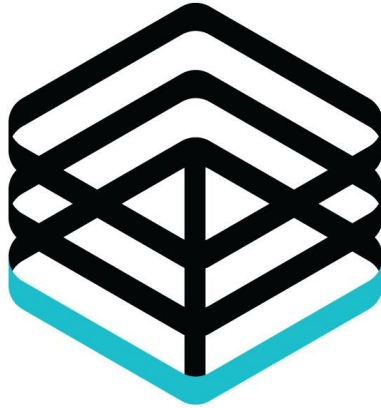




**VANTAGE
POINT MBA**



An Insider's Guide: Kellogg School of Management

2025

Table of Contents

- School Overview
- Academics
- Culture
- Extracurriculars & Alumni Network
- Heard in the Halls
- Example Day in the Life

School Overview

Dimension	Information / Comments
2025 U.S. News Ranking	#2
Location	Evanston, IL
Enrollment	524 (2Y Class of 2026)
% International	40%
% Male/Female	50% Male/50% Female
Mean GMAT & Median GRE	GMAT: 733; GRE: 162V/163Q
Average GPA	3.7
Accepts the GRE?	Y
Top Incoming Class Industries	32% Consulting; 18% Financial Services; 18% Technology
Average Work Experience	5.2 years upon matriculation
Self-Selected Interview?	All applicants are interviewed
Campus Visit Advice	Pre-COVID, we recommended visiting campus to learn more about the school, culture, and surrounding area but it is not essential to be accepted. If applicants choose to interview on campus they will interview with a current student/adcom, if they choose to interview where they live, they will speak with a local alumni. The admissions office states that there is no preference between interviewing locally or in Evanston.
Current Student Ambassadors?	Yes! They are a very friendly helpful resource.
Reputation / Bias & Reality	Kellogg's reputation is that it is a marketing school – it has a very strong marketing department with several renowned faculty members. There is a deep alumni network, and some companies prioritize recruiting marketing roles from Kellogg vs. other schools. However, most students at Kellogg aren't focused on Marketing. The faculty and alumni support is strong across all the other disciplines and students' interests are very diverse.

Academics

Curriculum

- Kellogg's curriculum is one of the more flexible of its peer set.
- The 2Y MBA includes nine core courses, but students with suitable undergrad coursework can waive select core classes or take an accelerated version of finance ('Turbo Finance'). Core courses typically make up 50% of first year coursework. The 1Y MBA only includes 2.5 mandatory credits, but students must waive out of accounting and finance.
- Kellogg is on the quarter system, which allows for more (~25%) classes to be taken by graduation.
- There are a wide variety of majors and focus areas (called "pathways"), though one is not required graduate.
- Most students begin taking electives in first year winter quarter. Popular classes include:
 - Negotiations – lectures on negotiations tactics and strategy as well as multiple negotiations simulations
 - Marketing Strategy – students work in teams on a course-long simulation accompanied by lecture with top professors
 - Public Economics for Business Leaders – teaches the economic principles of public policy
 - Launching and Leading Startups – survey of the entire process of launching a business: discovery to scaling to the role of CEO
 - New Venture Class Series – experiential series of three classes (Discovery, Development, Launch) that guides students through launching their own business

Classroom

- There are three types of classes at Kellogg: case-based classes, lecture-based classes, and experiential classes. In reality, there is some of each type of learning in pretty much all classes.
- The amount of preparation for class varies. When selecting classes, students can see past student reporting on the level of work and time commitment of the class as well as professor and course ratings.
- There is a team-based component in virtually every class. Group members' rating of each other often factors into the participation grade. The value of participation on a grade varies class to class from 0% - 50%. Many professors will cold call.

Grades

- Kellogg does disclose grades upon employer request (i.e., banking and consulting) but does not rank students.
- Approximately 90%-95% of students receive either an A or B in each class. Up to three classes (excluding core classes) can be taken 'pass/no credit'.
- Students with top GPAs graduate with honors and the Dean's List is named quarterly. Some scholarships are based on grades.

Culture

Student Experience

- Kellogg places students in 60–70 person, extremely diverse sections that serve as an additional network throughout the two years.
- Students are friendly, positive and humble. You often aren't aware of classmates' accomplishments until you've known them for a bit. Kellogg students are remarkably supportive of each other, you always feel like they 'have your back'.
- Culture is very 'student driven' in terms of running clubs, conferences, demanding course offerings, etc.
- There is no class on Wednesday, and this is when many club events and group meetings occur.
- Kellogg is very social, with lots of intramural sports and club-related events as well as small group dinners to get to know classmates in a more intimate setting.

Location

- Evanston, which is roughly 30 minutes from Chicago, is a nice place to live (on Lake Michigan, good restaurants/bars/movie theatre, etc.) with a strong community feel.
- Evanston is incredibly walkable; cars aren't needed and less than ~50% of students have them (but those who do will share them!)
- A lot of socializing occurs in Evanston first year, especially during week. People explore the city on Saturdays and generally more second year. Public transportation to the city is available 24/7 from campus.
- ~90% of students live in Evanston, with most living in off-campus apartments and many living in one of a few buildings.
- Campus housing is available – it is basic, fully furnished, and preferred by students that don't want to pay rent over the summer. International students get priority for campus housing, and it goes quickly.

Extracurriculars & Alumni Network

Popular Clubs, Treks, & Travel

- Kellogg has the largest number of student clubs of any program, all 100% student-run. There are three types of clubs at Kellogg – Professional (ex. Consulting Club), Affinity (ex. Black Management Association), and Fun (ex. Wine Club).
- Kellogg has an open club policy, meaning that any student can attend any club's events. Being "in" a club essentially means signing up in the campus system and receiving their club email updates. It is common to be involved in 1-2 clubs in a leadership capacity. The time commitment for a leadership role varies, but ranges between 1-4 hours per week.
- Popular events include:
 - KWEST – weeklong trips for first years before pre-term that about 80% - 90% of incoming students participate in.
 - Ski Trip – one of the largest MBA trips with 800-900 students attending; if you aren't a skier there are daytime activities such as poker tournaments, curling, movies and brunches.
 - Career Treks – a great way to learn more about an industry and get to see a variety of companies; past treks include Marketing and Private Equity in New York, Clean Energy and Fin Tech in San Francisco, and Media/Entertainment in Los Angeles.
 - Bollywood Bash – event organized by the India Business Club that includes a live dance performance followed by a celebration and Indian food dinner; students from all backgrounds participate.
 - Special K – student run musical and comedy performance that makes fun of the quirks of business school and Kellogg.
 - Charity Auction Ball – formal event where students and faculty donate creative items for auction (dinner at professors' houses, cooking lessons from students, themed parties hosted by students).

Alumni Interaction

- Kellogg alumni are very engaged with the student body and the culture of paying it forward extends well beyond the two years on campus. Students often share that an email to a Kellogg alum has an 100% response rate.
- The Kellogg community spans internationally and throughout the United States, so the opportunity to engage with Kellogg alums does not stop once you've left campus.

Heard in the Halls

School's Current Focus Areas

- Women's Programming – One example is the Women's Leadership Seminar, a six-part workshop for second year women taught by Kellogg's most prominent female faculty and guest speakers on topics ranging from negotiations to executive presence. The school is building out material for first year women as well.
- Entrepreneurship / Clinical Faculty – From a curriculum perspective, the school created the NuVention series to guide and support entrepreneurs. These classes are taught by clinical faculty who, when they are not teaching, work with startups directly or are in VC.
- Technology – Kellogg opened a San Francisco campus in 2017 with an immersion program to aid students in obtaining startup experience and building a West Coast network. Students can apply to spend winter quarter of their second year "abroad" in San Francisco spending three days/week working at a startup and the other two taking classes at the satellite campus.
- Access to Classes – Classes are allocated through a bidding system where students get points for the year that they can spend on the classes that they want to take. The administration is focusing on making popular classes more available to a broad set of students (ex. Negotiations)

Other Insights

- Inclusive of Significant Others – 'Joint Ventures' or 'JVs' can audit any class, join (and be an officer in) any club, and are encouraged to come on KWEST.
- Kellogg opened a new building in Spring 2017 that was designed to be "excessively public" and foster additional collaboration. The 'Global Hub' hosts nearly all 1Y / 2Y classes (as well as a gym & marketplace).
- Kellogg offers several joint degree programs:
 - MMM – M.S. in Design Innovation + MBA; contact Jack Bugas in BCG Chicago.
 - MBAi – New five-quarter tech MBA for students with STEM undergrad and technical work experience
 - JD/MBA – JD + MBA in three years
 - 1Y MBA – BCG has a specific contact regarding the Kellogg 1-year program if you can commit to attendance prior to applying; contact Marissa Phillips before you start the application process.
- Study Abroad – In addition to San Francisco, students can study abroad at partner universities all around the world during winter quarter of their second year.

Example Day in the Life

Student Profile & Goals

- I was an Environmental Sciences major in undergrad and worked in tech before Kellogg.
- My goal is to merge these two interests and work in either social impact or corporate social responsibility. I also want to gain a strong background in business fundamentals to ensure I have the skills to interact with other business units on the path to leadership.

Courses

- I decided to focus on finance courses (Fin I, Fin II, Fin Decisions) and ultimately become a finance major to gain a rock-solid understanding of the quantitative aspects of running a business. I am also taking Financial Analysis and Reporting learn to read and understand financial statements (10ks, etc.).
- Economics of Energy Markets – Energy is a core aspect of sustainability; I wanted to understand energy market fundamentals and infrastructure economics.
- Persuasive Presentations – This is an experiential class that gives you extensive experience with presentations and feedback from the class and the professor.

Extracurriculars

- Women Business Association VP Professional Development – (2nd year, 3 hrs/week) I work on a team to execute professional development programming (panels, workshops, etc.) for women at Kellogg.
- Energy Club VP and Director of Academics – (1st and 2nd year, 1.5 hrs/week) The thing that I loved most about this role is getting to work with the faculty on brining new energy curriculum to Kellogg students.
- Ski Committee Director of Logistics – (1st year, 1 hr/week) Ski committee is very active and social and getting involved gave me the opportunity to get to know other first and second years.

Favorite Part of Business School So Far

- KWEST / Ski Trip – I bonded with my closest friends and made new close relationships. Not to be missed.
- Experiential Learning Classes – I have tried to take at least one per quarter. The GIM Africa class was hands down one of the top experiences I have had at Kellogg
- Hear My Story Events –These events are hourlong sessions moderated by incredible faculty where a group shares their story around a specific topic (e.g., coming out, being from Latin America, dealing with a chronic illness).
- Ferris Buller's Day Off - Annual trip to a Cubs game and celebration downtown for the whole school.