
DeGroot School of Business Alumni Townhall FAQ's Tuesday, October 12th, 2021

All answers are reflective of information available as of October 12. For the latest updates on DeGroot, please visit www.degroot.mcmaster.ca.

1. Are there any updates about the strategic plan?

Our current strategic plan has expired, having spanned 2015-2020. My belief is that the strategic plan belongs to our broader community, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We will begin by gaining a deeper understanding through an environment scan and seeking input from all of our stakeholders in the new year. We plan to continue to focus on our strengths, such as digital transformation and health care management, as well as develop new areas of focus reflective of our growing strengths and the interests of our community. It is imperative that we also have or retain new faculty with strength in these areas which also aligns with our immediate focus on improving our faculty to student ratio.

2. How do you plan to increase the reputation of DeGroot so that people perceive it in the same tier as Ivey/Rotman?

When complete, our new strategic plan will provide a framework and direction for achievements that will grow our reputation. An increase in research intensity, future-focused programming that builds on our strengths, and deeper engagement with more members of our community – these will all contribute to our reputation both at home and abroad.

3. Considering how the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped the world, core IT skills need to be a focus for students as they plan to enter the workplace. How will the DeGroot School of Business prepare our graduates for this reshaped job market?

Our curriculum does include areas such as analytics and data sciences, and we also have introduced a Business Technology Management diploma. We have seen a rise in interest in these courses and would like to continue expanding in this area. Last summer we offered our graduate students data science workshops leading to certifications from specific leading organizations in this space.

4. Why does the School continue to offer a B.Com and an Hons. B.Com when both are considered Honours Degrees? If the school wants to offer a Specialized and Non Specialized degrees, why not call it as such: eg. Honours B.Com and Honours B.Com with a Specialization in Accounting or

Finance or Marketing, Etc. Offering a B.Com and an Honours B.Com allows a person who does not know better to consider the B.Com as a "Pass" or "3-Year" degree.

Our regular BCom stream offers an option to those students who wish to take fewer Commerce electives and choose not to pursue the Honours path. This reflects a small percentage of our overall BCom student population, but it is consistent year over year.

5. What plans and options are we exploring to get back in top 100 b schools?

DeGroot continues to be a well-regarded business school around the world. On October 7, we were [ranked 9th among the top business schools in Canada in Maclean's 2022 Best University Business Programs ranking](#). Many of the strategic measures we plan to undertake in the years ahead will be designed to positively impact our reputation.

6. What new alumni services will be offered? For example, will you extend career services for existing graduates from six-months post-graduation to lifetime?

As a part of our strategic plan, we would like to work with alumni and gain their feedback on this topic. Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to our alumni and asking them for their input so we can develop a strategy to improve our services.

7. Will you offer new masters programs?

We are always considering ways to continue offering innovating programs to address the needs of business and society, however our top priority is acquiring more faculty to better serve our students and community members. Once we expand our faculty, we will be able to consider our growth options.

8. When will construction on the McLean Building start? The McLean Building looks great - and is a welcome addition. The current DeGroot building was always considered a "nice" building on the interior. The exterior leaves a bit to be desired. Could the existing DeGroot building's exterior be upgraded to incorporate the finishing's of the McLean building? This would present a much better image of the School relative to other schools such as Schulich and Ivey.

We are very excited that site work on the McLean Centre for Collaborative Discovery (MCCD) is underway. The General Contractor, will continue to work throughout the fall on demolition of the existing site structure and rerouting of essential services ensuring there are no interruptions to campus.

We have been addressing updates in the current facility gradually however, once construction of MCCD is complete, we will be turning our attention to the existing building to consider how it can be upgraded further. For the time being, our focus is on completing the construction of the McLean Centre.

9. What are the best ways for alums to tap into MBA talent pool and advertise opportunities? Full time and coop?

Any member of the MBA career team can support these types of requests but you can direct those enquiries to Melanie Wyndowe, Manager – Employer Development, wyndowem@mcmaster.ca.

For more information about hiring DeGroot talent, please visit [the Career and Professional Development site](#).

For more information about partnering with DeGroot for executive education, research, alumni engagement, student projects and more, please visit our [Partnering with DeGroot site](#).

10. Is there an appetite to expand into specializations such as analytics, sustainable energy etc?

We are always eager to expand and evolve at the DeGroot School of Business, and there is an interest to develop these areas further. Over the next year, we will be expanding our faculty complement and significantly increasing our expertise in these areas. This will allow us to explore growth across a variety of courses and specializations that will serve our students and help us deliver on our mission of transforming business and society for the better.