

## Texas Management Consulting Association Spring 2024 Application

### What is MCA?

The Management Consulting Association is a student-run association that aims to prepare UT students for the recruiting process for management consulting internships. MCA is run by a board of mentors who have each successfully navigated the consulting recruiting process and received top internships. MCA's mission is to continuously "pay it forward." Those selected into the MCA Class of 2024 will go through a 10-week training program aimed at covering all aspects of the consulting recruiting process, including topics such as:

- Management Consulting 101: Why Consulting?
- Case Interview Prep
- Behavioral Interview Prep
- Mental Math
- Resumes, Networking, and Info Sessions

Mentees will also be encouraged to practice cases with each other and receive guidance from an assigned mentor. They will also have the opportunity to solicit advice from members of the extensive MCA alumni network, which has a strong presence at all major consulting firms and across all degrees of tenure.

**Before applying, be sure you qualify.** Applications are open to students who are eligible for consulting internships in the next calendar year. This means Spring 2024 applications are open to students who qualify for Summer 2025 consulting internships. This includes sophomores, freshmen who qualify for diversity programs, and students in five-year programs in their third year. When in doubt, email us at [texasmca@gmail.com](mailto:texasmca@gmail.com).

**Reminder:** Attendance at one info session is mandatory to apply. Check for relevant dates on our [website](#).

**Instructions:** Fully read and answer the questions in this application. **Once completed, submit your answers to this document and resume to the following form:** [Application](#)

**\*\*\*To make our recruitment process as fair as possible, you must submit through the Qualtrics link and with your randomized ID number. Do NOT include your name or email on your resume. To get a randomized ID number, scroll to the bottom of [this page](#).**

**Deadline: Wednesday, 1/31 at 11:59 PM CT**

**Post-Application Timeline:**

<b>Sunday, 2/04</b>	Notification of interview status
<b>Monday, 2/05 (5 - 9pm)</b>	Interviews (please keep these times free; rescheduling not guaranteed)
<b>Tuesday, 2/06 (5 - 9pm)</b>	Interviews (please keep these times free; rescheduling not guaranteed)
<b>Wednesday, 2/07 (5 - 9pm)</b>	Interviews (please keep these times free; rescheduling not guaranteed)
<b>Thursday, 2/08 (12pm)</b>	Decisions released via email
<b>Friday, 2/09 (5pm)</b>	MCA Meeting #1 (mandatory; please keep this time free)

**Personal Information**

Randomized ID Number:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Graduation Date (Month/Year):

Major(s):

Minor(s)/Certificate(s):

Overall GPA:

College/Major GPA(s):

SAT Score (Math/Verbal):

ACT Composite (if applicable):

How you heard about MCA (friends, fliers, social media, organizations, other):

**Leadership and Involvement**

Please list the three organizations in which you have been most involved and the positions you have held:

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Position</b>

**Briefly describe which organization and position has had the biggest impact on you and why (100 words max):**

**List your current coursework for the semester:**

**Short Response Questions:** Pay attention and adhere to the length requirements for each question. Be genuine! We want to see who you are and what you care about.

**1. What's your story? (100 words max)**

**2. What is management consulting and why are you interested in it? (200 words max)**

**Case Questions:** In most real-world business problems, **there is no single correct answer**. We are nonetheless interested in your thought process when dealing with ambiguous problems! **Do not look up any external information/facts/data - this will be plainly evident in your answer**. We are not looking for a completely “accurate” answer; rather, we are looking to understand your thought process and approach to problem solving. Make any assumptions that you feel are necessary but be sure to describe your thought process in reaching these assumptions.

- 3. Housing Shortage** A sizable city in the Midwest, ABC City, has experienced additional population and economic growth compared with leading peer cities. In tandem, home and rental prices have soared as the number of homes have depleted, making homeownership increasingly out of reach for many people.

In the past five years, housing insecurity has been a humanitarian challenge facing communities across the country. In 2022, US home vacancy rates were at their lowest levels since 1987 and the country is estimated to have a total shortage of 6.5 million housing units. Without an increase in the supply of housing, ABC City will struggle to continue on its current growth trajectory.

- a) Using the figures below, market size the projected housing shortage (# of homes) for ABC City for 2025 and thoroughly explain your reasoning. Feel free to make assumptions as needed, i.e. number of people per household. **(400 words max)**

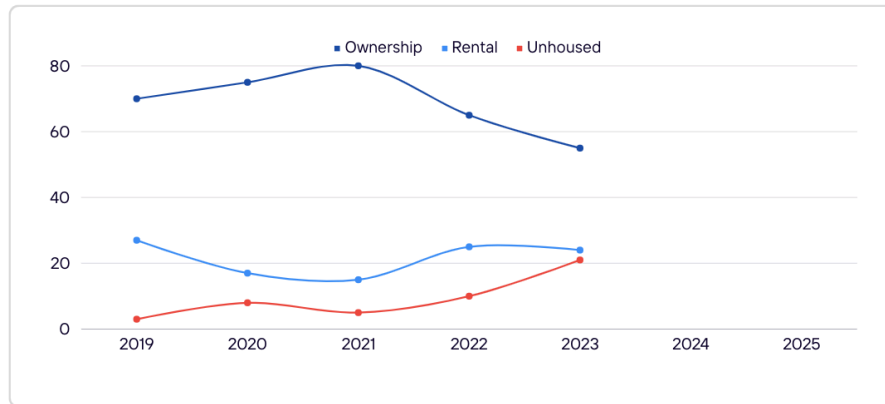
**Exhibit 1: % Population Breakdown of Three Groups: Homeowners, Homerenters, Unhoused**

*As of 2023, there are 1.375M people who are homeowners, 600K people who are homerenters, and 525K unhoused people.*

*ABC City's projected overall population growth for the next two years is between 7-10%.*

*The number of rental units in 2023 is projected to stay constant over the next two years.*

Percentage Breakdown of Housing Rates for ABC City



**Exhibit 2: ABC Housing Contractor Development Plan**

*It takes two years for completion, i.e. houses built in Y0 will be ready for move-in in Y2.*

Year	# of Housing Units Begun Development
2022	30,000
2023	35,000
2024	37,500
2025	39,000

**ANSWER:**

- b) To alleviate the housing shortfall you've determined, ABC City has delineated three policy program solutions. Based on the chart below, choose the best option or combination of options given the city's \$2.5 billion budget over the course of three years. Be sure to incorporate information you've determined from the previous question. **(200 words max)**



### ABC CITY HOUSING PROGRAM OPTIONS

BENEFITS	UNIVERSAL HOUSING	TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE	VOUCHER PROGRAM
Program Description	The Universal Housing Program guarantees affordable, quality homes for all residents by addressing systemic barriers through subsidies, incentives, rent controls, and tenant protections.	The Temporary Housing Assistance Program gives short-term rental subsidies to low-income families facing sudden economic hardship to prevent housing instability.	The Unemployment Housing Voucher program provides rental assistance vouchers to unemployed individuals to cover housing costs while they seek new jobs and financial stability.
# of Beneficiaries	80,000	175,000	250,000
Program Duration	1 year	4 years	6 years
Financial Cost	\$1.75 billion	\$850 million	\$575 million
Overall Impact	High	Medium	Low

**ANSWER:**

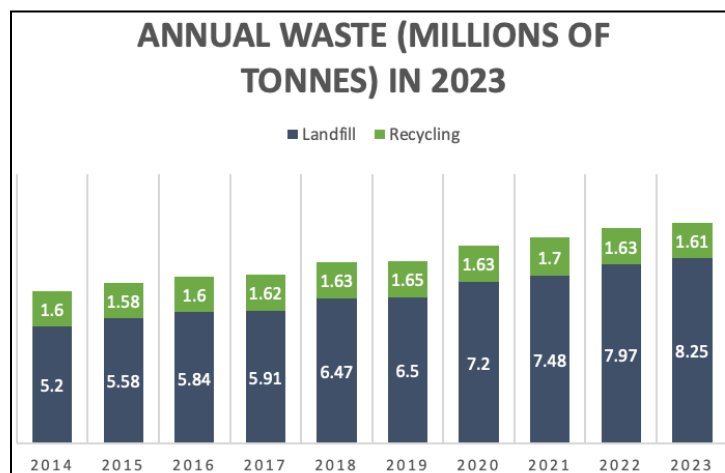
- c) Contextualize your chosen solution in terms of its risks, potentially flawed assumptions, and/or the broader economic climate. **(150 words max)**

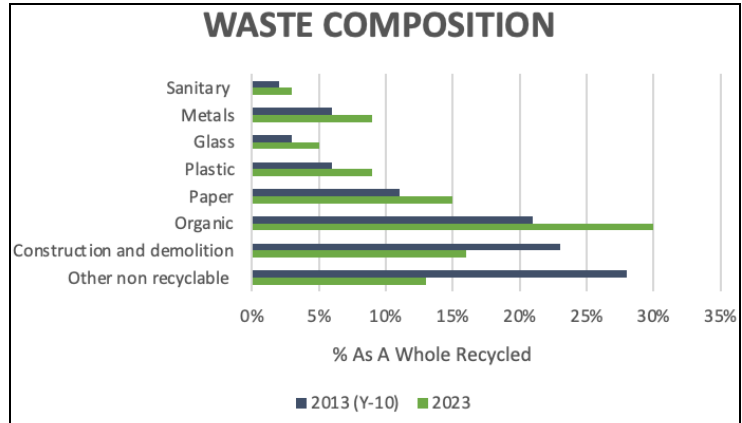
**ANSWER:**

**4. Waste Management** Imagine you have been recently hired by a client, who is the mayor of XYZ city. XYZ city has a GDP per capita around the global average. It is known to be highly populated (~ 15 million people) and is also a large city, in terms of its area.

A combination of an interesting urban life and growing economy have contributed to explosive population growth over the last decade. As a result, the amount of garbage heading to the landfills has increased, and the mayor has recently come under scrutiny for not taking any action to aid the ongoing trash problem. The General Waste Association responsible for waste management estimates that at the current rate, the city is going to run out of landfill space in 4 years, well ahead of the design dates. Hence, the mayor has reached out to you to help address this situation.

- a) After conducting further research, we have estimated the amount of waste produced for this year is approximately 10M tonnes. Based on Exhibit 1 and 2, what can you conclude? **(150 words max)**





**ANSWER:**

b) Drawing information from the exhibits in Part A, what steps can we take to solve this problem? What should be our priorities? **(300 words max)**

**ANSWER:**