

A Report Card For the Top 25

It was a great time to get an MBA. Sure, you might have been able to take advantage of that now-disappearing bull market had you stayed in your cubicle. But if you went to any of the schools on this list, you got a great education—and hit payola, too.

With pay packages reaching record levels—the average median salary and bonus was \$91,560—students had the luxury of weighing several offers, most of which came with added perks that made the deals even sweeter.

The letter grades are based on graduate and recruiter surveys from the 61 schools we surveyed this year. Similar to the forced curves students might face at Harvard or Chicago, the top 20% in each category get As. The next 25% get Bs, the next 35% are awarded Cs, and the bottom 20% get Ds. See page 92 for more information on how we crunched the numbers.

1998 RANK	SCHOOL	1996 RANK	CORP. POLL	GRAD. POLL	ANNUAL TUITION*	APPLICANTS ACCEPTED	WOMEN	ENROLLMENT *** INT'L.	MINORITIES****
1.	PENNSYLVANIA (Wharton) Philadelphia	1	1	2	\$26,290	13%	29%	31%	9%
2.	NORTHWESTERN (Kellogg) Evanston, Ill.	3	2	6	25,900	14	32	24	9
3.	CHICAGO Chicago	8	3	9	26,284	24	22	23	5
4.	MICHIGAN Ann Arbor	2	5	3	25,000	22	28	26	14
5.	HARVARD Boston	4	6	13	26,260	13	30	26	7
6.	COLUMBIA New York	6	4	21	27,770	12	37	26	12
7.	DUKE (Fuqua) Durham, N.C.	11	7	10	25,250	17	33	25	12
8.	CORNELL (Johnson) Ithaca, N.Y.	18	11	4	24,400	28	26	32	7
9.	STANFORD Stanford, Calif.	7	9	8	24,990	7	29	29	10
10.	DARTMOUTH (Tuck) Hanover, N.H.	10	13	7	26,100	12	28	19	7
11.	VIRGINIA (Darden) Charlottesville, Va.	5	8	15	21,479	15	30	21	11
12.	UCLA (Anderson) Los Angeles	12	18	1	20,093	14	28	24	8
13.	NYU (Stern) New York	14	10	20	27,248	18	38	34	8
14.	CARNEGIE MELLON Pittsburgh	17	15	5	24,130	30	24	39	3
15.	MIT (Sloan) Cambridge, Mass.	9	14	19	27,100	13	27	37	9
16.	UC BERKELEY (Haas) Berkeley	13	16	14	19,792	11	34	31	10
17.	WASHINGTON U (Olin) St. Louis	16	19	16	23,920	34	29	36	6
18.	TEXAS Austin	20	12	26	14,762	23	25	22	6
19.	UNC (Kenan-Flagler) Chapel Hill	19	23	17	16,100	24	27	21	9
20.	YALE New Haven	22	27	11	25,250	25	32	30	6
21.	INDIANA Bloomington	15	20	25	17,013	40	28	19	11
22.	MARYLAND (Smith) College Park, Md.	NA	30	23	14,048	21	36	39	7
23.	WISCONSIN Madison	NA	17	32	16,634	47	31	32	8
24.	PURDUE (Krannert) W. Lafayette, Ind.	NA	21	29	15,424	25	26	36	9
25.	USC (Marshall) Los Angeles	NA	55	18	23,958	26	30	25	11

*1998-99

*** For combined years 1998, 1999

** Post-MBA pay = Median salary, bonus, & other compensation

**** Minority data do not include Asian-Americans. Harvard figure is an estimate.

Median Pay **		Grads Earning	Average		MBA Skills Graded by Recruiters			Schools Graded by MBAs		
Pre-MBA	Post-MBA	Over \$100,000	Job Offers		Analysts	Team Players	Global View	Teaching	Curriculum	Placement
\$50,000	\$125,500	83%	3.2	Holds on to commanding lead with recruiters, as dean announces plans to step down. Students give it all-around high marks.	A	A	A	B	B	A
46,000	125,000	72	3.4	Grads and recruiters say it's tops in teamwork. Recruiters love marketing skills. Will start building a new addition to B-school next year.	A	A	A	B	A	A
49,000	120,000	80	3.4	Impressive rebound as students say teachers tops in their fields, offers freshest material. Recruiters vote it most improved, best in finance, analytics.	A	A	A	A	A	A
44,000	115,000	67	3.5	Slips two spots in recruiter survey, still most innovative, best in operations. Partnering with Catalyst for study on why so few women in B-school.	A	A	A	B	B	A
60,000	145,000	86	4.0	Students laud connections, recruiters say best in management and communications. Despite tech push, students gave lowest scores on their ability to deal with computers.	A	A	A	B	B	B
49,000	125,000	76	3.0	Students complain about facilities, unavailable teachers, but recruiters hike it two spots. New building set to open shortly.	A	A	A	C	B	A
42,000	109,000	50	3.2	Jumps three spots in recruiter poll and four overall as strategy of developing ties with key companies pays off. Oldest grads (average age: 29.2).	A	A	A	C	B	A
42,000	115,000	64	3.3	Dramatic rise after dramatic fall in '96. Students give it top scores for meeting expectations, responsiveness of profs and staff. New building just opened.	A	A	A	A	A	A
55,000	138,000	74	3.6	Students give lowest rank in core teaching, course integration, responsiveness, but laud analytics, interpersonal skills as the best. Recruiters frustrated.	A	A	A	C	A	A
50,000	127,000	83	2.7	Gets top votes for making tech part of learning environment. Most available faculty out of the classroom, most loyal alums.	B	A	B	A	A	B
42,000	115,000	64	2.9	Student dissatisfaction with job placement, overwhelming workload drops school six spots. Yet students also say it's best in ethics and in integrating coursework.	B	A	A	A	B	C
45,000	115,000	57	2.7	Ranked No. 1 in entrepreneurship, summer job placement, best use of technology in the classroom. In midst of lengthy dean search.	B	B	B	B	B	A
40,000	120,000	62	2.7	Students are happier, yet recruiters drop school one place after voting it most improved in 1996. Soon-to-be expanded facilities should ease congestion.	B	B	B	B	B	A
43,000	109,000	55	3.7	School gets top rank from students for info tech as it tries to escape quant stereotype. All students get alumni mentors. Recruiters say it's No. 2 in tech, operations.	A	B	B	B	C	B
47,000	130,000	74	3.7	Recruiters drop school six spots, yet still say it's best in tech. Students give highest marks for diversity, but say profs most likely to compromise teaching for research.	A	B	A	C	C	B
48,000	117,000	54	2.5	Students rate school lowest in number and quality of firms on campus. Fewest average job offers per student. New dean is only woman in top 25.	B	B	B	B	B	B
32,000	89,000	19	3.4	New curriculum and grading system please students, who praise intimate environment. Moves up one spot in recruiter poll.	B	B	B	A	B	B
40,000	97,000	39	3.1	School moves up thanks to three-spot gain in recruiter survey. Technology initiatives include world's largest Windows NT lab, trading and tech center.	B	B	B	C	B	B
40,000	107,000	52	2.9	New dean, new building fuel push to boost technology. Working on developing niches in environment and economic development.	B	B	B	A	A	B
35,500	116,000	54	3.1	Move towards a more traditional MBA paying off some with recruiters. Students score it lowest in info tech but much higher overall than 1996.	B	B	B	A	A	A
38,500	92,000	31	2.9	School continues slide, gets worst elective teaching score for second straight time. Falls seven spots in recruiter survey, six overall.	A	A	B	A	B	C
35,000	84,500	28	3.2	High student and improved recruiter marks push school into the top 25. Youngest students (average age, 27.6). Students give lowest marks for contact with professionals.	C	C	C	B	B	B
30,000	70,000	11	3.0	Student satisfaction up, but students least likely to urge friends to take the same program. Students have lowest pre- and post-MBA pay in top 25.	C	C	C	C	C	B
33,500	86,500	23	4.2	School bounces back into top 25 after dean gets students involved. Recruiters praise its operations grads. Most job offers per student.	B	B	B	C	D	B
39,000	93,000	31	3.0	Top marks in international business from grads, thanks in part to popular PRIME study program. Recruiters give dismal grades for finance, analytics.	D	C	C	A	A	A
Data: Business Week (Research by Judi Crowe, Wendy Hernandez, Hala Habal, Sara Leitch, James Kutz, Nadav Enbar, Arthur Eves, Matthew Kopit, Cambria Consulting)										