

Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in The Consortium. This application will allow you to apply to up six member schools using our common application. Please read the instructions below carefully, and contact The Consortium using the information below if you have any questions.

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time)
(888) 658-6814 (toll free within the United States)
314-877-5500
Recruiting@cgsms.org

We wish you good luck in the application process.

Sincerely,

The Consortium

The Consortium's Mission

The mission of The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, an alliance of leading American business schools and some of our country's top corporations, is to enhance diversity in business education and leadership by helping to reduce the serious underrepresentation of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in both our member schools' enrollments and the ranks of management. We will achieve this mission by recruiting for graduate business education qualified U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents who can demonstrate a commitment to The Consortium's mission and can best assist The Consortium in pursuing this mission.

Consortium Schools

It is strongly recommended that you get to know all [The Consortium schools](#) you are interested in thoroughly before you apply. Each school has a Consortium contact that would be happy to assist you in this process.

Benefits of Applying Through The Consortium

There are four key benefits to applying through The Consortium's common application:

1. **Consortium Membership**

Consortium members gain many benefits, including access to almost 75 corporate partners, a mandatory Orientation Program (OP) prior to beginning their MBAs, and access to over 6,000 Consortium alumni across member schools.

2. **The Consortium Fellowship**

Last year Consortium schools offered 300 fellowships covering tuition and mandatory fees for two years of full-time study. Applicants who are admitted through The Consortium process and

become Consortium members are considered for these prestigious fellowships. Individual schools may also award other merit based scholarships and financial aid.

3. Common Application

One application allows you to apply to up to six Consortium schools.

4. Tiered Application Fee

Using The Consortium common application significantly reduces your application fee costs. You may apply to up to two member schools for \$150, three schools for \$200, four schools for \$240, five for \$275, and six for \$300.

Applicant Eligibility

Prospective applicants who meet all of the following requirements are eligible to apply through The Consortium:

1. African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, or U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents of any race or ethnicity
2. Demonstrate a commitment to The Consortium’s mission of helping to reduce the serious underrepresentation of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in both our member schools’ enrollments and the ranks of management
3. Hold a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S. or an equivalent degree from a foreign country

The Consortium Application Process

You may apply for admission to up to 6 of the 17 Consortium business schools using the common application. You will be asked to rank the schools to which you are applying in order of your preference (i.e. the school you rank #1 is your top choice school). The Consortium forwards completed applications to the schools ranked in your application.

Key Decisions

There are three key decisions that are made during The Consortium process:

1. Admission

Admission decisions are based on academic ability (GMAT/GRE, academic transcripts), professional potential (career essay, résumé, recommendations, and interview), and personal characteristics (all application components). Admission decisions are made solely by the admissions committees at the member schools. Admission decisions are communicated to applicants by the schools. All admission decisions are final.

2. Membership

All admitted candidates will be considered for membership in The Consortium. Consortium members gain many benefits, including access to almost 75 corporate partners, a mandatory Orientation Program (OP) prior to beginning their MBAs, and access to over 6,000 Consortium alumni across member schools.

It is important to note that being admitted to a member school does not automatically guarantee membership in The Consortium. Membership will be granted to those admitted applicants who demonstrate a commitment to The Consortium's mission of helping reduce the serious underrepresentation of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in both our member schools' enrollments and the ranks of management. If you are admitted and granted membership, you must enroll in a member school program to enjoy the benefits of Consortium membership. Membership is not transferrable to non-Consortium schools.

Your admission to a particular school is not affected by the membership decision. Membership decisions are communicated by The Consortium. All membership decisions are final.

Individual schools may offer admitted applicants school-specific merit-based scholarships regardless of membership and fellowship decisions.

3. **Fellowship (and School Rankings)**

All Consortium members will be considered for the two-year fellowship covering tuition and required fees. Applicants who are admitted but not granted membership to The Consortium will not be considered for The Consortium Fellowship.

Your school ranking determines the order in which schools may consider you for The Fellowship. You are first considered for The Fellowship by your highest ranked school to which you were admitted. If that school does not choose to award you The Fellowship, the option passes to your next highest ranked school to which you were admitted and so on. While many Consortium schools may admit you, only one Consortium school may offer you The Fellowship. After your application is submitted to The Consortium, you cannot change your school ranking.

Fellowships are determined through a holistic review of the overall merit of the applicant. Fellowship decisions are made solely by the admissions and scholarship committees at each of the member schools. Fellowship decisions are communicated by The Consortium the third week in March; and additional details regarding your fellowship will follow from the school. All fellowship decisions are final. You will be required to accept or decline your fellowship offer by April 15.

Important notes regarding The Fellowship:

- You can only be awarded The Consortium Fellowship by one school.
- Your school ranking determines the order in which admitting schools have the option to award you The Consortium Fellowship.
- The Consortium provides funding for full-time MBA study at member schools only.
- Although some schools offer deferred admission, The Fellowship may not be deferred. If you defer your admission, you must reapply for The Fellowship.
- Consortium Fellowships are awarded for a course of study beginning in the fall only.

Application Deadlines for Fall 2011 Admission

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Application Deadline | November 15 | January 5 |
| Interview Deadline | November 6 | December 20 |
| GMAT/GRE Taken by | November 1 | December 20 |
| Admission Decision | Varies by school | Varies by school |
| Fellowship Notification | Mid March | Mid March |

Applications and all supporting materials (résumé, essays, GMAT/GRE, transcript, interview, recommendations and fee) must be submitted no later than midnight (PST) on the deadline date.

While late applications will be accepted, this may significantly reduce your chances of being awarded a fellowship.

Your GMAT/GRE score may not be more than 5 years older than the application deadline.

The Required Consortium Interview

All applicants are required to interview with a Consortium representative. Representatives include member school admissions officers, Consortium alumni and Consortium students. Interviews by admissions officers, alumni or students are evaluated equally. Your choice of interviewer will not affect your chances for admission. Only one official Consortium interview is required regardless of the number of schools to which you apply through The Consortium.

Many Consortium schools also have a required school-specific interview in addition to the required interview. In this case, The Consortium interview will not take the place of these school-specific interviews, even if you interviewed with a Consortium representative from that school. Consult each member school's interview policies for specific interview instructions. For a list of member schools' websites, [click here](#).

Use the official list of interviewers to schedule your official Consortium interview. The school affiliation of your Consortium interviewer does not affect your admission decision in any way.

When you contact an interviewer, please let him or her know that you would like to schedule your official Consortium interview. The interview will take 30 to 60 minutes, and there will be time available for you to ask questions. You should confirm your interview with the interviewer at least 24 hours before the scheduled appointment. You should also provide your interviewer with your current résumé prior to the interview. Be sure to take a paper copy of your résumé with you to the appointment. Please be respectful of interviewers' time and notify them if you are running behind schedule, or provide advance notification in the event you need to cancel.

To avoid scheduling problems, we strongly encourage you to schedule and complete your interview as soon as possible. Interviewers in major metropolitan areas book quickly. It is at the discretion of the interviewer to accept or decline interview requests after the scheduled deadlines.

Upon completion of the interview, log in to your VIP page and complete the interview section with your interviewer's name and email address. The system will send the interview evaluation form directly to the interviewer, and the system will automatically match the completed evaluation to your application.

The GMAT and the GRE

The Consortium must receive an official copy of your GMAT score from Pearson VUE. The Consortium's code is number **9X4-6J-59**. Pearson VUE will forward your GMAT results to The Consortium. You do not need to forward your GMAT scores to Consortium member schools.

If you did not use The Consortium's code when you registered, contact Pearson VUE and request that your official GMAT results be forwarded to The Consortium. To aid in processing your application, you may submit your unofficial score report pending receipt of the official score.

Visit <http://www.mba.com> for current GMAT preparation information offered by the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC). GMAT preparation software is available to download at no cost.

Currently, the following member schools have elected to accept GRE scores in lieu of GMAT scores. Please have your GRE scores sent directly to The Consortium (code **0483**). If you have taken the GRE score more than once, please list only your highest score.

- Dartmouth College
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- New York University
- The University of Texas at Austin
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

If you have included any school other than those listed above, you must submit an official GMAT score with your application.

Transcripts (Official and Unofficial)

When completing the application, you will be asked to upload a scanned copy of your original hard copy transcript(s). A screen shot of your grades/transcript is unacceptable. While schools will begin their review process using the scanned uploaded unofficial transcript(s), offers of admission are not binding until official transcripts are received and verified. You will be required to submit an official transcript to your school prior to matriculation.

When submitting your transcript(s) to schools, you must submit an official transcript from every college or university you attended as an undergraduate or graduate student upon matriculation. Official transcripts should be provided for all academic coursework.

When requesting transcripts, provide the university with your full name, any previous names used, student number, present address, dates of enrollment, the degree awarded, and year the degree was received. In addition, please inform The Consortium if the name on one or more of your transcripts will be different from your current name (e.g. maiden name, etc.).

For transcripts from universities outside the United States, an original-language transcript is required, along with a document that shows conferral of degree (i.e. a copy of your diploma) and an official English translation from your university.

Résumé

Please provide your most current résumé (limit two pages) in standard format with employment history. Each position should include the following: Dates of Employment, Employer Name, Employer Location, Job Title, and Job Responsibilities. Please also include post-secondary education history, nonacademic interests and activities, and awards received. The résumé will be uploaded directly into the application system.

Professional and Mission Support Recommendations

There are two required professional recommendations and one required mission support recommendation (*see section below regarding Demonstration of Commitment to The Consortium's mission*).

Your professional recommendations should come from individuals who can comment meaningfully, yet objectively, on your performance in a work environment - preferably your current position. Ideally, one of your professional recommendations should come from your current supervisor.

As professional recommendations should be from an objective third party, recommendations from peers, family, and social acquaintances are discouraged.

The mission support recommendation should be from an objective third party who can comment on your demonstrated support of The Consortium's Mission.

You must submit the reference request forms to your recommenders through the online application. Upon receiving the request, your recommenders should follow the automatically generated instructions and submit the completed reference forms online.

Essays

There are two required essays for all candidates, one optional essay for any additional information, and required school specific essays for each school you have ranked. The essay questions are listed below:

1. Please describe your short and long term goals post-MBA. How has your professional experience shaped these goals and influenced your decision to pursue an MBA degree?
2. The mission of The Consortium is to enhance diversity in business education and leadership by helping to reduce the serious underrepresentation of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in both our member schools' enrollments and the ranks of management. What have you done in your business, academic or personal life to demonstrate commitment to this mission? Please provide specific examples of your involvement, actions and results.
3. For each school to which you intend to apply, you will be required to write a school specific essay. Schools are only allowed to view your essay to their program.
4. Optional additional essay: Is there any other information you would like to share with us that is not presented elsewhere in your application?

Essay #1 is used for admission purposes only; this essay question provides an opportunity to express your strengths, unique attributes, experiences, and any other traits and abilities you consider relevant to your educational goals and career objectives.

Essay #2 is used to assess your commitment to The Consortium's mission and will be used in the determination of membership. (See below regarding Demonstration of Commitment to The Consortium's Mission below).

Essay #3 is the required school specific essay. For the essay prompt, please navigate to the school's supplemental page within the application.

Essay #4 is optional and gives you the chance to provide any additional information you wish to bring to the attention of the admissions committee. These may include gaps in employment, your undergraduate record, and plans to retake the GMAT/GRE or other relevant information. An explanation **must** be provided in Essay 4 if you have answered "yes" to any of the questions in the Personal Certification/Signature section ([see Verification and Signature section](#)).

Please follow the guidelines below with all essays:

- Limit each essay to no more than two double-spaced pages.
- Please use 12 point font.
- Must be a Microsoft Word document.

Demonstration of Commitment to The Consortium’s Mission

The Consortium’s mission is to enhance diversity in business education and leadership by helping to reduce the serious underrepresentation of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in both our member schools’ enrollments and the ranks of management.

While you may be granted admission to member schools without an adequate demonstration of commitment to The Consortium’s mission, you must demonstrate adequate commitment to The Consortium’s mission in order to be granted membership to The Consortium and be considered for The Consortium Fellowship.

There are two key components of The Consortium application that are used to assess your commitment to The Consortium’s mission. The first component is Essay #2 in which you have the opportunity to provide key examples as to how your past actions supported The Consortium’s mission. The second component is the third recommendation from an objective third party that will also be used to support your commitment to The Consortium’s mission.

Application Fee

Your application must be accompanied by the appropriate nonrefundable application fee. You may make a secure online credit card payment.

The fee must be paid in order for the application to be processed and distributed to member schools.

Fee Schedule

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| 1-2 Schools | \$150 |
| 3 Schools | \$200 |
| 4 Schools | \$240 |
| 5 Schools | \$275 |
| 6 Schools | \$300 |

PLEASE NOTE: The Consortium does not grant application fee waivers or refunds.

Verification and Signature

You must verify that you have read and understand The Consortium application instructions and application policies as well as each of the member school’s application policies.

You will find the following questions within the application. You must answer “yes” or “no” to each:

- Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
- Have you entered a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest, a plea of nolo contendere, or an Alford plea, or have you received a deferred prosecution of prayer for judgment continued, to a criminal charge?

- Have you otherwise accepted responsibility for the commission of a crime?
- Do you have any criminal charges pending against you?
- Have you ever been expelled, dismissed, suspended, placed on probation, or otherwise subject to any disciplinary sanction by any school, college or university?
- If you have served in the military, did you receive any type of discharge other than an honorable discharge?

Answering “yes” to one or more of these questions will not necessarily preclude your being admitted. However, your failure to provide complete, accurate and truthful information will be grounds to deny or withdraw your admission, dismiss you after enrollment, or rescind your degree after graduation. For the purposes of these questions, “crime” or “criminal charge” refers to any crime other than a traffic-related misdemeanor or infraction. You must, however, include all alcohol or drug offenses whether or not they are traffic related. If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you **must** provide an explanation in Essay #4.

You must electronically sign the following certification statement:

All statements made in the application are accurate and complete, the essays were written by me, and my letters of recommendation were written by my designated recommenders. I understand that The Consortium and its member schools reserve the right to contact appropriate sources to verify the accuracy of all information I have provided. I understand that if I accept admission into any of the member schools, they or their agents may conduct a background check on my credentials, and I may be responsible for any fees associated with this service. I must promptly notify The Consortium and all member schools to which I am applying if any of my information changes, including but not limited to, my résumé and contact information. I understand that member schools may revoke my admission and/or scholarship(s) if they learn that I have misrepresented and/or omitted information during or after the admissions processes or that I have engaged in behavior showing a serious lack of judgment or integrity prior to or after admission. I understand that The Consortium may release my relevant information to member schools and partner/external organizations to be considered for admission, relevant school-specific scholarships and programs, as well as relevant partner/external organization scholarships and programs. I understand that materials received by The Consortium in connection with this application are not returnable and that the application fee is not refundable. I certify that I have read, understand and agree to all of the application instructions and policies prior to submitting my application.

Please make certain that you complete the signature page of your application and mail it to The Consortium office. Unsigned applications may incur processing delays which could reduce your chances for admission and/or a fellowship.

Change of Contact Information

It is the applicant's responsibility to update The Consortium and member schools immediately with any new contact information. It is also the applicant's responsibility to verify that any changes made to his or her contact information are properly reflected with The Consortium and the member schools. Failure to update your contact information may result in your missing key information, which could jeopardize your membership to The Consortium, receipt of The Consortium Fellowship, admission to member schools and /or your place in the class at member schools. The Consortium and its member schools are not responsible for any technological issues (including email filters, etc.) that prevent applicants from receiving their communications.

Procedure for Re-Applying

The Consortium keeps application materials from the previous two application cycles. If you applied earlier than two years ago, you will have to submit an entirely new application.

Re-applicants who applied in the last two years must submit a new application that includes all required data forms and essays, an updated résumé, one mission support recommendation, a new Consortium interview and the application fee. You may re-use the following items: GMAT/GRE score if not expired, professional recommendations, and transcripts.

If you wish to have new recommendations submitted, you may follow the regular instructions for requesting a recommendation. If you would like to re-use a professional recommendation, please email recruiting@cgsms.org with your name, the recommender's name, and the date of your last application. Please note that, due to technical difficulties, recommendations submitted prior to the 2009-2010 application cycle are no longer available for re-use. However, recommendations submitted in 2009-2010 will be available for re-use.

If you have re-taken the GMAT/GRE since your last application, you should have the updated scores sent to The Consortium. If you have taken additional coursework since your last application, please have those transcripts sent to The Consortium.

Consortium Policies

The policies, requirements, offerings, timelines, activities and fees of The Consortium and its member schools, departments and programs set forth in this publication do not form a contract of any kind and are subject to change without notice at any time at the sole discretion of the administration. Such changes may be of any nature, including, but not limited to, the content of any of the aforementioned.

Notice of Right to Change Information at Any Time

The policies, requirements, offerings, timelines, activities and fees of The Consortium and its member schools, departments and programs set forth in this publication do not form a contract of any kind and are subject to change without notice at any time at the sole discretion of the administration. Such changes may be of any nature, including, but not limited to, the content of any of the aforementioned.

Verify You Have Read the Application Instructions

It is important that you read all the application instructions before beginning this application process. If you have any questions, please call The Consortium office Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, at (314) 877-5500 or (888) 658-6814.

I have read and understand The Consortium application instructions.

Yes No