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# The High Price of Admission

**2006 MBA Programs**

This year both the costs and benefits of attending B-school surged. For our top 30 schools, tuition and fees alone were up 15% on average, and the pricetag for a Wharton MBA now approaches \$90,000, up nearly \$20,000 since 2004. Good thing salaries for grads increased, too. New 2006 MBAs could expect first-year paychecks of about \$95,000 on average, an increase of 47% from their pre-MBA days and a huge increase over the 29% MBA pay premium that 2004 grads received. But in narrow economic terms, it may not pay to attend one of the top-ranked schools; a midtier school is a better bet. That's because the likes of Wharton and Harvard tend to attract high earners, making it harder to get a big salary bump at graduation and recoup the investment in an MBA. How hard? For Harvard grads, the breakeven point won't come until 2020, or about 20 years shy of retirement.

Click column heading once to reorder from highest to lowest. Click twice to reorder from lowest to highest.

SCHOOL	TOTAL COST, \$	SALARY PREMIUM, \$	YEARS TO PAY BACK
Brigham Young	133,234	35,068	3.80
Michigan State University	161,904	40,804	3.97
South Carolina (Darla Moore)	165,283	37,675	4.39
Wisconsin (Madison)	186,799	42,343	4.41
Buffalo	109,153	21,839	5.00
Notre Dame	190,241	37,652	5.05
Rochester	199,447	38,568	5.17
U. of Washington	193,626	36,795	5.26
Emory	225,737	42,471	5.32
Washington U.	205,518	36,398	5.65
Maryland	202,029	35,319	5.72
Ohio State U.	195,848	31,507	6.22
Yale	245,708	38,151	6.44
Indiana	211,064	31,797	6.64
Michigan	251,437	36,371	6.91
Carnegie Mellon	251,735	36,393	6.92
UC Irvine	215,201	30,477	7.06
Rice U.	230,115	31,869	7.22
Boston University	214,904	29,195	7.36
Georgetown	236,903	32,058	7.39
USC	240,557	32,052	7.51
UNC	239,337	31,056	7.71
Duke	258,689	32,991	7.84
Cornell	253,543	31,940	7.94
NYU	267,153	33,286	8.03
Vanderbilt	240,596	27,089	8.88
Virginia	262,517	29,098	9.02
Boston College	215,587	23,804	9.06
Minnesota (Carlson)	236,680	25,321	9.35
Texas-Austin	241,956	25,193	9.60

UCLA	258,551	26,794	9.65
Chicago	289,473	28,691	10.09
Babson	236,821	23,318	10.16
Dartmouth	289,633	28,404	10.20
Northwestern	289,054	27,182	10.63
Columbia	315,780	26,610	11.87
Berkeley	291,805	24,239	12.04
Wharton	328,748	25,775	12.75
Harvard	345,401	23,921	14.44
Stanford	328,062	22,351	14.68
MIT	324,305	21,499	15.08

## FOOTNOTES:

Data: BusinessWeek.

Note: Domestic schools only. Schools with fewer than 50 survey responses excluded from analysis.

Total cost includes two years tuition and fees, student-reported living expenses, and forgone pre-MBA salary.

Salary premium based on student-reported pre- and post-MBA salaries only; does not include signing or performance bonuses, annual pay increases, stock options, or other compensation.

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