**810/811 Info Session & Panel - Key Takeaways**

* **A Career-Defining Opportunity**: Across the board, panelists and former 810/811 students agree – this will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your Navy career. Here’s why:
  + **Learning:** You’ll gain invaluable business knowledge from renowned experts—both academics and industry leaders. You’ll explore the theory behind what you do every day, as well as problem-solving frameworks, management techniques, and systems design principles that will enhance your leadership abilities when you return to the fleet.
  + **Quality of Learning:** The caliber of instruction is exceptional, with top-tier educators and high-profile guest speakers. Past speakers that some of our students have encountered include leaders such as Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Jeff Bezos, Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft), Elliott Hill (CEO, Nike), David Zaslav (CEO, Warner Bros), and even athletes like Stephen Curry.
  + **Quality of Life:** The flexibility of business school is one of its greatest perks. Unlike civilian students, you won’t be focused on job searching—giving you the freedom to prioritize what matters most to you: family, fitness, sports, or hobbies. Business school offers countless opportunities for personal enrichment, including clubs for virtually every interest, or the chance to start your own.
* **The Application Process: Challenging but Worth It**: Yes, the application process can be difficult, but it is absolutely worth the effort. Unless you're exceptionally gifted, expect to put in time preparing for the GMAT/GRE—it’s a necessary, though tedious, part of the process. If you’re selected for 810, you’ll also need to apply to business schools, which can feel overwhelming. However, there are many resources available to support military applicants, from test prep to business school applications. Veterans Clubs at almost every school offer dedicated assistance, including guidance on essays, interviews, and navigating the admissions process.
* **DO NOT SELF-SELECT OUT**: Many potential applicants disqualify themselves because they fear their test scores or GPA are too low. On this panel alone, several participants were accepted with less-than-ideal scores or academic records. In some cases, you may need a waiver, but it’s usually possible to receive one. Additionally, keep in mind that applying for 810 is distinct from applying to business schools, with its own set of standards. For example, while a GMAT score of 600 or higher is considered competitive for 810, some business schools allow military applicants to submit alternate, often simpler, tests (e.g., Columbia, UCLA Anderson).
* **What Really Matters: Your Record**: The main factor in securing a spot in 810/811 is sustained, superior service. While test scores help demonstrate your academic potential, they are only one piece of the puzzle. Your service track record will carry the most weight. And while it never hurts to have a Flag letter of recommendation, the vast majority of 810/811 students didn’t have a Flag officer’s endorsement. What counts most is your overall performance and contributions.

If you’re interested in 810/811, apply—don’t rule yourself out. The experience is unparalleled and offers lasting professional and personal benefits. The application process may be challenging, but it is well worth it. Start early, understand the requirements, and if you have any questions, reach out to the Post Graduate School Detailer or Career Counselor to get clarity.

Good luck!