeholder perspectives within your organization.

Q: Are there any recent changes to your application?

A: The newest piece of our application is the Behavioral Assessment. The Behavioral Assessment is an online admissions tool administered by the research division of ETS. It measures a set of interpersonal and intrapersonal competencies associated with business school success.

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: What are your essay questions and what you looking for in a candidate's response?

A: Yale SOM continues to only ask candidates to write one essay. There are three prompts to choose from – each presenting an opportunity to tell the AdCom about something that is meaningful to you.



- 1) **Describe the biggest commitment you have ever made.** Why is this commitment meaningful to you and what actions have you taken to support it?
- 2) **Describe the community that has been most meaningful to you.** What is the most valuable thing you have gained from being a part of this community and what is the most important thing you have contributed to this community?
- 3) **Describe the most significant challenge you have faced.** How have you confronted this challenge and how has it shaped you as a person?

All three prompts reflect what we value as a community at Yale. Our mission is to educate leaders for business and society; we want to bring people into our community who care about making an impact. These tend to be people who are self-reflective, who learn from experience, and who see something through, even when that isn't easy.

These prompts give you the opportunity to show us how you've approached something of real importance in your life; and it's that *approach* that we're looking to understand.

Q: Given the ongoing conflict in Israel and the pro-Palestinian demonstrations on campuses worldwide, how can you reassure Israeli students who may be worried about studying in your university in the current unstable and challenging situation?

A: We can understand why students might be nervous given some media reports about protests and disruptions on American university campuses. Yale has supported peaceful protests and freedom of expression while maintaining time, place and manner restrictions designed to allow for civil discourse. You can read Yale President Peter Salovey's [call for civility](#) and the University's [free speech policies](#) to learn more.

Dean Kerwin Charles took a moment in this year's [commencement remarks](#) to commend Yale School of Management's recent graduates for their response to the war between Israel and Hamas. Dean Charles noted that our students have "suffered heartbreaking loss and pain" because of the conflict, like many others worldwide. But, he said, SOM students have maintained composure and respect, listening to each other without rancor and hosting a recent campus vigil. "I have been awed by your maturity, your commitment to ensuring that multiple perspectives are heard and respected," Charles said. "You have my undying admiration and appreciation for how you've handled yourselves."

The decision to study abroad is significant, and we want to assure prospective Israeli students and their families that Yale SOM is a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive place for students from all backgrounds. We are committed to working with each student to provide the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed academically, personally, and professionally during their time with us. Throughout students' time on campus, SOM will work hard to promote:

- **Campus safety:** The university has a police force as well as security staff who provide for the physical safety of our community. University policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based on categories protected under US law, including shared ancestry, and the university offers a variety of resources to address violations of this policy.



- Support for international students: The university's Office of International Students and Scholars and SOM's Office of Academic Affairs and Student Life provides dedicated support and resources to help students from all countries navigate the challenges of studying in a new environment.
- Inclusive community: At Yale SOM, we are committed to fostering a campus community that values each student's sense of belonging through various programs, events, and initiatives sponsored by our Office of Inclusion and Diversity.
- Academic freedom and open dialogue: We uphold the principles of academic freedom and promote open and respectful dialogue on complex and sensitive issues, encouraging all members of our community to engage in thoughtful and constructive conversations.
- Confidential reporting and support: If any student experiences or witnesses any incidents of discrimination, harassment, or violence, we have confidential reporting mechanisms and support services available to help them address these issues.