

No More Worries

A 2008-09 Course Scheduling Guide for Floundering CoB Students

One only has to visit the first floor corridors of Joseph Greene Hall, home of USM's College of Business, just days prior to the beginning of a new semester to see that a large number of CoB students have academic difficulties at one time or another. It is then that the CoB's Academic Suspension Committee meets to decide the fates of suspended CoB students' appeals for reinstatement. The students, themselves, crowd the first floor corridors and classrooms of JGH at this time, waiting for their individual appeal hearings.

Difficulties can also arise for students when it comes to obtaining the necessary credits for graduation from USM. According to sources, this situation, when faced by offspring of important private sector financial supporters of the CoB, spawned former CoB Dean Harold Doty's idea for a so-called "secret degree program." Had that idea not been quashed by the CoB's Undergraduate Programs Committee, Doty, or any CoB dean, would have had signature authority to award a separate bachelor's degree in business to students who lacked the necessary total SCH to graduate the usual and customary way.

Whether measured by time spent by members of the ASC or members of the UPC, the CoB has spent significant quantities of resources throughout the years addressing the consequences of students' academic difficulties. Up until now relatively little thought has been given to preventative measures -- measures that would eliminate the need for spending significant quantities of resources on the back end. Staffers at USMNEWS.NET have answered that call by putting together what sources are referring to as a course scheduling guide for floundering (wayward) CoB students. This guide provides a list of the 35 best course scheduling options available to CoB students for either addressing academic difficulties once they arrive, or *for avoiding them altogether*, which was the primary goal of USMNEWS.NET staffers in putting the guide together.

These 35 options, listed below in Table 1, work to accomplish these goals by putting students into course sections that they can manage, even if also carrying a full-time job. These 35 options are ranked on the basis of the "George Carter Rigor Ratio" (GCRR) that was introduced in USMNEWS.NET's recent *Special Report* series on gut courses and gut profs in the CoB. The GCRR is constructed, on a course-by-course basis, for each course taught by each CoB prof. Thanks to pickaprof, it makes use of *actual grades* from each CoB professor, and, it is equal to the total number of Cs and Ds assigned by a given CoB prof divided by the total number of As and Bs assigned by that CoB prof. As such, "easy graders" will have smaller GCRRs than "hard graders." Table 1 below begins with the easiest course options that are available to CoB students, and moves up from there.

Table 1
A Course Scheduling Guide for Floundering CoB Students

Course	Instructor	George Carter Rigor Ratio	Prerequisites
BA 301	Managerial Stats I Lambert, J.	0.000	MAT 102, CSC 100
FIN 350	Bank Administration Lindley, J.	0.000	FIN 300

IB 472	International Bus	Lambert, J.	0.000	corequisite: FIN 472
MGT 400	Glob Man Pol & Strat	Topping, S.	0.000	Sr., ACC 300/320/325, FIN 300, MGT 300, MKT 300
MGT 482	Sm Bus Ops MGT	Sequeira, J.	0.000	MGT 475
MIS 300	MGT Info Sys	Chen, K.L.	0.000	
MIS 315	Obj Orient Bus Prog	Chen, K.L.	0.000	6 hours programming
MIS 320	E-Bus App Strategy	Chen, K.L.	0.000	
		Hsieh, C.-T.	0.000	
MKT 430	Sales MGT	Wittmann, M.	0.000	MKT 300
TM 467	Conv & Meet MGT	Price, C.	0.000	TM 368
MKT 322	Creative MKT	Smith, W.	0.014	MKT 300
BA 303	Regression Analysis	Malik, F.	0.018	BA 301
MGT 400	Glob Man Pol & Strat	Zantow, K.	0.020	Sr., ACC 300/320/325, FIN 300, MGT 300, MKT 300
FIN 472	International FIN	Lindley, J.	0.030	FIN 300
MGT 400	Glob Man Pol & Strat	Peyrefitte, J.	0.030	Sr., ACC 300/320/325, FIN 300, MGT 300, MKT 300
MKT 322	Creative MKT	Broadus, C.	0.030	MKT 300
MGT 400	Glob Man Pol & Strat	Duhon, D.	0.033	Sr., ACC 300/320/325, FIN 300, MGT 300, MKT 300
MIS 301	Database MGT Sys	Chen, K.L.	0.045	MIS 300
ACC 300	Managerial ACC	Brown, J.	0.050	ACC 200
BA 303	Regression Analysis	Nissan, E.	0.050	BA 301
MIS 309	Bus Proc Sys & Con	Davis, D.	0.091	MIS 300
MIS 406	Data Comms, N & S	Magruder, J.	0.091	MIS 300
ACC 409	Auditing	Albin, M.	0.094	ACC 325 with at least a C
MGT 495	International MGT	Peyrefitte, J.	0.097	MGT 300
ECO 440	Econ Development	Klinedinst, M.	0.118	ECO 201-202
MIS 408	Open Source S'ware	Magruder, J.	0.118	MIS 300
FIN 300	Prin Finance	Shi, W.	0.123	ACC 200, ECO 201-202, MAT 102
BA 301	Managerial Stats I	Nissan, E.	0.125	MAT 102, CSC 100
MIS 310	Bus Sys Des & Dev	Davis, D.	0.133	6 hours programming, MIS 301
TM 240	Intro to Travel	Price, C.	0.133	
MKT 300	Prin Marketing	Broadus, C.	0.143	
MGT 455	Org Theory	Zantow, K.	0.147	MGT 300
TM 378	Casino & Res Ops MGT	Green, E.	0.148	TM 240
ACC 200	Intro Fin ACC	Brown, J.	0.154	
TM 200	Intro to Hosp & T	Price, C.	0.154	

Table 1 pretty much speaks for itself. There are a few things, though, that warrant reiterating. First, CoB students with GPA difficulties will likely want to concentrate their efforts (to look for easy courses) in the MIS and TM areas. If floundering CoB students can complete MIS 300 under Kuo Lane Chen, whose GCRR for that course is an embarrassing 0.0, then using other MIS courses to bolster one's GPA becomes a walk in the park. For example, MIS 300 is the only prerequisite for MIS 301, MIS 309, MIS 406, and MIS 408. If CoB students pick gut sections of these courses, they will face GCRRs of only 0.045, 0.091, 0.091, and 0.118, respectively. The MIS profs who provide these embarrassingly low GCRRs are Chen, Donna Davis, James Magruder, and Magruder (again), respectively. In addition to these selections, there are other gut sections of MIS courses that have no real prerequisites. These include MIS 315 and MIS 320. Students have the option of Chen, with a 0.0 GCRR, for the former, and Chen and the *McCarty Distinguished Professor of MIS*, Chang-Tseh Hsieh, for the latter. In the case of MIS 320, both Chen and Hsieh offer unmitigated gut sections, with GCRRs of 0.0 in each case. In TM, Catherine Price's sections of TM 200 and TM 240 are gut sections

that do not have prerequisites. Price's GCRRs for these two are only 0.154 and 0.133, respectively. Finally, if floundering CoB students can successfully navigate the TM 368 prerequisite, Price's section of TM 467 offers a GCRR of 0.0. Sounds like fun.

Second, floundering CoB students are presented with a rule-of-thumb in the Table 1 data: If in doubt, take a CoB distinguished professor's course! As mentioned earlier, Hsieh, the CoB's *McCarty Distinguished Professor of MIS*, offers a gut section of MIS 320. In addition to this course, the CoB's *Draughn Professor of Healthcare Marketing*, Michael Wittmann, offers a gut section of MKT 430. Ed Nissan, the CoB's *Economics Professor of Economics*, provides gut sections of BA 301 and BA 303. On top of these, assistant professor of MGT, Jennifer Sequeira, offers a gut section of MGT 482. Sources at USMNEWS.NET expect Sequeira to soon be named the first ever *Alvin J. Williams Endowed Professor of Minority Entrepreneurship*. Finally, there's Farooq Malik, who is a perennial *BAC Professor* or *Partnership Society Professor*.

Third, floundering CoB students should search for, and sign up for, whatever courses that assistant professor of IB, John Lambert, teaches. According to Table 1, Lambert offers unmitigated gut sections of BA 301 and IB 472. And, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Lambert's teaching reach is expanding to include both ECO 201 and ECO 202. Other reports here at USMNEWS.NET have shown that Lambert also offers the CoB's easiest sections of ECO 336. For CoB students who are struggling with their GPAs, Lambert is the ticket.

Table 1 above shows that floundering CoB students have at least 35 options for scheduling sections of courses whose GCRRs are (about) 0.15 or less. One can only imagine how many additional options there are if the GCRR threshold is increased to 0.25 or 0.30. With the release of the Table 1 data, there are fewer reasons left for floundering CoB students to flounder, even those who work 40-50 hours per week (in addition to school).