

A CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

How to rock your application and your interview to a Master of Accounting program

We've seen it all. Applicants that don't come prepared to an interview or fill out their application and supplemental materials appropriately will sadly not be accepted by our program, but it didn't have to be that way.

Their missed opportunities are your gain as we divulge some of our admissions counselor's super-secret application and interview tips for the UNC Master of Accounting program at Kenan-Flagler.

APPLICATION TIPS

Why UNC?

There are many reasons why someone would choose the UNC MAC program above all others, such as the \$58K average starting salary of UNC graduates, or the 98% job placement at the world's most competitive and exclusive firms, but why did you choose UNC? Do you want to run your own business someday? Can we help you realize your ambition of becoming a CFO? Tell us how we will make a difference in your professional development.

Do: Wear business-appropriate attire to your interview.
Don't: Wear a baseball cap.

You are your best score.

Take the GRE or GMAT test as often as you like because we only care about one thing – you at your best. We only look at your best score, so don't worry if it took two times or ten times to achieve numbers that make you proud.

We focus on leadership.

Leadership development is why so many choose to attend the UNC MAC program. If you've had personal or professional leadership experience tell us all about it in your resume or statement of purpose. It just may make the difference.



Context is king.

Our admissions team will review hundreds of competitive applications every year. While many resume facts and test scores look similar, there is one big difference – you. If you don't think that your GRE or GMAT score is as strong as you had hoped it would be, but your GPA is terrific, make sure you let us know why your strongest performance indicators matter more.

Recommendation letters.

It should go without saying that the person who recommends you should think highly of your abilities to lead and achieve, but that's not always the case. Choose your recommendations carefully and make sure that they understand your goals and what makes you a strong candidate. If you don't prepare the authors effectively, don't be surprised if they miss your message.

Extracurricular difference makers.

You might be surprised to learn that many applicants introduce extracurricular work that they've done during their interview with an admis-

sions officer, but didn't note it in their resume, statement of purpose, or anywhere else for that matter. If you've done a summer internship or attended a workshop on leadership or team management, it matters to us. Be proud of your accomplishments and let us know all about them.

The end is the beginning.

When it comes time to sit down and write your graduate essay, have a clear goal in mind and construct a cohesive story. We want to know why you want to be an accountant and why the UNC MAC program is the best match. By thinking about the end of the story first, you'll stay on track and maximize the impact of the message every step of the way.

INTERVIEW TIPS

Be prepared.

If you've been waiting to attend your admissions interview for weeks, or even months, don't prepare for it 10 minutes before it begins. Approach the interview with a clear goal in mind – getting accepted to the program. Research our institution, study the PAR/STAR method for responses, or even research your interviewer! Be ready to think like a data-minded, analytical thinker with a logical thought process.

Know your weaknesses.

If you think your transcripts need explanation, or a disappointing test score wouldn't be so bad if we only knew why, address them in the interview. Any explanation that will affect your candidacy in a positive way is worth sharing with us.

Bring questions.

If you've done your homework on UNC and the MAC program, you must have some questions to ask us. We always ask our applicants to share their questions at the end of the interview session. It's one of your only face-to-face opportunities to get the answers you need and impress us with how knowledgeable you are about our program.

Know the employer landscape.

Who's the Big 4? If you don't know where you're going, it can be difficult to navigate the road. We take great pride in our 98% employment rate with the world's top accounting firms. Show us that you know about a few firms during your interview and what that means to your future as an accountant.

Keep it professional.

It's easy to get sidetracked, especially when you're nervous during a big interview. While we can appreciate a funny story about your dog, what



we really want to hear is more about you. You only have a short time to squeeze in everything there is to know about your drive to achieve a Master of Accounting degree. Make every minute count.

Attitude determines altitude.

Being a leader means identifying your team member's individual strengths and leveraging them to achieve your shared goals. You need to be a masterful communicator capable of motivating and inspiring others with your vision. During the interview, stay positive, be professional and exercise humility. Your attitude can determine how high you will go.

Be memorable.

Here it is – interview day! Make sure that you convey your strengths, your educational goals, and why we would be the best fit for them. Don't try to impress an admissions officer with a funny story. Be professional and use your time intelligently by communicating what makes you unique as clearly and concisely as you can. We're listening to every word.

Make the hard sell.

Ever hear the saying always make a good first impression? Well, it's true. Remember to prepare a strong beginning and close to your interview. Make no mistake, interviews can be stressful, but you can alleviate some of the pressure by being well prepared and communicating why we should choose you as concisely as you can.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

Our admissions and career specialists can answer any questions you have about choosing your recommenders, other parts of the application, start your application or the UNC Master of Accounting Program. Simply contact us at mac_info@unc.edu or 919-962-3209.

START YOUR APPLICATION