

Washington State University
College of Education
MA in Education with a specialization in Sport Management

Frequently asked Questions

Additional questions about the application requirements or process can be directed to
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Q: Why WSU?

A: Washington State University's faculty are experts in the field – both as practitioners and as researchers. Our M.A. degree is designed to equip people to become or improve their skills as successful sport managers, which has enabled graduates to find careers with such organizations as the NCAA, the Seattle Sports Commission, and the United States Tennis Association. Others work for university athletics departments (in the areas of marketing, development, sales, sponsorship, administration, and compliance) and with university and community recreation programs as directors and coordinators of a variety of program areas. Still other graduates have established careers as directors of high school athletic programs or are working for professional sport teams.

Q: What is the difference between the MA-thesis option and the MA-non-thesis option?

A: Students wishing to pursue the *M.A. thesis option* typically envision the possibility of later pursuing a Ph.D., and are thus required to take two research/statistics courses to prepare them for a research program at the doctoral level. Student wishing to pursue the *M.A. non-thesis option* typically view the degree as a terminal degree and aspire to work as a practitioner in the sport industry. Non-thesis students are required to take 30 graded credits (including only one research course); the culminating project for the M.A. non-thesis option is a comprehensive exam valued at 4 credits and evaluated on a Satisfactory/Fail basis.

Q: When are applications due?

A: The Priority deadline is January 10th for fall admission during the same year. However, note that an application will not be reviewed until it is **COMPLETE** with application, letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and entrance exam scores. Late, complete applications may be reviewed on a space available basis.

Q: What is needed to apply for the degree?

A: The general WSU Graduate School requirements, On-line application and fee, official transcripts and three letters of reference. In addition, the department requires the following in support of your application:

- 1) The Sport Management supplemental application (to be submitted to gradstudies@wsu.edu a link is below)
- 2) An entrance **exam score** (GRE or LSAT). The GRE Web site can be found at <http://www.ets.org/gre/>. University code: 4705.
- 3) Three **letters of recommendation** (see next question for additional information)
- 4) A current **resume** documenting your educational attainments and any sport management and related work and/or research experience
- 5) A **personal goal statement**: a one-page, single-spaced document describing your career goals and how you believe admission into the Sport Management program will help you pursue those goals

Q: Who should write the letters of recommendation for prospective students?

A: Three letters of recommendation are required. It is required that two letters are received from former professors (who can address the applicant's academic qualifications and their potential to succeed in

graduate school). Letters will also be accepted from professionals, job supervisors and others who can address the applicant's potential to succeed as a graduate student and as a professional in the sport industry.

A place to list contacts for recommendations is included in the Graduate School Application. Provide contact information (e.g., email address) and College.Net will e-mail individual requests to those listed. Alternatively you may have a letter sent directly to the Graduate School.

Q: Are there prerequisites for the M.A.?

A: Admission to the graduate program in Sport Management requires evidence of prerequisite knowledge in the areas of management, marketing, and law. Ideally, applicants will have completed coursework in sport law, sport marketing, management in sport organizations, sport communication, accounting/finance, economics, and a course on the socio-cultural aspect of sport. Evidence of prerequisite knowledge may consist of prior coursework or work experience judged adequate by the Sport Management faculty. **If you possess knowledge in one or more of these areas that may not be evident in your transcripts or resume, please address this in your personal goal statement.** If a student is admitted to the program without this experience or knowledge, prerequisite courses may be required before the student is eligible for graduate level courses in select content areas. Students should meet with their advisor about their deficiency requirements prior or upon approval. Students may take prerequisite courses at other institutions prior to the start of their program if the courses are judged to be appropriate by their advisor in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Q: What is WSU looking for in its Sport Management graduate students ... How will my application be reviewed?

A: Once you submit your application to the Graduate School, it will be sent to the College of Education for review by the Sport Management Graduate Faculty Committee which evaluates each application and makes a recommendation to the Graduate School.

The WSU Graduate School **requires** that applicants have achieved a cumulative undergraduate **GPA of 3.00**. Additionally, the Sport Management program requires that applicants take an entrance exam (either the GRE or LSAT). In addition to the standard Graduate School application, the Sport Management program requires applicants to submit a Supplemental Application Form.

The minimum criteria for the GRE score is a combined score of 291, with verbal scores of 150 and higher and quantitative scores of 141 and higher. However, the faculty evaluates applications from a 'holistic' perspective in that each component (*GPA, exam score, personal statement, and letters of recommendation from academic sources*) is considered. Strength in one area may compensate for weakness in another. Our goal is to determine your readiness to complete graduate level work. If the application materials suggest deficiencies in one area (e.g., test scores or GPA) applicants may be asked to participate in an interview with sport management faculty via Skype, Elluminate, or some other form of internet-based communication.

Q: What if my undergraduate cumulative GPA is below a 3.00?

A: Subject to approval by the Sport Management Graduate Faculty Committee, students with less than a 3.00 cumulative undergraduate GPA may be admitted to the University as a ***Non Advanced Degree Candidate (NADC)***. Once admitted, the student must maintain a 3.00 GPA and complete 12 hours of graduate level course work. At that time, if the grades earned are "B" or higher, the application will be re-evaluated for admission to the Sport Management program, without consideration of the undergraduate GPA. A maximum of 9 credit hours of graduate course work earned under NADC classification may be applied to graduate degree requirements. Thus, if this approach is taken, the number of credit hours necessary to obtain the M.A. may increase.

Q: What if I have not taken the GRE or LSAT exam?

A: Admission into the M.A. in Sport Management requires that students take either the GRE *or* LSAT entrance exams.

Applicants who need time to schedule the entrance exam have the option of applying to the graduate school as a ***Non Advanced Degree Candidate (NADC)***. Once a student scores satisfactorily on the GRE or LSAT

and the score is submitted to complete his/her application file, then the student can apply to change his/her enrollment status from NADC to a degree seeking student in the M.A. in Education with a specialization in Sport Management.

Q: I want to SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, where do I start?

A: This link will take you to the sport management application page **for overview of the application steps:** <https://education.wsu.edu/graduate/sportmanagement/sportmanagementoverview/>

This link will take you directly to the graduate school application: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/apply/>

This link will take you to the **supplemental form** which is a requirement specifically for sport management: <https://education.wsu.edu/documents/2015/10/2013-sports-management-supplemental-application.pdf>

A Note on FINANCIAL AID and NON-ADVANCED DEGREE CATEGORY (NADC) status:

Applicants considering this “degree holding pattern” as an NADC while they improve their GPA or because they are postponing the entrance exam should be aware that some types of financial aid are NOT available to NADC students. Please speak to the financial aid office for clarification about your situation if you require financial aid.

Q: Is the advisor I am assigned when I begin the program the advisor I'll have to keep through my whole program?

A: No, changing advisors is an easy process, and one that should be completed as you decide upon a research interest or find a member of the faculty with whom you would like to work. You will need a *Committee Change* form and signatures for your new chair/advisor as well as signatures for any new committee members. After completion, return the form to the Office of Graduate Studies so they may obtain the remainder of the signatures needed.

Q: What do I do if some of the courses I have on my Program of Study change?

A: If you are unable to take certain courses that have been already approved on your Program of Study and need to take other courses, you need to file a *Change of Program* Form. Make sure that any courses you replace on your Program of Study are allowable in the Handbook listings as well as approved by your chair/advisor.

Q: What do I do if I have a complaint or grievance about something in the department or my program?

A: The Graduate School has a grievance procedure on their website <http://gradschool.wsu.edu>.