MBA vs. Master of Management in Energy: Key Differences

August 7, 2026

People across the world are recognizing the value of graduate management expertise, and that is reflected in the growing number of applications to graduate management education programs. For the 2024-2025 academic year, worldwide applications to graduate-level management degree programs grew 12 percent, according to a report from the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).

Business professionals can acquire graduate management expertise in multiple ways. For example, completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program can be a great way to enhance expertise. For professionals working in the energy sector, completing a Master of Management in Energy degree program could be a good option.

Comparing MBA vs. Master of Management in Energy degree programs can be helpful for anyone seeking advanced knowledge and skills in business and energy. Knowing more about these degrees can help individuals decide which degree program aligns with their career goals and can open graduates up to a range of advanced opportunities in their chosen field.

What Is an MBA?

An MBA is a graduate-level degree program in which students receive valuable, advanced education across multiple areas of business.

Students in MBA programs have the opportunity to not only build expertise in business principles but also strengthen their skills in areas such as leadership, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork.

What Do You Learn in an MBA Program?

MBA program curricula offer students advanced expertise across a broad range of subjects, including:

- Analytics
- Economics
- Finance
- People management
- Marketing
- Strategy
- Supply chain management
- Sustainability

Depending on the MBA program, students may have the opportunity to complete:

- **Practicum education** to gain experience doing work that corresponds to their preferred career path
- **Capstone projects** to apply what they have learned to address real-world challenges in business
- **International trips** to participate in projects at international locations, gain a global business perspective, and apply their expertise to solve a real-world business challenge

What Is a Master of Management in Energy?

In contrast to an MBA, a Master of Management in Energy degree program focuses on providing management expertise that is relevant to both the traditional energy sector and the renewable energy sector. Energy management degree programs are vital for, among other benefits, lowering energy consumption and promoting sustainability.

Students in Master of Management in Energy degree programs gain advanced expertise in energy markets and systems, energy trading, financial modeling for the energy industry, and risk management.

In addition to strengthening their technical skills in the business of energy, students improve other skills in key areas such as media messaging, collaboration, communication, and teamwork.

What Do You Learn in a Master of Management in Energy Program?

A Master of Management in Energy degree program curriculum offers students advanced expertise in energy-related subjects, including:

- Energy data analysis
- Energy fundamentals and trading
- Energy industry projects
- Energy investment banking
- Energy modeling
- Energy regulation
- Renewable energy project development and finance
- Renewables and grid integration

MBA vs. Master of Management in Energy: Key Differences

When deciding whether to pursue an MBA or a Master of Management in Energy, it can be beneficial to explore how the degrees differ in key areas such as program duration, degree concentrations or specializations, and career outcomes.

Program Duration

The duration of MBA programs can vary based on the program format:

- Full-time MBA programs can take two years to complete.
- Executive MBA programs can take about 17 months to complete.
- Professional and online MBA programs can take two to four years to complete.

Depending on their prior academic background, students can complete a Master of Energy Management degree program in two semesters (about eight to nine months) or three semesters (about 12 to 15 months).

Concentrations and Specializations

Both MBA and Master of Energy Management degree programs allow students to specialize in particular areas of expertise. For example, an MBA student can choose concentrations in subjects such as:

- Business analytics
- Energy and sustainability
- Global strategy
- Finance
- Marketing
- Strategy and innovation

In contrast, students in Master of Energy Management degree programs can choose specializations in subjects such as:

- Analytics
- Banking and finance
- Electric power
- Energy trading and risk management
- Entrepreneurship
- Renewable and sustainable energy

Career Outcomes

Graduates of MBA and Master of Management in Energy degree programs enter careers that align with each program’s overall focus.

For example, the MBA careers that graduates can enter span an array of business functions and include positions such as:

- Business intelligence analyst
- Financial manager
- Human resources (HR) manager
- Management analyst
- Marketing manager
- Project manager

Examples of energy management careers that graduates with a Master of Management in Energy can enter include:

- Energy auditor
- Energy manager
- Energy trading analyst
- Environmental consultant
- Renewable energy systems analyst
- Sustainability manager

Learn More About Master's Degree Programs at Tulane University

Whether students choose to pursue an MBA or a Master of Management in Energy, they can gain graduate-level knowledge and skills to help them progress in their careers, succeed in positions of leadership, and conduct meaningful work.

Individuals who are interested in obtaining advanced education in business or energy management can explore the programs that the A. B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University offers to learn how these programs can help them achieve their career goals.

Tulane offers a Master of Management in Energy degree program that focuses on the business of energy and MBA degree programs in the following formats:

- Full-Time MBA
- Executive MBA (weekends)
- Professional MBA (part-time)

- Online MBA

Now is the time to make your mark in business or energy by gaining the advanced expertise that graduate degree programs offer.

Sources:

- *Energy Strategy Reviews*, "Energy Transition and Sustainability Education: Bibliometric Insights for Holistic Graduate Program Design"
- Graduate Business Curriculum Roundtable, Data Report: The Graduate Business Curriculum
- Graduate Management Admission Council, Applications Trends Survey — 2024 Report
- Indeed, What Is an MBA Degree? (With Benefits and Requirements)