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WILL YOUR COLLEGE MAJOR IMPACT YOUR MBA CHANCES?



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International News

Jan 25, 2017 at 12:00am ET By Joanna Hughes



Think an undergraduate major unrelated to business puts you at a disadvantage when it comes to getting into an MBA program? Think again. According to a recent US News and World Report article, choice of major has little bearing on the b-school admissions process. Here's a closer look at why your major may not matter as much as you think it does.

Diversity Matters

According to the report, MBA programs not only admit students from a range of backgrounds, but variety is actually the imperative. Said Erin Goodnow, CEO of

admissions consulting company Going Ivy, "Admissions officers are really trying to fill their class with a diverse group and a well-rounded group."

Meanwhile, experts point out that different majors offer different benefits. For example, MBA applicants with liberal arts backgrounds may be prized for their creativity, while engineering majors are sought-after for their quantitative skills and positioning for top jobs in the tech sector.

"Long-Term Potential"

Goodnow further noted that past specifics are not nearly as important as future potential. Said one MBA student on Facebook, "Making the case is all about connecting the dots between your past achievements, how it led to the bschool decision and what you want to accomplish post bschool. The story needs to be genuine, personal and believable."

The takeaway? As long as your academic journey makes sense in the context of your journey to b-school and your subsequent career, the major itself may not be a factor so

long as you can demonstrate why business school makes sense for you. In other words, while your major may not matter, your ability to sell it does.

One last thing to keep in mind? While major doesn't matter at most business schools, some programs are the exception to the rule. MBA admissions counselor Alicia Stewart advised applicants via US News and World Report, "There may be school-specific preferences for major, so the key is to look into the school you are interested in and see what their class profile looks like. Get an idea of the culture, and you will see the types of students they admit and also assess your own fit to the community."

Joanna worked in higher education administration for many years at a leading research institution before becoming a full-time freelance writer. She lives in the beautiful White Mountains region of New Hampshire with her family.

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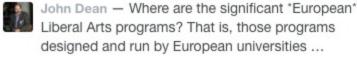
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