
What Business Electives Should I Take?

**Please note this information can change and is current as of Jan. 2021.*

Students will notice there are at least two “electives” to take as part of the Business A.A. Degree program. For students who do not need to take ENGL 101, there are a total of 3 electives. An elective is generally anything you want!

So what should you take?

- **Take what interests you - which is the point of an elective.** One course could be life changing, sending you on a different path, and college is a good time to explore that. However, some electives can also be helpful to *keep options open, which is always a good idea*. Plans can change and keeping options open is a good way to help have more opportunities.
- **For business electives**, our program generally recommends the following:
 - **(1) MGMT 201 Business Law as an elective.** The material is helpful for personal and professional endeavors to be familiar with the law.
 - **This course is a gateway course at some schools.** This course is a gateway course at schools like Towson University and transfers to most schools, even some like Georgetown University! To maintain that theme of keeping options open, it is good to take this class.
 - **Transfers as an elective to Smith.** For UM’s Robert H. Smith School, this course will transfer as an elective, but students will take it again Junior year. Still, the program supports students taking it to have a foundation.
 - **Important to complete as part of a business curriculum.** While many students plan to go to the Robert H. Smith School, not all will have that opportunity and so it is important to make sure this class makes it into your business curriculum (which many schools have you complete before transfer).
 - **CPA Exam support.** This course is one of the Maryland courses students can take to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam and will help with the CPA exam for those that have an interest in Accounting. (Note if transferring to Robert H. Smith School you will only get CPA exam credit for this course one time despite taking it at both MC and UMD).
 - **(2) BSAD 111 Personal Finance.** This class transfers to the Robert H. Smith School as an elective at this time. However, some institutions will not accept BSAD 111, notably Towson. As you do not know where you will transfer despite your plans, choosing electives only based on a transfer institution can be difficult. Remember, this course is extremely helpful for your personal and professional life to learn important skills about how to make money grow and borrowing in an informed manner as well.
- **Communications.**
 - **COMM 230 Introduction to Public Relations.** This course is popular for marketing students and will transfer to the Robert H. Smith School. It has COMM 108/112 (which you take as part of our business degree) as its prerequisite so can make sense as an elective.
https://mcssb.glob.montgomerycollege.edu/eagle/bwckctlg.p_display_courses?term_in=202130&one subj=COMM&sel crse strt=230&sel crse end=230&sel subj=&sel levl=&sel schd=&sel coll=&sel divs=&sel dept=&sel attr=

- UMD and most other schools will accept **ONLY one from COMM 108 or COMM 112**, so students are cautioned not to take BOTH. Only one is required as part of our business degree requirements.
- **COMM 250 Theories of Communication.** This course is a Gateway course for a COMM major at UMD – for a student whose GPA is below a 3.0 and chances of admission to UMD Smith School may be reduced, this class can allow a student to choose a Communication major at UMD (especially at UMD COMM Shady Grove where they have a Digital Media focus, similar to advertising/marketing). Students with a GPA in the 2.5 range are welcomed into the COMM major at USG, and their program allows entry both fall and spring for COMM majors (as opposed to business, which is only in the fall).
<https://shadygrove.umd.edu/academics/degree-programs/ba-communication>
- **Data Science Certificate.** There is a growing interest in this field for business students. Accordingly, some have expressed interest in completing a Data Science Certificate alongside the Business A.A. Degree. At this point, Robert H. Smith has confirmed most of these classes are currently transferable. The nice thing is students already take the Statistics for Data Science, MATH 117/BSAD 210 for Business, and they can complete two out of the four required data courses for the Data Science Certificate as electives (three if they do not need ENGL 101 and can take an elective instead), meaning with one or two extra classes, the student can concentrate electives to complete this Data Science Certificate with their degree, a neat opportunity! Just remember, generally most schools will only accept a maximum of 60 credits and there can be out of pocket expense for the course as financial aid only covers the degree requirements. For more information, visit: www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/data-science/data-science-certificate.html
- **General education courses (especially courses shown in bold for students considering out-of-state or private schools).** For a student heading to a MD state school, anything from the general education list is great for transferability! www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/general-education-program/index.html
- **Interested in UMD? Check past transferability on UMD's transfer list.** Note that some classes do transfer to UMD but NOT to Robert H. Smith School. While UM may accept some MGMT courses as electives for non-Business majors, the only two MC MGMT courses that UM will accept for Business majors are MGMT 201 Business Law and MGMT 210 Entrepreneurial Opportunity – all other MC MGMT's such as MGMT 101 Intro to Management or MGMT 211 Intro to Marketing are taken after transfer at the upper level so the school will not provide credit). These are footnoted in UMD's transfer system as footnote 11. <https://app.transfercredit.umd.edu/>
- **Three credit courses.** Any courses under 3 credits do not transfer well, so we usually direct students toward three credit options.

Remember our disclaimer regarding TRANSFER ADVISING. Students should always “check with the source” regarding academic advising, especially with regard to transfer. Things change, so while we provide general guidance, you should always contact your potential transfer institutions directly as well.

Please access the **MC Business Student Orientation** and the specific transfer resources within it for more information at.... <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/business-orientation>.