

FAQ for Maroon MBA Scholars

Maroon MBA Scholars is a direct path to an MBA after graduation from the University of Chicago. This program combines business education with on-the-job experience in the first three years after undergrad. Students study full-time at Chicago Booth during the first year and then have flexibility in how to complete the program. After the first year, Maroon Scholars have the option of immediately moving into the Evening or Weekend MBA Program to continue your studies while working full-time. Or, as an alternative, you can choose to focus on your professional aspirations for two or three years and then return to complete your last year of coursework as a Full-Time MBA student.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What's the benefit of Maroon Scholars?

The Maroon Scholars Program provides a path to start your Masters of Business Administration right out of college, benefit from specialized career support, and gain valuable work experience while completing your degree early in your career.

Can I decide to take a job instead of join Maroon Scholars?

Yes, if you have a job offer and decide to start working immediately, you can move into consideration for the Chicago Booth Scholars deferred MBA program (please note: if you didn't submit a GMAT/GRE score and do not qualify for a waiver, you will be required to submit a test score). The deadline to make your decision and commitment to Maroon Scholars is July 1.

What's the cost of the Maroon Scholars MBA?

The cost will be comparable to that of Chicago Booth's traditional MBA offering. However, as a Maroon Scholar, you are eligible to receive financial support in the amount of a one-year 50% tuition scholarship from the College, for the 2020-2021 academic year. You'll also be able to work with our financial aid team to consider your funding options.

Can I do a joint degree with Maroon Scholars?

If you were to complete the first year at Booth and then return as a full-time student after two to three years of work experience, you may be able to pursue a joint degree. It would depend on the program—for example, the MBA/MPCS would be possible.

As an international student, will I need to reapply for a student visa?

Since you are changing academic levels from bachelor's to MBA, you will need to request an updated I-20 or DS-2019 from the Office of International Affairs that reflects the change and extends the validity of the document. As it pertains to the student visa sticker:

- If the visa sticker in your passport remains valid now and into the future, then a new student visa (F-1 or J-1) will not be required.
- If the visa sticker in your passport has expired, but you are still in the U.S. and have no intention of traveling abroad, you may remain here legally without needing to travel and apply for a new visa sticker from a U.S. consulate or embassy so long as your I-20 or DS-2019 remains valid. For more visit the [OIA website on Visa vs. Status](#)
- If you are abroad and your student visa sticker has expired, then you will need to obtain an updated I-20 or DS-2019 and schedule an appointment at a U.S. consulate or embassy to apply for a new student visa sticker.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

How will I gain leadership skills?

Through a unique cohorted experience, you and your fellow Maroon Scholars will take the LEAD class together. LEAD is the leadership development course that all Booth students take. Its programming begins during orientation and continues into the first quarter of classes. Led by second-year students who serve as facilitators, you'll participate in discussions and hands-on exercises around team-building, communication styles, and individual leadership dynamics. This is an experiential course designed to help you identify your strengths and opportunities as a leader and integrate those insights into an active, intentional, and ongoing process of leadership development.

What leadership style will I learn at Booth?

Through the Chicago Approach to leadership, you'll experiment, collect data, and learn from experiences in order to develop the insight and action skills essential to working with and leading others. This is a proven approach that empowers you to develop your own unique leadership tool kit—and deploy these skills throughout your entire career. During your time at Booth, you will explore who you are as a leader, what you stand for, and how others perceive you. As a Maroon Scholar, we will help you develop an individualized plan to support your growth as a confident and bold leader.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

What kind of career support will I have?

As a Maroon Scholar, you will have robust career mentorship and support for pursuit of employment opportunities. The College's Career Advancement team and Booth's Career Services team will work closely with you to ensure you have the tools necessary to help secure a full-time position after the first year at Booth. This support and guidance will be tailored to the individual needs of Maroon Scholars in order to maximize your success with prospective employers.

When will recruiting for my full-time job begin?

The recruiting season will ramp up in the fall, so you'll begin prepping later this summer. You will have additional assistance to get ready for the cycle, including resume reviews, mock interviews, and career readiness programming. Professional development efforts will be led by the Career Advancement team and will help in securing a full-time position following the completion of your first year at Booth.

Can I do a part-time internship during my first year of the program?

It is not advisable as most of your time will be committed to the Full-Time MBA Program during your first year, including courses, student groups, career prep, and leadership development.

Could I move away from Chicago to work during the second and third year?

Yes, after the first year of full-time courses, you can pursue employment opportunities outside of Chicago.

CURRICULUM

Do I have access to Booth's full course offerings?

Yes, your curriculum is the same as all Chicago Booth students, including the flexibility to build out your coursework to best suit your academic and professional needs. As a Maroon Scholar, we will work with you individually on your academic scheduling, plus you will receive additional specialized programming outside of the classroom.

Is there flexibility in deciding after the first year to stay full-time at Booth for a second year?

We emphasize that gaining two years of work experience before graduating from the MBA will benefit your professional trajectory. However, we will work with you to create a program of study that makes sense for your long-term success and post-MBA career goals.

While working in my second and third years, how many courses would I take?

Students can take one to three classes per quarter—many decide to take two. We can help you determine the best approach to your academics in order to balance working while pursuing the MBA.

What are the various paths I can take as a Maroon Scholar?

After the first year, you can continue your MBA coursework while working full-time and pursuing classes as a part-time student through the Evening and Weekend MBA Programs. Or, after the first year, some students may choose to work for two to three years and then return to finish the degree as a full-time MBA student.

STUDENT LIFE

What activities will I have access to outside of classes?

As a Maroon Scholar, you are integrated as a member of Chicago Booth's MBA experience. Which means you have access to student programming and extracurriculars. Between the student groups, competitions, speakers, and other activities, you'll wonder when you can find time to study!

How can I get involved before school starts?

Even prior to the first day of class, you can connect with [current Booth students](#) about their experiences and industry interests. Maroon Scholars will also have continued engagement through virtual happy hours, events with current student and alumni speakers, introductions to Booth resources, and other online opportunities.

Are there additional resources specifically for Maroon Scholars?

As an early career MBA student at Booth, you'll have access to a variety of special events and activities geared especially for you. Recent examples include etiquette dinners, workshops on perfecting your elevator pitch, and networking events with Booth alumni to help you make the most of your MBA experience.