

# Penn State Smeal MBA

---

Please see below for important information about Summer Pre-MBA Programs and Off-Campus MBA Career Fairs:

## I. SUMMER PRE-MBA EVENTS

A number of Fortune 500 companies offer pre-MBA events, internships, and networking opportunities to attract and evaluate rising MBA talent. We've compiled [a list of activities](#) that might interest you. Event dates, time commitments, and registration deadlines vary. Each organization's website is included so you can review event details. Because this list doesn't include every pre-MBA event available, we encourage you to also view recruiting events for specific companies that you are considering.

## II. OFF-CAMPUS MBA CAREER FAIRS

There are a number of career fairs targeting graduate business students that occur off-campus throughout the fall semester. We compiled [a list of the more prominent fairs](#) in case you decide to participate in one of these events. Each year, a number of Smeal MBA students successfully secure full-time jobs and summer internships at highly respected business organizations such as Accenture, Ecolab, Hershey, and USAA through off-campus MBA fairs.

Based on past results of our students, the most productive fair for Smeal MBA students has been the one sponsored by the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA), which will take place in Philadelphia, PA, this September. (Note: NBMBAA has chosen to partner with the Prospanica professional association for the 2017 career fair.) Historically, NBMBAA has attracted the largest number of employers amongst any of the MBA-specific fairs. And while originally launched as a career fair for diversity students, NBMBAA welcomes all students to their event.

NBMBAA offers students the opportunity to post resumes for pre-fair employer viewing, as well as the utilization of NBMBAA's on-line job board in the weeks leading up to their career fair. A sizable number of employers involved in the NBMBAA career fair use this pre-fair job match service to pre-schedule interviews with students planning to attend the career fair. *Our research on outcomes at NBMBAA clearly indicates that students who register early and fully utilize this pre-fair service typically generate the most interviews and offers from the event.*

### **Additional Career Fair Notes:**

**Pre-Scheduled Interviews & Discounted Rates:** Besides NBMBAA, a number of other off-campus, MBA career fairs allow employers to post job announcements in advance of the actual fair. If a career fair you plan to attend offers pre-fair job postings, be sure to take advantage of this service with the goal of securing interviews in advance. Furthermore, many of the conferences offer discounted pricing (aka: early bird rates) for students who register early.

**Program-Supported Lodging:** The MBA Program will arrange complimentary housing for the 2017 NBMBA Career Fair in Philadelphia, PA. Additional information about how to secure your space in the Smeal MBA hotel block for the NBMBA fair will be provided in a separate, future e-mail message. Financial support for all other off-campus career fairs will be decided on a case-by-case basis, with approval based upon the persuasiveness (i.e. the value created) of the formal proposal, as well as the availability of funds in the MBA Program budget.

**Academic & Extracurricular Conflicts:** Unfortunately, each year several MBA career fairs are scheduled on dates when Smeal MBA students have significant, conflicting academic or extracurricular obligations. For academic purposes, Penn State policy states that individual professors have authority to define excused and unexcused absences. Job search activities are not recognized by the University as a formal, acceptable reason for missing class. *If you plan on attending any of these events, you must seek permission from the appropriate authority for the class or activity, and you must make arrangements to meet all academic and/or extracurricular obligations.* It is further suggested that you discuss the possibility of missing a class or an assignment deadline with your professor as soon as you become aware of the potential for an absence and/or conflict.

**Success & Market Readiness:** For first year students, we believe the level of success a student typically experiences at early, off-campus career fairs is strongly correlated with the student's readiness (i.e. the strength and depth of knowledge about their intended career tract) for the highly competitive MBA job marketplace. If you are unsure about your own readiness for one of the fall semester MBA career fairs, please seek further guidance from [Brenda Fabian](#) or [Matt Soroka](#).

*Smeal MBA & MMOL Career Services & Employer Relations*