

## **New Carlson FT MBA Curriculum FAQ's**

### **1) Why did the Carlson School institute a new Full-Time MBA curriculum?**

It is important for the Carlson School to maintain a relevant and rigorous MBA curriculum that builds on our strengths and resources. With that in mind, it is customary for our faculty to review our curriculum and make recommendations and changes every few years. Our latest curriculum review has been an ongoing and intensive process beginning in 2007. We are pleased to implement these recommendations for students entering the Full-Time MBA Program in Fall 2009 and believe they will serve to ensure the strength of this important program for many years to come.

### **2) When will the new curriculum take effect?**

Full-Time MBA Students entering Fall 2009 will be participating in the new curriculum.

### **3) What are the key benefits of the new curriculum?**

The Carlson School has built an internationally recognized reputation for our depth and rigor in delivering experiential learning opportunities. The goal of the new curriculum is to build upon those strengths and reinforce the importance of those experiences through the requirement of the Enterprise Programs and a new required International Business Experience for Full-Time MBA students. An additional benefit of the new curriculum will be the strengthening of the student cohort experience through their participation in these programs.

- Under our new curriculum, our students will obtain sound grounding in a required set of core courses in their first semester. In the second semester they will enjoy the benefits of revised foundational courses in economics, organizational behavior, accounting, and information technology which will help provide the underpinning for their work in the Enterprises.
- Our students still will have sufficient room in the revised curriculum to have emphases in essential managerial disciplines such as finance and marketing that will provide them with the rigor they need to perform at very high levels in the Enterprises.
- The first semester of the second year is primarily devoted to the Enterprises where our students will obtain unparalleled real-world and on-the-job experience in projects of vital concern to local corporations and organizations. This experience will set them apart from students at other institutions.
- With this deepening of their skills and experience behind them, our students then will have the chance to broaden and enrich their reach even further in January of their second year and in their final semester with the addition of a required international business experience and courses in global leadership and ethics.

#### **4) What other changes are part of this new curriculum?**

The other changes to the curriculum are as follows:

- The Ethics course is moved to the final semester of the program and is now a single two-credit course, The Ethical Environment of Business.
- The Organizational Behavior Course will move from a menu-driven course to be delivered as a single required course in the Spring Semester of the first year.
- A two-credit Managerial Economics course will replace the Economic Environment of Business menu.
- A new two-credit Information Technology requirement will be offered during the Spring Semester of the first year, replacing the menu driven course.
- The credit value of the Enterprise experience will now be 10 credits.
- A required Managerial Communications class will now be offered in the Fall Semester of the first year.

#### **5) What if I don't want to do an Enterprise?**

Participation in the Carlson Enterprise Programs is now required of all Full-Time MBA students. Historically, well over 90% of all our students participate in an Enterprise and in particular choose to attend Carlson to take advantage of our unique Enterprise Programs. The Carlson Enterprises are the hallmark of the Carlson Full-Time MBA Program. Any prospective applicant who does not wish to participate in an Enterprise would be better served by our Part-Time MBA Program, or a program at a different university.

#### **6) Will I be guaranteed my first choice of Enterprises?**

In the spring semester of the first year, students interview and apply for the Enterprise(s) of their choice. Upon review of all the applications, the Enterprise Directors meet and determine the best applications for their programs and then make offers to the students. While we cannot guarantee that students will get their first choice, student preferences are considered in these decisions.

#### **7) Can I still participate in other experiential learning opportunities at the Carlson School?**

There are several additional, outstanding opportunities for hands-on learning at the Carlson School in which students can participate. For example, students can participate in courses through the Medical Industry Leadership Institute or take the New Product Design and Business Development course, just to name a few. The New Product Design and Business Development course is expanding and will now count towards the Enterprise requirement if the complete sequence is taken, while the other experiential courses will only count towards the student's elective credit requirements.

**8) How will the new International Business Experience requirement work, when will it be, what topics will it cover and where will it take place?**

The International Business Experience course will take place during the latter half of fall semester of year 2 with a two week international trip in January. Multiple sections will exist with each section going to a different international location. Common themes will guide each group and they will return and engage in a half-day forum that involves a comparative analysis of different regions. The number of program locations will be determined by the number of students participating and will vary from year to year.

**9) What if I don't want to participate in the International Business Experience?**

The new International Business Experience is required for all Full-Time MBA students.

**10) Can I still take Global Enrichment Programs?**

The Carlson School is committed to providing an unparalleled global MBA experience and our variety of Global Enrichment programs are an important part of this. If students wish to apply to a Global Enrichment program during their first year, they will need to plan well in advance and apply by the listed deadlines. Credits earned through these Global Enrichment programs will count towards a student's elective credit requirements. Participation in a Global Enrichment program will not be a substitute for the International Business Experience requirement.

**11) Can I meet my Ethics requirement through the International Programs Global Enrichment course?**

No, a 2-credit Ethics course is one of the required courses in the new curriculum. As such, students will not be eligible to apply for or enroll in any of the Ethics seminars as an elective within the Global Enrichment programs.

**12) What is the cost of the International Business Experience requirement and how will it be charged?**

An international fee of approximately \$5,000 will be charged to student accounts in the fall semester of year 2 of the program and will cover travel, lodging and other related expenses. The tuition for the international course will be part of the standard semester tuition charge, additional program expenses such as airfare and accommodations will be billed as a set fee in the fall semester of year 2 of the program.

**13) Will I still be able to do a semester abroad?**

Given the new structure of the curriculum, it won't be possible to participate in a semester abroad program.

**14) How will the new curriculum affect overall tuition?**

The new Full-Time MBA Curriculum will be a 64 credit program and will be billed as a fixed cost. Students will be billed for tuition in four equal installments. Other education-related costs are billed separately. Should students wish to register for additional credits beyond the 64 required, they will be billed at the University's per-credit rate. The credit requirements for each semester will be as follows, Fall Year 1 – 19 credits, Spring Year 1 – 18 credits, Fall Year 2 – 12 credits, Spring Year 2 – 15 credits. Any credits taken beyond each of those recommended amounts will need to be petitioned for and approved by the Associate Dean of MBA Programs. Visit the tuition and fee page for more information.

**15) How will dual degree programs be affected?**

With the new required Enterprise and International Experience, some changes may be required in the sequencing of the dual degree programs. We will update the dual degree pages as soon as schedules are established. Visit the dual degree web page for more information.

**16) What should I do if I have further questions regarding the new curriculum?**

Please call the MBA Programs office at 612-625-5555 or email [ftmba@umn.edu](mailto:ftmba@umn.edu).