Why Washington State University?

WSU’s online courses are taught by the same WSU faculty who teach at our Pullman campus. We are experts in the field – both as practitioners and as researchers. Washington State University’s online program is ranked among the nation’s top five online degree programs, and in the top 10 for its student services and for supporting veterans.

Our online sport management program follows the same curriculum as the Pullman-campus program, which has enabled graduates to find careers with such organizations as the NCAA, the Pac-12 Conference, university athletic departments and university recreation programs. Other graduates have established careers as directors of high school athletic programs, and with the United States Tennis Association, the Seattle Sports Commission and professional sport teams.

How are online courses scheduled?

Fall and Spring Online Sport Management courses are taught in a fifteen-week semester (summer sessions are shorter). Course content and assignments are structured week by week. Students can log on to the course site at their convenience and complete assignments throughout each week. Faculty are accessible (by phone, email, or online chat) at designated times each week.

What is the timeline to earn a degree?

The average timeline to earn a degree is about three years. Some students may complete the degree in two years; other students may take up to six years, the maximum time allowed by the WSU Graduate School to complete a graduate degree.

The degree requires 30 graded credits, plus 4 credits of Satisfactory/Fail earned in the last semester as a culminating exam. At least three online sport management courses are offered each fall and each spring semester. At least one course is offered during the summer.

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

Students wishing to pursue the MA-non-thesis option view the degree as a terminal degree and aspire to work as a practitioner in the sport industry. Online students are encouraged to pursue the non-thesis option.

The MA thesis option is designed for students who desire to study and explore educational research in Sport Management. It is well suited for those students wishing to eventually pursue a doctoral degree. An online student who wishes to pursue the thesis option should discuss it with an advisor during the first semester of enrollment.
What courses make up the curriculum?

The curriculum and degree requirements are identical for both on-campus and online MA students. In fact, some courses are composed of enrollees from both the Pullman campus and the online campus. Class size varies from eight to 20 students.

For a list of courses, please go to our website.

How much does it cost?

Tuition rates are the same for in-state and out-of-state students. To learn more about current tuition for graduate students, visit online.wsu.edu/grad/cost.aspx.

What type of undergraduate degree is typical of the applicant pool?

The MA students in our program come from a variety of disciplines, such as sport management, English, business, communications, recreation, and kinesiology. Ideally, applicants will have completed some coursework in sport law or business law, marketing, management, and basic communication courses in writing and/or speech. It is also helpful if the applicant has had coursework in economics, accounting, and sociology. A program of study will be designed to fulfill these prerequisites if a student has no previous coursework in some areas.

If an applicant can provide an example of knowledge or skill acquired through practical experience, that will be taken into consideration and should be noted in the supplemental form or in the applicant's personal statement. Applicants can also be admitted, then take additional courses online at WSU Global Campus or, upon approval, at other institutions.

What's the minimum undergraduate GPA?

The WSU Graduate School requires that successful degree program applicants have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00.

What if my undergraduate GPA is below 3.00?

If an applicant's GPA is below a 3.00, the graduate school will evaluate the last 60 credits of the student's undergraduate transcript. If the GPA for the last 60 credits is above a 3.00, the application will be considered.

Applicants with less than a 3.00 cumulative undergraduate GPA may apply as a Non-Degree Seeking student. This is considered a “provisional admit,” which means the student is admitted as Not Advanced Degree Candidate (NADC). Once admitted, the student must maintain a 3.00 GPA and complete 12 hours of graduate level course work and then the application will be re-evaluated for admission to the Sport Management program, without consideration of their undergraduate GPA. Please note that a maximum of 9 credits of graduate course work with grades of “B” or higher earned under NADC classification may be applied to graduate degree requirements. Thus, if this approach is taken, the number of credits necessary to obtain the MA may increase.

There are rare exceptions that allow a student with a cumulative GPA below a 3.00 to be admitted other than as a NADC. The graduate school allows the faculty to recommend a very small percentage of low GPA applicants for admission to the program. This process requires an interview with the faculty and a special letter of recommendation from the sport management faculty to the graduate school. If you suspect this is an approach you may take, then explain (in the supplemental application for Sport Management) why your situation is unique, why your GPA is low, and what makes you a candidate for academic success in our program.

Applicants considering NADC status, should know that some types of financial aid are not available to NADC students. Please check with the WSU financial services office for more information.

When are applications due?

Application deadlines for the online MA are more flexible than for the Pullman program. Please contact Dr. Crawford to learn if the program is still reviewing applications.
Is an entrance exam (GRE, GMAT, or LSAT) required?

Any of the three exams is acceptable. We hope to see a combined GRE verbal and quantitative score of at least 291, or an LSAT score of over 146. The exam score, letters of recommendation, and personal statement allow faculty to evaluate applicants with an holistic approach. Strength in one area may compensate for weakness in another. The GRE Web site can be found at www.ets.org/gre.

I want to submit my application. What do I need?

The following items must be submitted to the WSU Graduate School in addition to the online application:

- Official transcripts showing all previous college or university coursework.
- Three letters of recommendation (two of which must be from former professors and address academic qualifications).
- Current resume documenting your educational attainments and any sport management and related work and/or research experience.

A one-page, typed, single-spaced statement describing your career goals and how you believe your admission into WSU’s Sport Management program will help you to pursue those goals.

- Official entrance exam scores.
- A Supplemental Information Form submitted directly to the College of Education Office of Graduate Studies: Supplemental Information Form (.pdf).
- The Sport Management program requires evidence of prerequisite knowledge in the following areas prior to admission: academic study of sport, accounting/finance, communication, economics, law, management, and marketing. Evidence of prerequisite knowledge may consist of prior coursework or work experience. If you possess knowledge in these areas that may not be evident in your transcripts or resume, please provide a brief explanatory statement.

Who should write the letters of recommendation?

Three letters of recommendation are required. It is preferred that two letters are 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 their prospect as a professional in the sport industry. A place to list contacts for recommendations is included in the Graduate School Application.

What is the purpose of the personal statement?

The personal statement allows applicants to demonstrate their ability to write in an effective and professional manner. The statement also allows the faculty to better understand the goals of the applicant to be sure that our program is the right fit for you.

Also, admission to the graduate program in Sport Management requires evidence of prerequisite knowledge in the areas of management, marketing, and law. 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.

Where do I apply for admission?

General Application
Non-degree-seeking student (.pdf)

What happens to my application once I submit it?

Your application will be sent to the College of Education for review by the Sport Management faculty. The faculty evaluates each application and makes a recommendation to the Graduate School.

I still have a question.

For general information, please go to the WSU website. For more information about the application requirements or process, contact Nick Sewell at nsewell@wsu.edu. For more information about coursework or the online program itself, contact Dr. Tammy Crawford at tammycr@wsu.edu.