

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of school Public

SURVEY SAYS...

Friendly students
Good peer network
Solid preparation in:
General management

STUDENTS

Enrollment of parent institution	8,878
Enrollment of MBA Program	82
% male/female	56/44
% out-of-state	5
% part-time	60
% minorities	15
% international	7
Average age at entry	29
Average years work experience at entry	6

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	72
Student/faculty ratio	2:1
Profs interesting rating	83
Profs accessible rating	81
% female faculty	20
% minority faculty	22

Academics

Repeat business is one of the telltale signs of success in retail, and by that standard Radford University must be doing a pretty good job; a considerable number of students in our survey self-identified as former Radford undergrads, and nearly all cited their satisfaction during their first go-around as the reason for pursuing an MBA here. With an undergraduate population consisting of approximately 25 percent business majors, Radford has a large customer base from which to draw graduate students. You could say that business is booming at Radford's College of Business and Economics.

Radford now offers two MBA programs: a full-time program on the Radford campus and the Professional Part-time program on the Roanoke and Radford campuses. Radford MBAs tell us that their program "is general in nature" and that "students wanting to specialize in a specific segment of business, e.g., marketing, may be well-served to look elsewhere." They are quick to add, however, that the program "does prepare you for work in many areas of business and does not skimp on content or focus in doing so" and that "Those who want the knowledge and skills to run an organization, even a global one, will be hard-pressed to find a better school, especially for the price." Part-time students also appreciate the way the program is "geared toward people who work full-time jobs." While describing the Radford MBA as "a challenging part-time program," they note that convenient scheduling and professors who will "work with your work schedule to [help you] get through the MBA program" make it "easy for a working professional to get an MBA" here.

Radford's 24 credit hour curriculum is divided in a two-thirds, one-third split between required courses and electives (which constitute 12 hours). The program utilizes "a face-to-face presentation format" and includes a substantial writing component. "Small class sizes" and a faculty that "is very student-oriented (rather than concentrating on writing professional papers and books, they concentrate on teaching, which is a good thing)" makes this a very student-friendly program. Professors "do an excellent job of tying in current events and international matters of interest," although some "don't seem to have much experience in the professional corporate world. Many seem to have spent most of their time in academia." MBA courses are offered in two locations: the main campus in Radford, Virginia, and the Roanoke Higher Education Center in Roanoke, Virginia. A distance learning option is also available. The RU MBA Program is moving towards differentiating its full-time and professional part-time programs. Full-time students have classes during the day and professional part-time classes will be held in the evenings in both Roanoke and Radford. Additional program support services will be provided for each of these groups.

Career and Placement

The Career Services Office at Radford University offers a variety of resources to undergraduates, graduates, and alumni. These include a virtual resume, internship, and a jobs database "where students and employers come together to post and view resumes and position openings," as well as workshops in resume and portfolio development, career fairs, and career-assessment tools. On-campus recruiters include Ameriprise Financial, DMG Securities, Ferguson Enterprises, Northwestern Mutual, State Farm, Wachovia, and the federal government.



The Best 300 Business Schools

2011 Edition

Ranking lists reveal the top ten schools for best professors, classroom experiences, career prospects, and more

- More than 18,000 MBA students at 100 programs speak out about financial aid, academics, student life, and career opportunities at their schools.
- Learn everything you need to know about the MBA landscape—how it differs from Quantitative Finance, Management (MBA), and other advanced programs.



*Correction to Student Collected Data
-36 Credit hour MBA Program
•24 Core Credit hours •12 Elective Credit hours

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Student Life and Environment

The RU MBA program is “a mix of adult and young adult students.” The latter group includes nearly all of the full-time students, a combination of recently minted American undergraduates and international students. The student body tends to be “young, eager to get into a professional setting, worried about the job market,” “friendly, hard-working, and intelligent.” Working professionals constitute a substantial minority whose experience and insights are welcomed by their younger peers.

Full-timers describe campus life as being “like any typical college student’s life,” with the “majority of time spent studying and preparing for class.” Part-time students typically don’t have time for the “many activities, clubs, and organizations that are at this school.” Those who attend classes at the Roanoke Higher Education Center tell us that “the RHEC is a newly remodeled, high tech, and comfortable facility more suited to providing an appropriate atmosphere for educating older MBA students.”

Hometown Radford is a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains; Roanoke is about 45 miles away. The area is most amenable to outdoor enthusiasts, as it provides easy access to the Appalachian Trail, the New River, and Claytor Lake. Shopping, restaurants, nightlife, and such are not in great supply, students warn, although the proximity of Roanoke helps to make up for this deficiency. Charleston, West Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, are also within a reasonable driving distance.

Admissions

Admission to Radford’s MBA program is considered via a full portfolio review. Application requires successful completion of an undergraduate degree with a preferred minimum GPA of 2.75. Applicants must also submit an official report of GMAT scores (applicants with five or more years of work experience can apply for a waiver of the GMAT requirement); two letters of recommendation; a resume of work experience; and statement of intent. Also, applicants must demonstrate business proficiency through accredited collegiate preparation in the following foundation areas or equivalents: economics, accounting, finance, and statistics. Students can earn credit for some of these foundation areas through CLEP testing. In addition to meeting the above requirements, international students must also provide a certified letter of sponsorship and a bank statement proving sufficient finances to cover their first year of study. Those whose first language is not English must submit TOEFL scores.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition (in-state/ out-of-state)	\$5,688/\$11,340
Cost of books	\$1,100
Room & board	\$6,872

ADMISSIONS

Admissions Selectivity Rating	67
# of applications received	65
% applicants accepted	69
% acceptees attending	45
Average GMAT	432
Range of GMAT	360–700
Average GPA	3.19
TOEFL required of international students	Yes
Minimum TOEFL (paper/computer)	550/78
Application fee	\$50
International application fee	\$50
Early decision program?	No
Deferment available	Yes
Maximum length of deferment	1 year
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Transfer application policy: Maximum of 12 credit hours	
Non-fall admissions	Yes
Need-blind admissions	Yes