



FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Amy Mullin, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean
CONTACT INFO: 905-828-3719, vpdean.utm@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: Professor Len Brooks, Director, Masters of Management &
CONTACT INFO: Professional Accounting (MMPA)
905-828-3916, len.brooks@utoronto.ca

DATE: November 11, 2015 for November 18, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Minor Modification: Masters of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) GMAT Waiver

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.6 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for major and minor modifications to existing programs and has responsibility for approving amendments to admission policies that are not of major significance to the entire Campus.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

- 1. Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (November 18, 2015)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) currently houses four Professional Graduate Masters Programs and one Professional Graduate Diploma Program under the Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI), including the Master of Management and Professional Accounting (MMPA) Program. Within the MMPA Program, three streams are available for program completion – the standard 27-month stream consisting of five academic and two co-op work terms and two advanced standing streams (24-months and 12-months) for outstanding applicants that enter the program with some undergraduate business courses already completed.

The MMPA Program is currently seeking approval to offer an exemption to the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) requirement for applicants that have graduated from the University of Toronto (UofT) under certain circumstances. Specifically, applicants that meet one of the following criteria will not be required to write the GMAT for admission to the MMPA Program:

1. Graduation from UofT with high distinction (i.e. cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher), or
2. Graduation from one of: UTM's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; Rotman's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; and University of Toronto Scarborough's (UTSC's) Specialist in Management and Accounting leading to a BBA.

The GMAT is a standardized test that has previously been a strong indicator of an applicant's aptitude and ability to succeed in the first year of the MMPA Program. This is especially true for applicants that are applying from a non-business background. Over the years, however, it has become apparent that applicants from UofT who fall into one of the two categories above consistently perform well in the MMPA Program and beyond. These applicants have demonstrated the aptitude necessary to do well in any of the three MMPA Program streams and there would be no benefit to the student or Program to require a GMAT score for admission. With less familiarity of curriculum, programming, and standards at other institutions, the MMPA Program will continue to maintain the GMAT requirement for non-UofT applicants and for those UofT graduates with less than a 3.5 CGPA (unless they are from one of the three UofT Accounting Specialist Programs – see criteria above).

During the recent 2014-2015 admission cycle, applicants to the 12-month advanced standing option stream who had completed a prescribed set of seventeen undergraduate business or accounting courses at UofT were granted exemption from the GMAT test because they had demonstrated their aptitude and ability to succeed in a graduate business program by virtue of their ability to do well in courses and with instructors well known to the MMPA Program. In addition, the Rotman School of Management's Master of Finance (MFin) Program offers an exemption for UofT graduates with high distinction and their new Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting does not require the GMAT for any applicants.

There are no resource implications for this proposed change.

The IMI Curriculum Committee reviewed and approved this proposal on September 16, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net implications for the campus' operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it Resolved,

THAT the proposed changes in the admissions requirements for the Masters of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) Program, offered by the Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI), recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amy Mullin, and described in the proposal dated September 17, 2015, be approved, effective on December 1, 2015.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

AAC 2015 11 18 Item MMPA GMAT Waiver Proposal

University of Toronto Minor Modification – Change to Admission Requirements of an Existing Graduate Program

Program being modified:	Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA)
Graduate Unit:	Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI)
Faculty / Academic Division:	University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Dean's Office Contact:	<p>Prof. Robert Reisz Vice-Dean Graduate Robert.reisz@utoronto.ca</p> <p>Yen Du Program & Curriculum Officer yen.du@utoronto.ca</p>
Program/ Graduate Unit Contact:	<p>Prof. Leonard Brooks Director, MMPA Program len.brooks@utoronto.ca</p> <p>Prof. Hugh Gunz Director, IMI hugh.gunz@utoronto.ca</p>
Version Date: <i>(please change as you edit proposal)</i>	September 17, 2015

Statement of Change

The Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI) at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) is proposing a change in the admission requirements for the Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) Program. The proposed change will exempt applicants from the current GMAT requirement who have graduated from the University of Toronto (UofT) with either:

1. High distinction (i.e. cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher), or

2. Graduation from one of: UTM's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; Rotman's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; and University of Toronto Scarborough's (UTSC's) Specialist in Management and Accounting leading to a BBA.

Effective Date

December 1, 2015, for applicants beginning their program in May 2016.

Background

Current MMPA admission criteria require that all applicants meet the standard School of Graduate Studies (SGS) admission requirements¹ as well as MMPA Program-specific admission requirements². These program-specific requirements include achievement of a minimum mid-B average in the final year of a four-year bachelor's degree and a satisfactory score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)³. The purpose of the GMAT requirement is to test how well an applicant will perform in their first year of a graduate business program. It is a standardized test that has been a strong indicator of aptitude and student success in the MMPA Program. This is an especially useful tool for assessing applicants from institutions other than UofT as the Program is designed for students from a non-business background.

The MMPA Program is normally a 27-month program consisting of five academic and two co-op work terms. There are two advanced standing options (24-month and 12-month) for outstanding applicants that may enter the program with some undergraduate business courses already completed⁴. During the 2014-2015 admission cycle, applicants to the 12-month advanced standing option who had completed a prescribed set of seventeen undergraduate business or accounting courses at UofT⁵, were granted exemption from the GMAT test because they had demonstrated their aptitude and ability to succeed in a graduate business program by virtue of their ability to do well in courses and with instructors well known to the MMPA Program.

¹ <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/prospectivestudents/Pages/Prepare-Your-Application.aspx> Note the requirement for a minimum GPA of a mid B in the last year of undergraduate studies.

² <https://mmpa.utoronto.ca/admissions/standards> Note the requirement for a minimum GPA of B+ in the final year of studies for admission to the 12-month MMPA program.

³ <https://mmpa.utoronto.ca/admissions/gmat>

⁴ The program previously had a 16-month advanced standing option; however, with the introduction of the 12-month advanced standing option, this is no longer available.

⁵ These students were from three specific U of T undergraduate programs - UTM's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; Rotman's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; and University of Toronto Scarborough's (UTSC's) Specialist in Management and Accounting leading to a BBA.

Academic Rationale for Change

The GMAT is designed to gauge an applicant's aptitude and ability to succeed in the first year of a graduate business program. Over the years, it has become apparent that applicants from UofT undergraduate programs with either:

1. high distinction (CGPA of 3.5 or higher), or
2. extensive specialty program education in accounting and management subjects,

consistently perform well in the MMPA Program and beyond. It is our belief that applicants possessing a UofT undergraduate degree who have attained a CGPA of 3.5 or higher, or have graduated from a UofT undergraduate Accounting Specialist Program⁶, have demonstrated the aptitude necessary to do well in any of the three MMPA Program streams (27-, 24-, or 12-month) and there would be no benefit to the student or Program to require a GMAT score for admission.

With less familiarity of curriculum, programing, and standards at other institutes, the MMPA Program will maintain the GMAT requirement for non-UofT applications, and for those UofT graduates with less than a 3.5 CGPA unless they are from one of the three UofT Accounting Specialist Programs⁷. This will ensure that the Program will be able to continue to successfully assess an applicant's aptitude and abilities. The GMAT has previously been and will continue to be a useful tool in this regard for the MMPA Program and help to ensure acceptance of the strongest applicants.

The Rotman School of Management's Master of Finance (MFin) degree offers an exemption for UofT graduates who have done so with high distinction⁸. In addition, its new Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting⁹ does not have a GMAT requirement for any of their applicants.

Resource Implications

⁶ UTM's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; Rotman's Accounting Specialist leading to a BCom; and University of Toronto Scarborough's (UTSC's) Specialist in Management and Accounting leading to a BBA

⁷ All UofT Accounting Specialist Program graduates must have a final year GPA of B or B+ depending on the MMPA Program they wish to enter.

⁸ <https://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/Degrees/MastersPrograms/MasterOfFinance.aspx>

⁹ <https://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/Degrees/GDPA.aspx>

There are no resource implications for UofT. It is anticipated that there may be some administrative time savings by reducing the need to check GMAT information. Applicants to whom the waiver applies will save the GMAT fee and the time involved in studying and writing the test.

Calendar Copy

Current Calendar Copy:

Management & Professional Accounting

Master of Management & Professional Accounting

Minimum Admission Requirements

27- Month Program; 24- and 12-Month Advanced Standing Options

- Applicants are admitted under the General Regulations of the School of Graduate Studies. Applicants must also satisfy the Institute for Management and Innovation's additional admission requirements stated below.
- An appropriate bachelor's degree with a standing equivalent to at least a University of Toronto mid-B.
- Satisfactory Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score.
- Proof of English proficiency if the applicant's first language is not English. See details on English language requirements in General Regulations section 5.5

Proposed Calendar Copy:

Management & Professional Accounting

Master of Management & Professional Accounting

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- An appropriate bachelor's degree with a standing equivalent to at least a University of Toronto mid-B.
- Satisfactory Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score.
- Proof of English proficiency if the applicant's first language is not English. See details on English language requirements in General Regulations section 5.5

NOTE: The GMAT requirement will be waived for any applicant graduating from the University of Toronto (UofT):

- 1. With high distinction (i.e. cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher), or**
- 2. From one of University of Toronto Mississauga’s BCom (Accounting Specialist Program); the Rotman School’s BCom (Accounting Specialist Program); or the University of Toronto Scarborough’s BBA (Specialist in Management & Accounting Program).**

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with SGS, the Office of the Dean at UTM, and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs. All are in support of this proposal. The IMI Curriculum Committee approved the proposal on September 16, 2015. Prospective applicants from UofT’s Accounting Specialist Programs have consistently asked during the last twelve months why there was no exemption from the GMAT given the circumstances underpinning this waiver proposal.

Governance Approval

Unit Sign-Off (Committee name and meeting date)	IMI Curriculum Committee September 16, 2015
Dean’s Office Sign-Off (Name and Date)	Prof. Amy Mullin Vice-Principal Academic & Dean University of Toronto Mississauga September 17, 2015
Faculty/Division Council Approval (or delegated body) if applicable	UTM Academic Affairs Committee