

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

W. FIELDING RUBEL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school	Private
Affiliation	Roman Catholic

SURVEY SAYS...

Friendly students, Cutting-edge classes

Solid preparation in:

Teamwork, Communication/interpersonal skills, Presentation skills

STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	3,200
Enrollment of MBA Program	195
% male/female	54/46
% part-time	53
% underrepresented minority	15
% international	1
Average age at entry	27

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	74
Profs interesting rating	83
Profs accessible rating	72
% female faculty	33
% underrepresented minority faculty	7

Prominent Alumni

Joseph P. Clayton, former CEO and current Chairman of the Board of Directors, Sirius Satellite Radio; Dr. James Heck, inventor of the drug Cancidas, honored by the National Science Foundation for research; Susan M. Ivey, Chairman, President/CEO, Reynolds American Inc.; Angela Mason, Co-founder, ITS Services; Leonard P. Spalding, Retired, CEO Chase Mutual Funds Corp./Retired, Pres. & CEO Vista Capital Mgmt.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Selectivity Rating	71
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Academics

A cozy business school in Louisville, Kentucky, Bellarmine University offers individual attention and personal growth within a practical MBA curriculum. The "small-school atmosphere and small classroom sizes" are a huge benefit of this program, allowing students to build close relationships with their professors and classmates. Academically, collaboration is a key aspect of the Bellarmine experience, and from the beginning of the program, "Everything is team based." To encourage group problem solving, networking, and interaction, "Bellarmine groups its students into cohorts of four or five," and they take all core courses together. In fact, the program is designed to help students round out their qualitative abilities, and the curriculum places a strong "emphasis on improving student's writing, speaking, presentation, and teamwork skills." In the classroom setting, professors are "good at facilitating meaningful class discussions," which bring each student's experience to light. A current student agrees, "The cohort design and grouping throughout the weekend program has increased my team-building skills."

Bellarmino's faculty comprises "published and scholarly professors," who have a strong understanding of business theory. Nonetheless, real world skills are emphasized over academic analysis, and students are pushed to "learn through case studies in a team-oriented environment." Don't expect to lean back and snooze through a lecture; courses are discussion based and, often, small groups "lead case study discussions for the entire class." Bellarmine has deep ties in the local metropolis. "One of Bellarmine's advantages is that a majority of its professors have great career experience, and some are still working in the Louisville area." A student recounts, "We have accounting teachers who have headed departments for Deloitte; IRS Tax Attorneys teaching tax and business law; and a lawyer/econ Ph.D. who teaches economics and how to do business in non-capitalistic countries." Although the school "could offer a wider variety of MBA electives," students appreciate the varied experience faculty members bring to the classroom. Class work is often augmented by the invitation of special "speakers and contributors, who are able to share more recent 'real world' experiences" with the student body.

For working professionals, the Bellarmine MBA program is flexible, allowing students to tailor coursework to fit their busy schedules. Depending on the pace in which you complete coursework, the MBA can take anywhere from two to five years to complete. Classes are held in the evenings and on weekends. "The convenience is great for someone looking to go to school part time." Overall, the program is "very well run, with minimal red tape." When it comes to planning your schedule or paying your bills, "The administration is wonderful to work with, very helpful, and makes things easier on students." A "personal touch" distinguishes the experience, and "staff, faculty, and administration care about the students and their success."

Career and Placement

Preparation for the real world begins in the Bellarmine classroom. Professors "know what is going on in the job market today and how it will affect us when we leave." As such, teaching is geared toward practical applications, which students can take directly back to their jobs. Those looking to make a career change after the MBA have access to the campus Career Center, which maintains online job and internship boards and hosts a series of job development events on campus. Though many of these events are directed at the undergraduate community, MBA students can benefit from campus-wide career fairs or make appointment with career counselors for a resume and cover letter review.

Working full-time as they attend the program, most students will stay at their current company after graduation. Therefore, career services aren't as robust at Bellarmine as

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they are at other full-time MBA programs. There are “a lot of internship opportunities” offered through the career center, but an MBA student admits, “I have not seen a lot of recruiting, except for accounting or finance.”

Student Life and Environment

Bellarmino students come from “a wide variety of race, social, and educational backgrounds,” and join the program “experienced in various fields of business.” In the classroom, students are “very supportive and collaborative,” and most enjoy the heavy emphasis on group work. To facilitate student interaction, there is a “very nice computer lab and library study area” in the business school facilities. “Students normally gather at common areas on campus” before attending classes. Overall, “The facility is very safe and excellent,” and comfortably located on a “beautiful” campus.

With laudable time management skills, most students at Bellarmine “can balance class loads with their professional duties quite well.” Nonetheless, Bellarmine graduate students have a lot on their plates, and most are “not very social outside of class.” A student explains, “Most all of us have full-time jobs, so we have limited time to spend at school.” Socializing, when it happens, is mostly low-key. For example, “Many of us try to go out after Friday class to have fun for a couple of hours.”

Admissions

To apply to Bellarmine’s MBA program, students must submit a completed application form, personal essays, two letters of recommendation, academic transcripts from all college coursework, and official GMAT scores. Test scores and previous academic performance are the two most important factors in an admissions decision, though work experience is also weighted strongly. For last year’s entering class, the average GMAT score was 501, and the average GPA was 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.

# of applications received	68
% applicants accepted	96
% acceptees attending	92
Average GMAT	495
Range of GMAT	430–570
Average GPA	3.20
TOEFL required of international students	Yes
Minimum TOEFL (paper/computer)	550/213
Application fee	\$40
International application fee	\$40
Deferment available	Yes
Maximum length of deferment	5 years
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy: Accept up to 12 graduate credits from an accredited university.	
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	No