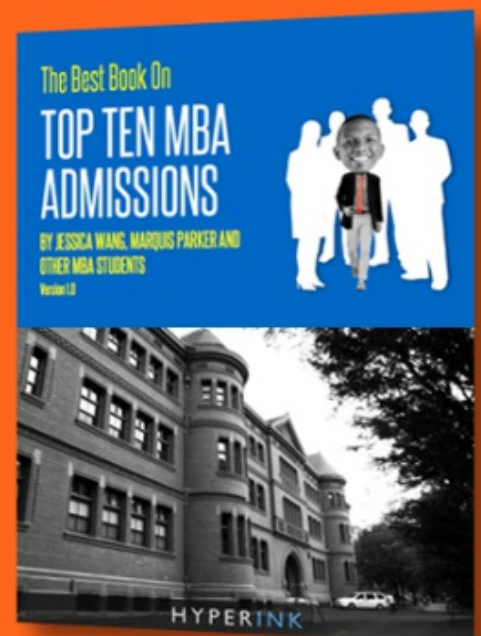


The Best Little Book On

APPLYING TO DUAL DEGREE MBA PROGRAMS

BY THE TOP TEN MBA TEAM

SELECT
CHAPTERS
FROM



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Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents	1
About The Publisher	3
About The Authors	5
Is A Dual Degree A Good Idea For An MBA?	7
3 Questions To Ask Yourself When Considering MBA Dual Degree Programs	9
Dual Degree MBAs: How To Combine HBS With A JD, PhD, MPP, And More!	12
Like What You're Reading? Spread The Word!	13
CHECK OUT MORE TITLES FROM OUR BEST BOOK SERIES!	14

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Finally, [email us](#) to sign-up for our exclusive newsletter where you'll receive new insights directly from our authors and more of *The Best Little Book* series!

About The Authors



Jessica Wang is a first-year MBA student at Wharton. Born and raised in the Bay Area, she attended Stanford University, where she majored in Economics and minored in Psychology. Jessica began her career as an Associate Consultant at Bain & Company in the San Francisco office, where she worked on cases in a variety of industries, including biotechnology, utilities, consumer products, and private equity. Next, she worked at The Wall Street Journal as part of the Advertising Strategy & Operations Group, where she worked on driving advertising revenue through strategic initiatives and new product offerings. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading her Kindle, and watching bad reality TV.



Marquis Parker is a business strategist, coach, advisor, mentor, and award-winning blogger on topics of MBA student life and admissions, careers, and business concepts. Currently, Marquis is a Vice President in the Office of the Chief Executive Officer of Aon Corporation, a \$10B+ firm focused on risk management, reinsurance, and human capital advisory. Prior to joining Aon, Marquis developed his foundation of business, general management, and strategic skills through his work on critical issues in a range of industry and organizational contexts. After earning his MBA, Marquis worked for McKinsey & Company, the global management consultancy, as a Management Consultant in the firm's Atlanta office. Following McKinsey, Marquis joined Waterstone Group Holdings, a Chicago-based strategic advisory and capital investment holding company

Marquis holds an A.B. in Computer Science from Princeton University, an M.B.A. and M.A. in Education from Stanford University, and a M.S. in Management of Information Technology

from the University of Virginia.

Reach out to him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) today!



Steven is a Harvard graduate who was accepted into the HBS 2+2 MBA program. He currently works in the high-tech industry.

Is A Dual Degree A Good Idea For An MBA?

By JESSICA WANG

Yes & No!

When I first thought of **pursuing my MBA**, I gave little thought to a dual degree. I had some ideas about going to law school, too, but in the end, I decided law school was just too much work. As far as med school goes, I am simply not cut out for it. Kennedy was a cool idea, but frankly, I don't care much about foreign policy.

In the end, I realized that I really just want to do business and pursuing my MBA is enough work for me and it satisfies my career goals. So for me, the answer was "No!"

Dual degrees create close-knit communities...

On the other hand, for the people who are doing **dual degrees**, they have some opportunities that people who are just in business school do not have. For example, pursuing a dual degree is a great way to make some close friends.

People doing dual degrees tend to divide into very close-knit sub-communities such as the Wharton **Lauder Program**. These are groups of around 80-90 students who become very close and have a strong sense of community.

Everyone in these communities knows each other really well. They have their own events. They do a lot of activities together. They share a lot of resources. There's a health care program that has the same kind of community.

Pursuing a law degree takes a lot of time and energy

If you are doing a **JD/MBA** this may be a little bit trickier, because this combination makes it hard to figure out your timing. There is one JD/MBA in my cohort, and I rarely see him because he is constantly working.

This student is very focused on his law school, much more than his business school. **Business school** is very challenging, but not nearly as challenging as law school. I really almost never see this student because he's so greatly involved in his law program.

People in medical programs may need to be away from campus a lot

People in the **Kennedy program** get to know each other really well, but they have to leave

campus, and that's really a detriment. They have to leave for 3-4 months or even a year.

In this situation, students don't necessarily graduate with their classmates. They don't get an opportunity to be with each other for the entire time. A lot of students don't like that aspect of the program.

Make a choice that truly suits your career goals

The bottom line is that you should focus on your career goals. If you really think it will be helpful to you to have a second degree, then you should certainly pursue it. However, if you really just want a job in banking or consulting, I don't think there is any point in adding a degree in law or some other subject.

3 Questions To Ask Yourself When Considering MBA Dual Degree Programs

By MARQUIS PARKER

What are the Typical Dual Degree Programs?

Some typical dual degree programs you might have heard of are the JD/MBA or MBA/JD.

These are dual degree programs that are offered jointly by a number of law and business schools.

The dual degree candidate will earn both a Juris Doctor degree and a Master's of Business Administration degree when pursuing this program.

Harvard Business School (HBS) offers the JD/MBA in conjunction with their Law School and the MD/MBA in conjunction with their Medical School.

MA/MBA with a masters degree in education is pretty common at places like Stanford University Graduate School of Business (GSB) as well as at Harvard Business School (HBS) & Columbia.

There is also an MBA/ Master's in International Relations which Wharton has. This is a very popular one within their Lauder program. These multidisciplinary learning programs are very popular with people who have diverse interests.

Are You Willing to Make a Trade-Off?

I think one thing you should consider before settling on a dual degree is whether you are interested enough in the second topic to **possibly sacrifice some course work in the MBA program.**

With myself as an example, I have some non-profit aspirations in education. I really wanted to take education classes that will support these interests. However, to do that would mean there were business classes I couldn't take.

These courses conflicted on my scheduled with entrepreneurship and venture capital. I would have loved to have taken those class but they conflicted with an education school class I wanted to take on the economics of education.

That class was a requirement. I couldn't skip it. **I had to give up the entrepreneurship and venture capital courses.**

So you can see that there's a bit of a trade-off that can be required sometimes. You have to ask whether you are interested enough in the non-MBA topic to make that trade-off.

Can You Make Good Use of Your Second Degree?

Another factor to consider is whether or not you will use the other degree immediately when you leave school. If not, is it worth it enough for you to spend the extra time, effort, and resources to do that program?

For example, with the JD/MBA programs, at most schools it takes an extra two years to complete both degrees. If you are not going to be attorney and won't use the actual law learning, *you may look back and say that you really didn't need it.*

Consider the fact that you could have **saved \$120,000 in loans** and two years in lost time if you had only done the MBA. For this reason, you have to be very thoughtful about whether you will use the second degree that you are trying to get in addition to the MBA.

Another thing to consider with the JD is if you really want to practice law, does it make sense to apply to business school? You can always just take courses in other departments.

Depending on the way your program schedule is aligned, you could be a law student taking a business school course if it can fit in your curriculum. You don't necessarily have to go full force and get a whole separate degree.

How will you apply to the program?

At Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB), you can apply to the MA/MBA program from the start. You can apply for education school at the same time you apply for business school.

However, you could just be in the MBA program and then apply to the education school while you are a student. That's what I did.

I learned about the education program during my first quarter, applied at the end of my first quarter and was a joint degree student as of January '05. The beginning of my winter quarter first year was when I started the education program, and that worked very well for me.

I think it would have just added another essay and another set of application requirements I had to pull together to apply to the education school while I was doing my MBA applications. **It made it much easier to apply to the education school when I was already in at the business school.**

All I had to do was write a statement of purpose to the education school and send it off.

When considering a dual degree:

1. Think about whether or not you actually need or will use it.
2. Consider what you might have to give up in your primary studies to accommodate your secondary studies.
3. Decide if you might not be better off **just taking a few courses in your secondary interest** rather than expending all the energy, effort and money to pursue a dual degree.
4. If you do decide to go for a dual degree, consider applying for your secondary interest after you have been accepted to the top 10 MBA of your dreams.

Dual Degree MBAs: How To Combine HBS With A JD, PhD, MPP, And More!

By STEVEN RAO

Harvard's 2+2 Program is a great program for students and also for **grad schools**. The schools will be getting some really smart students. Essentially, **Harvard Business School** is getting first crack at these students before **Stanford** or **Wharton**.

Is it a good idea to pursue a **dual degree** when you are participating in Harvard's 2+2 Program? Well, I think that the folks who are attracted to this program are obviously an outrageously precocious group of people!

In the beginning, they are all sure to be convinced they will be joint degree students. However, it's hard to say how this will play out with the **2+2 Program**.

There hasn't been a 2+2 class yet, since the first one is scheduled for the **Fall of 2011**. It's unclear whether it would really be feasible to pursue a dual degree in this program, which requires 2 years of work experience. Some examples of common dual degrees include MBA plus JD (Juris Doctor, law), MBA plus MPP (Masters in Public Policy like at Kennedy School of Government), MBA plus PhD, or MBA plus a Masters in Education.

Be that as it may, many of my friends have applied for one of Harvard's other graduate programs. In the end, I believe it will be like being in **pre-med** in college.

A lot of people say they want to do pre-med, but later drop out and want to do other things. I think lots of people will say they want to **pursue a dual degree**, but not too many will be able to follow through.

Nationwide, there are no other programs like 2+2. It is charting a new course and breaking new ground. Time will tell as to whether or not it is a good or feasible idea to pursue a dual degree while participating in **Harvard's 2+2 Program**.

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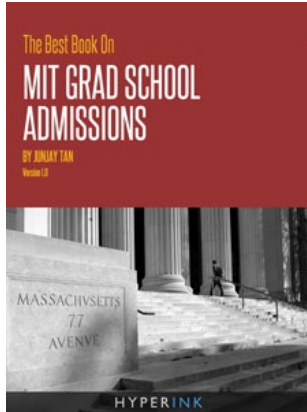
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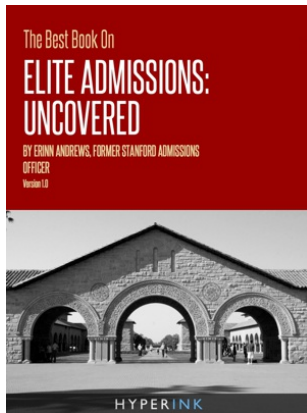
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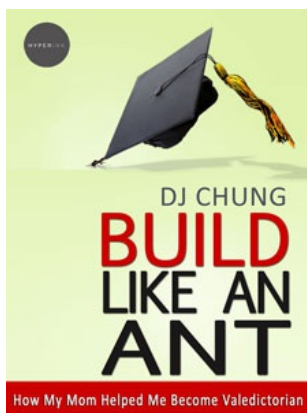
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