



**Certified  
Management  
Accountants**

# **Combined MBA-CMA Program**

Details of version offered at Saint Mary's University

Updated on June 3, 2009

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## **Overview**

The combined MBA-CMA Program, offered jointly by CMA Nova Scotia, Bermuda, and the Caribbean and Saint Mary's University (Halifax, Nova Scotia), is designed to combine the accounting expertise and professional skills of the CMA designation with the broad business skills of an MBA degree – thus creating a combined skill set for an exceptional career path.

To be eligible for the combined MBA-CMA Program, applicants must have successfully completed the CMA Entrance Exam or equivalent. Note that applicants are not required to write the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) for entry into the combined MBA-CMA Program.

The combined MBA-CMA Program may be completed within a minimum of 24 months, though it is expected that the majority of students will opt not to enroll in spring and summer courses thus requiring 28 months to complete their studies. Students that opt to complete their studies in 24 months will be required to complete their electives in the spring and summer semesters.

Students in the combined MBA-CMA Program are required to attend three, two-day interactive sessions per semester. Interactive sessions are held on Fridays and Saturdays in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Individuals outside of Halifax are invited to participate in the combined MBA-CMA Program but are cautioned that travel expenses are not included in program costs.

In addition to the interactive sessions, students will be required to complete a number of independent assignments and group assignments that will require an average of 20 to 25 hours per week to complete including readings.

MBA-CMA students will be required to complete a total of 26 credit hours, or 13 courses (nine core MBA-CMA courses, a business simulation, and three electives), to earn both the CMA designation and MBA degree. Students are required to complete the core MBA-CMA courses in a predetermined order within five years of passing the CMA Entrance Exam.

All aspects of the CMA syllabus will be covered in the ten required courses. In the remaining three MBA courses, CMA candidates will choose from a series of electives designed to assist them in a globally competitive environment. This program will bring theory together with application to the organizational environment in which the MBA-CMA students work. Topics will reflect the best of contemporary issues examined at the strategic, policy, and implementation levels.

## Combined MBA-CMA Program syllabus

### Year One

#### Fall semester (September to December)

- Strategic Marketing
- Integrative Managerial Accounting I

#### Winter Semester (January to April)

- Integrative Managerial Accounting II
- Performance Management

#### Spring session (May to June)

- Financial Management
- Elective(s) - up to two of your three total requirements

#### Summer session (July to August)

- Elective(s) – up to two of your three total requirements

### Year Two

#### Fall semester (September to December)

- Management Information Systems: Strategy and Practice
- Strategic Design and Improvement of Operations

#### Winter semester (January to April)

- Strategic Management
- Integrative Exercise – Business Simulation

February to June – CMA Board Report: Due to the amount of preparation and work required for the CMA Board Report, it will satisfy one university credit (three credit

hours). Technically speaking, the CMA Board Report is offered in the spring session as the written report and oral presentation are both due at this time, but to ensure sufficient time for preparation students are given access to, and instructed to begin working on the CMA Board Report in February.

Note: At this point, the CMA requirements are complete and candidates should be eligible to graduate at the annual CMA convocation in November.

Spring session

- Elective(s) – up to two of your three total requirements

Example of electives that may be offered:

- Financial Reporting and Statement Analysis
- Taxation and Financial Planning
- International Business Management
- Investments and Portfolio Management
- International Business Finance and Banking
- Ethical Issues World Business
- Electronic Commerce
- Brand Management
- Customer Relationship Management

Electives vary from term to term. Additional electives may be available depending on interest.

**Note:** Those that successfully complete the CMA Entrance Exam in any given October may wish to take electives in the winter and/or summer sessions leading up to Year One.

Conversely, it is acceptable to not take courses (i.e. electives) during summer sessions and take all electives after your core courses are complete, should you wish. Note however, that you would graduate your MBA “portion” with the following year’s MBA class.

### **Admission notes**

Saint Mary’s University will apply no additional admission criteria to the CMA prerequisites. MBA-CMA students must maintain a quality point average of B (3.00) to continue in the program.