



# PMBA ROADMAP

WORKING FULL TIME WHILE TRYING TO NAVIGATE A CAREER SHIFT IS CHALLENGING.  
PARTNER WITH THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO CREATE A STRATEGY.

## FALL

### INTERNSHIP SEEKING

- Indicate interest in recruiting via the CDO survey shared at Launch
- Start research and engage with student associations, especially for IB or Consulting
- Expect to commit 10-15 hours per week for recruiting related activities such as case prep

### NON- INTERNSHIP SEEKING

- Settle into student life and adjust to classes
- Join student industry associations and explore areas of interest as you research post-MBA roles
- Network with peers and attend as many learning events as you can - time will go quickly
- Start thinking about conducting alumni coffee chats to do a deeper dive as you target roles

## SPRING

- IB and Consulting interviews occur in January. Other industries start recruiting later in spring
- Continue your networking and interview prep
- If you receive an internship offer, consider if you are ready to leave your current employer. If no offer, plan for next year with your advisor

- Plan to take elective classes to bridge skills/knowledge gaps for your new target roles
- Begin prep if you are pursuing Consulting as a second year student - case prep all spring and summer
- Network and lay the foundation - companies start recruiting for full time roles starting in September until graduation. Know the norm for your industry

## COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

The MBA is an exciting time when so many possibilities will be open to you. As a working professional, it will also be a challenging time where you will need to make choices and prioritize. Your demands at work, school, and home will cause you to stretch yourself and grow.

Due to these challenges, it is easy to delay thinking about careers until your second year, but we encourage you to be fully engaged in your career conversation from the beginning. You must drive the process and be fully engaged in order not to miss important deadlines and access points. Career growth and transformation is something that must be continuously cultivated and managed by you, with advice from the CDO and student association leaders.

Whether you are looking to stay at your current company or make a total career transformation, we encourage you to touch base with an advisor to understand your options. Tools are available to you to help you in your search as you define your goals.

## INTERNSHIPS

### NOT FOR ALL

The PMBA is designed for working professionals. Internships are not built into the experience. If an internship is your goal, there are considerations. Note, internships are not a prerequisite to make a switch. The exception would be investment banking.

## TEST SCORES

Metrics are important if you are striving for IB, Consulting, or leadership development programs. We advise taking the GMAT to be competitive. 680+ is ideal.

## TIMELINE

Internships are typically 10-11 weeks in the summer. Unless there is a generous leave policy, you will have to resign your job. If you receive a return offer, start dates are usually after graduation. This means you may be unemployed in the second year and should plan other arrangements for income and health insurance.

# Career Accelerator

Career accelerators are those who seek to stay within their same industry or function, but want to boost their prospects. For many, the MBA is a great way to move within your current company or industry to a leadership role. For those who are interested in accelerating their career, identifying your target and networking will be key. Be sure to leverage your peers and build connections that will last beyond graduation. Network across the different programs. It may be prudent to build bridges within your current company and have a mentor who can help you navigate the organization and guide your career journey. Talk with your manager about what options might be open to you as you progress during the MBA program. An advisor can assist you in articulating your value proposition as part of your pitch and work with you to craft a resume that tells your story. Recruiting and networking events will be a great way to gain contacts and learn more about roles that might be a fit for you. Don't neglect the industry student associations. They host events and invite speakers pertinent to career development.

# Career Switcher

Career switchers aspire to launch into a totally new industry or role. The MBA is a natural pivot for many. Keep in mind that the more you want to change, the more effort it will take; staying in the same industry and city, but changing role will require less effort than changing industry and role in a new city. Take into account the time that will be required to network and prepare for the job search and forthcoming interviews. You are competing on a national level for these roles. Join student industry associations to gain access to training events and network with other students who are also interested in your target industries. The second years share their knowledge and help guide students through the recruiting processes. Be sure you are taking classes that align with your interests, but also stretch you in a way that adds to your profile as a candidate. Own your story and show how your past experience adds value to your new target. Work with your advisor to tailor your materials and interview stories. Keep plugged in with the office and attend relevant company information sessions and networking events to gain an edge as you recruit.

## VISA CONSIDERATIONS

Visas can be extremely complicated if you are considering a career switch. There are many restrictions. Companies may have policies that limit candidate consideration based on work authorization. Also, H-1B and L-1 visas have additional restrictions that might make it very challenging to recruit in a traditional way. We advise you to consult your immigration attorney to get the most up-to-date information and gain a clearer understanding of your options for your unique case. Also, reach out to the Office of International Students and Scholars to ensure you are not in any violation of any rules that would compromise your ability to continue to work in the country: <https://oiss.rice.edu/>

## RECRUITING

### Immediate Job Search Needs?

If seeking a full time role in your first year, keep in mind that you are not yet eligible for MBA jobs. The CDO job boards are specific to internships and MBA level roles. You can still work with an advisor on your job search strategy and prep.

### Extended graduation?

If you are not graduating in a traditional 2 year timeline, plan accordingly. You can engage in campus recruiting only once; the summer prior to graduation for internships, and your final academic year for full time roles. Talk to an advisor to plan.