

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school	Private
Affiliation	Roman Catholic
Academic calendar	Semester

SURVEY SAYS...

Good peer network
Cutting-edge classes

Solid preparation in:

Communication/interpersonal skills

STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	10,152
Enrollment of MBA Program	481
% part-time	94
% minorities	14
Average age at entry	28
Average years work experience at entry	6

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	88
Student/faculty ratio	5:1
Profs interesting rating	80
Profs accessible rating	87
% female faculty	29
% minority faculty	13

Joint Degrees

Two programs are offered jointly by the Villanova School of Business and the Villanova School of Law: 1) Master of Taxation, 12–60 months; 2) JD/MBA, 36–60 months.

Prominent Alumni

James V. O'Donnell, CEO, American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.; Sheila F. Klehm, Executive Director, U.S. Private Wealth Management Division, Morgan Stanley; Robert F. Moran, President and COO, PetSmart; Robert J. McCarthy, President, North American Lodging Operations, Marriott International; Daniel J. Brestle, Chief Operating Officer, The Estee Lauder Companies.

Academics

MBA students at Villanova University consider their School of Business to be “the most reputable business school in Philadelphia not named ‘Wharton,’” with “a good overall philosophy and a good approach to education” that emanates from the university’s Augustinian tradition. Students are also impressed by VU’s strong “alumni connections in major cities on the Eastern Seaboard, especially in New York City.” Students here feel confident that “the Villanova name will serve [them] well after graduation.”

Most MBAs at Villanova attend part-time, primarily in the school’s professional MBA (PMBA) program, which they describe as “a very robust program conducted at a pace that is conducive to people who cannot devote the time needed for a 2-year intensive program.” PMBA students also like that their program offers a specialization option; “The international business specialization options” are especially appealing. Villanova’s PMBA maintains a sense of class unity by kicking off with a Leadership Weekend; one participant notes, “In the part-time program, it is easy to not meet fellow students, but this course offers students the opportunity to meet multiple students, making group work and class discussion easier throughout the program.”

VU’s FTE MBA is a cohort-based program with a prescribed curriculum of 12 classes. Students “truly love the cohort aspect,” telling us that “our class is extremely close and the caliber of student is high.” Program requirements “are largely the same as a professional MBA, although we do not take electives during the program. However, we may return for electives/specialty courses that would be listed as a postgraduate certificate.” Full-timers “are segregated from the PMBA students” because of the cohort nature of their program.

Participants in both programs agree that “the greatest strength of Villanova is the professors,” whose ranks include “many who have their own businesses on the side or are active consultants with regional or national business clients. Their ability to show real-world examples of theories and principles is key to the value of a Villanova MBA.” The school’s “ambitious administration is actively seeking to enhance the school’s reputation,” a fact that pleases students here.

Career and Placement

Villanova’s MBA candidates say the Career Services Office “leaves something to be desired.” Students report that “recruiting efforts are 98 percent targeted toward undergraduate students.” Reinforcing that perception is that fact that the office’s website lists placement data for undergraduates only, though the school says it is actively working to provide recruiting opportunities for graduate business students. The school participates in joint recruiting ventures such as the Graduate Business Talent Finder Fair, which allows employers to recruit for jobs and internships from 11 Philadelphia-area MBA programs.

Student Life and Environment

Villanova’s business school facility “is very conveniently located for working professionals to access via car or public transportation from downtown Philadelphia or the suburbs.” Students also like how “the building [where classes are held] has a place to purchase cooked meals or sandwiches and snacks as well as a Pete’s Coffee Shop open late, all very convenient for working professionals who go to class directly from the office.” The actual classroom facilities, however, “are subpar. Electrical outlets do not work, and many Ethernet ports are broken. The wireless routers are offline more than they are online.”

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The majority part-time population here “all work full-time, meaning our interactions with school are primarily during class and group study hours.” PMBA students tell us that “professors are very understanding of the things we are all trying to balance, and are very flexible and work with each student to make the most of the class.” Classmates are “friendly and make themselves available to work on group learning projects and presentations.”

FTE MBA students enjoy a more robust extracurricular life. They tell us that “students are encouraged to get active in the community, as the school provides opportunities for MBA students to provide pro-bono services to nonprofits.” As one student explains, “There is a huge amount of community-based activities [available] in addition to a myriad of school-related clubs and groups. I like being surrounded by these constant giving-back activities and reinforcement of good human behavior.”

Villanova draws “a broad range of students, from age to background to personal life.” There are “some just out of college, and many with 2 to 6 years [of] work experience. Many students have work experience in finance and pharmaceuticals (both big in the Philadelphia area).” Across the board, “Students tend to be very helpful, willing to answer questions and share thoughts. They also make sure to have someone copy notes if a student misses class, even if they aren’t asked to do so. It is a very equal environment, and everyone wants each other to get ahead.” In terms of students who are married versus students who are single, “It varies. Some have kids and are married, some aren’t married and don’t have kids.” Spouses “are encouraged to come to social functions,” which students appreciate. Students say the student body has “a good mix of women and men.”

Admissions

Applicants to Villanova’s MBA programs must submit official transcripts for all postsecondary academic work, an official GMAT score report, an official TOEFL score report (international students whose first language is not English only), two personal essays (at a maximum of 600 words each), two letters of recommendation, a resume, and a completed application.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$18,600
Fees	\$60
Cost of books	\$800

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Selectivity Rating	84
# of applications received	220
% applicants accepted	65
% acceptees attending	85
Average GMAT	610
Range of GMAT	560–650
Average GPA	3.3
TOEFL required of international students	Yes
Minimum TOEFL (paper/computer/web)	550/213/80
Application fee	\$50
International application fee	\$50
Regular application deadline	7/31
Early decision program?	No
Deferment available	Yes
Maximum length of deferment	Up to 1 year
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy	Up to nine credits from AACSB accredited MBA Programs will transfer.
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	Yes

Applicants Also Look At

Saint Joseph’s University, Drexel University, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University