

International Admissions for MBA (Master of Business Administration)

Spring 2026 Semester Intake	Classes Start January 26, 2026 (Arrive on January 21, 2026)
Priority Application Period – August 1, 2025 – November 1, 2025	Admission Decision returned in 2-4 weeks (estimated)

Why choose the MBA Program at CSU Channel Islands?

- Small program with approximately 24 students per class, which means lots of interaction with professors.
- **An excellent value at \$739 per unit, core 37-unit program for a total cost of \$27,343 (\$13,671 per year).**
- A public university located in a warm climate in Southern California. 1 hour north of Los Angeles. 10 minutes from the beach. California has an excellent economy and is the tech hub of the USA.
- Program is OPT eligible. Many companies nearby as we are located along the 101 Tech corridor.
- A pathway option for applicants changing streams/fields/faculties to business. Please note that applicants who have never taken a business class, the total program is 52 units at a cost of \$739 per unit for a total of \$38,428. See the foundation courses section on page 2 for details. An I-20 cannot be issued until 4 out of 5 foundation classes are complete (see section on 2nd page about foundation classes).
- Full time program with classes offered in the evenings on weeknights (if living off-campus must provide your own transportation, students are strongly encouraged to live on campus to be able to walk to class. Public buses are limited).

Core Courses (37 units) in the MBA Program (for students who have completed equivalent business foundation classes, including American Business Law)

BUS 510	Managerial & Organization Behavior	BUS 545	Strategic Marketing Management
BUS 511	Business Communication for Professionals	BUS 550	Contemporary Firm in Digital Age
BUS 515	Ethical & Legal Responsibilities for Managers	BUS 555	Financial Principles & Strategies
BUS 520	Strategy and Leadership	BUS 560	The Entrepreneurial Manager
BUS 530	Managing Business Operations	BUS 570	Competing in a Global Environment
BUS 540	Accounting for Managerial Decision Making	BUS TBD	2 Courses in Special Topics

What is the application process?

Applicants submit the application and supporting documents to the International Programs (IP) Office. The IP office conducts the initial review, an outside evaluation is not required except for applicants who only hold a 3-year degree. Applications that meet the minimum CSU requirements are sent for review by the Admissions Committee for MBA.

Minimum CSU Admission Requirements** – **Please note meeting these requirements only ensures your application will be sent to the Committee. The Committee has higher standards for admission:**

- Hold a bachelor's degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. 3- year degrees accepted with a WES evaluation that states degree is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. 180 ECTS units require an evaluation. For applicants with a 3-year degree + an additional PGD or MS degree do not require a WES evaluation. You can check your degree equivalency at: <https://applications.wes.org/degree-equivalency-tool/> If WES states that your degree is equivalent, then you can get a WES evaluation. Most 3-year degrees from Ghana, Uganda and United Kingdom do not need a WES evaluation. Email if you have a 3-year degree and are unsure it is equivalent to a U.S. degree.
- Have a minimum 2.75 out of 4.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or 2.75 in the last 60 semester units completed (2 years). Committee expects a higher GPA for admission.
- Meet English proficiency requirements – Acceptable exams and scores - TOEFL iBT score of 80, or IELTS score of 6.5, or PTE score of 56, or Duolingo score of 105
- Meet program specific requirements.

Program Specific Requirements and MBA Committee expectations

The Graduate Admission Committee takes a holistic approach in reviewing applicants. All documents an applicant submits are reviewed. Applicants are selected based on who is a best match for the program based on the applicant pool.

Required:

- Hold a BA/BS Degree in Business (or completion of required undergraduate level business requisites)
- Two years of full-time work experience required.
- Competitive score on the GMAT or GRE exam required unless a waiver is approved by the Committee.
 - Committee may waive GMAT/GRE for applicants on one of the following conditions.
 - Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0
 - Applicants who have 5 or more years of professional experience that reflects an increased level of responsibility.
 - Applicants who hold a master's degree equivalent to a U.S. Master's Degree.
 - Applicants who complete the Business Certificate program of foundation classes with a GPA of 3.5 or higher (Certificate offered online only)

For Applicants who are changing streams/fields/faculties to business (hold a bachelor's degree in a non-business-related field) are required to complete business foundation classes online before coming to the USA. We cannot issue an I-20 until completion of 4 out of 5 of the foundation classes below. Applicants can complete the foundation classes online from their home country during the Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 semesters. The student can come to study on the F1 visa in the Spring 2027 semester (January 2027 to start the MBA core classes).

Foundation classes are offered online synchronously at 6:30pm PST. Foundation classes are \$739 per unit. Each course is 3 units. The Committee will determine which courses are required to graduate. See course catalog at: <https://ext.csuci.edu/programs/graduate/mba/curriculum.htm>

CSUCI Business Foundation Courses	Notes
BUS 500 – Economics for Managers	Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
BUS 502 – Quantitative Methods for Decision-Making	Course may be waived for applicants with a bachelor's degree in science, Engineering, Technology or Math
BUS 504 – Introduction to Accounting and Finance	Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Finance
BUS 506 – Principles of Management and Marketing	
BUS 508 – Business Ethics and Law	Typically required if applicants have not completed a class in American Business Law

Ready to Apply?

CHECKLIST – Documents required for an admission decision. Upload documents in the online application.

- CSUCI International Admissions Application www.Calstate.edu/Apply . Please note we share the online application with the 22 other campuses of the CSU, filter by campus and select “Cal State Channel Islands”
- \$70.00 non-refundable application fee can be paid online when submitting the application.
- **Soft Copies of Transcripts** (aka Individual Mark Sheets from the University). If degree has been awarded, include provisional certificate (certificate must be awarded before start of program). Official copies due January 21, 2026
- **English Proficiency Exam** – one of the 4 acceptable exams, soft copies ok for TOEFL, PTE, IELTS, request official Duolingo score to be sent to CSUCI.
- Two letters of recommendation (professional or academic). Can upload PDF letter or email recommenders in application.
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of Purpose (aka Personal Statement or Motivation Letter)

I-20 typically issued 5-7 business days after receipt of the following: Passport, Affidavit form, bank statement required showing available funds of \$35,302. \$250 deposit towards the first semester tuition and fees.