

How to prepare for MCA entrance examination?

Shikha Malhotra provides a complete toolkit for MCA entrance preparations.

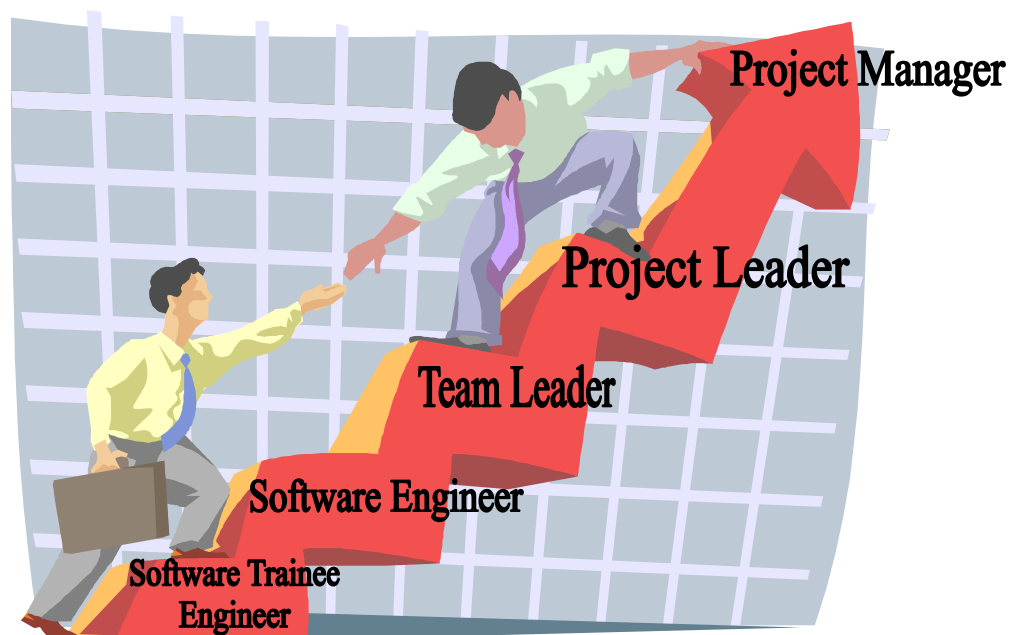
The MCA Programme

Masters in Computer Applications (MCA) is a three-year, full-time Post Graduate Programme imparted by various universities across India. The primary emphasis in MCA is on training students on designing information systems for various organisations such as banks, insurance companies, hotels, hospitals etc. Thus, the main function of MCA graduates is development of application software in diverse areas.

The major thrust of this programme revolves around giving the students a sound background in basic concepts in computer technology, higher levels of computer applications and specialisation and industrial project.

Career Opportunities

The MCA programmes offers career opportunities in the areas such as Management Information Systems, System Analysis & Design, Quality Management, e-business, ERP, Web enabled services, Content Development, Animation, Computer Education, IT Consultancy and Computer Communication Security amongst others.



Some of the companies visiting on the premier MCA campuses are TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Hughes Software, Mastek India, CMC Ltd., Tata InfoTech, IBM Global Services, Texas Instruments, L&T Ltd., Tata Unisys Ltd. Most of the elite colleges offer placements in companies like the ones mentioned above, with starting salaries varying from Rs 1.70 lakhs to Rs. 3.25 lakhs annually.

Eligibility Criteria

The MCA course pre-requisites demand that the student entering MCA must be a graduate in any discipline with Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level or at graduation, with 45% (40% in case of backward class candidates from Maharashtra state only) aggregate in graduation. Some institutes even restrict it to a first class Maths graduate. Before applying for any exam, the candidate should carefully weigh the options.

When are the entrance examinations held?

MCA entrance exams of various universities are held any time between January to June. The information regarding the availability of the application form, how and where to apply etc. is available from the newspaper advertisements, released by the universities or the respective web sites.

- Last year AIMCET (All India MCA Common Entrance Test) was also conducted for the first time by IIT, Roorkee. At the same time there are separate tests for separate universities / institutes across India.
- Most of the MCA Entrance tests are purely objective in nature. But a few of them also have a mix of multiple choice/ True or False/ Fill in the blanks, short-answer type of questions etc.
- One needs to be essentially good at Higher Maths, as most of the MCA Entrance Tests comprise Maths, Statistics and know how of Computers.

Some institutes also have Verbal Ability, Quantitative Aptitude, Test of Reasoning and General Knowledge in their test syllabi.

- Nowadays, every bookstore is stocked with a number of books that help you prepare for the various MCA Entrance Exams all over India. These books deal with questions on Mathematics, Computer Fundamentals and Reasoning.
- The contents of any such book will be covering the topics as follows-

Mathematics	Reasoning
Algebra	Alphabet Test
Linear Algebra	Dissimilar Test
Trigonometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differential Calculus • Convergence Series • Integral Calculus 	Analogy Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding/Decoding test • Number series & Time • Blood relations
Differential Equations	Ordering
Geometry	Syllogism
Analytical Plane Geometry	Questions based on Passage and Course of Action
Analytical Solid Geometry	Statement and Conclusion
Mechanics	
Statistics & Probability	
Numerical Analysis	
Linear Programming	

Advance preparation really is the key to success.

- Spend as long as possible preparing for the exam. The more familiar you are with exams, the less frightening they seem and the easier they are to complete properly.
- Take the practice exam under close to actual testing conditions.
- Preparation of these exams can be started along with the final year of graduation. The preparation for the MCA Entrance easily takes 5-6 months with a daily and consistent input of about 5 to 6 hours.
- Take exams for universities having a large number of intakes and try to get into the good colleges covered by these tests.
- It is advisable to select a few institutes of interest and prepare for a particular pattern of exams and the respective syllabus.
- Also, the weightage given to different subjects needs to be paid attention to e.g. students with Computer Science background may have

- advantage over the others in the entrance examination that lays more emphasis on computer fundamentals.
- Enroll in a test preparation course or a correspondence course that will provide you with course material, tests, practice sessions etc.

Where to look for more information?

- AIMCET Entrance examination: www.iitr.ac.in/aimcet
- www.dte.org.in - Information about Maharashtra CET pertaining to - Admission Process, Application Fee, List of MCA colleges, Important dates, Documents Required, Application from Receipt Centres, CET Centres, Information brochure, Apply Online etc.
- Preparation for entrance examination: -
 - www.careerlauncher.com
 - www.mcaace.com/mca
 - www.allcoachings.com

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