

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANALYTICS

2023 BENCHMARK REPORT

Each year the Master of Science in Analytics (MSA) is benchmarked against leading MBA programs with comparable enrollment on two-dozen metrics using publicly available data. Why MBA programs? Because too few analytics and data science programs publicly disclose student outcomes with the thoroughness and consistency needed to accurately benchmark. Also, the variation in cohort enrollment size and program formats make comparisons difficult.

MBA programs have a long history of reporting enrollment and outcomes data as a part of the annual ranking process conducted by organizations such as *U.S. News*. The data are reported under clear and consistent guidelines that make fair and accurate benchmarking possible. The Institute follows these guidelines in reporting results for the MSA program. Other analytics and data science programs are encouraged to do the same.

The rank order (and cohort size) of the top MBA programs and the requisite range for benchmark comparisons for the current year are highlighted below.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Chicago (Booth) / 634 | 17. Emory (Goizueta) / 113 |
| 2. Northwestern (Kellogg) / 503 | 18. Carnegie Mellon (Tepper) / 192 |
| 3. Pennsylvania (Wharton) / 894 | 19. UCLA (Anderson) / 372 |
| 4. MIT (Sloan) / 408 | 20. UT-Austin (McCombs) / 220 |
| 5. Harvard / 1,015 | 20. Washington (Foster) / 96 |
| 6. Dartmouth (Tuck) / 287 | 22. Indiana (Kelley) / 157 |
| 6. Stanford / 424 | 22. UNC (Kenan-Flagler) / 296 |
| 8. Michigan (Ross) / 378 | 24. Georgetown (McDonough) / 249 |
| 8. Yale / 349 | 24. Rice (Jones) / 160 |
| 10. New York (Stern) / 324 | 26. Georgia Tech (Scheller) / 76 |
| 11. Columbia / 629 | 27. UT-Dallas (Jindal) / 45 |
| 11. Duke (Fuqua) / 399 | 27. Rochester (Simon) / 85 |
| 11. Berkeley (Haas) / 247 | 27. Vanderbilt (Owen) / 147 |
| 14. Virginia (Darden) / 348 | 30. Notre Dame (Mendoza) / 96 |
| 15. Cornell (Johnson) / 303 | 31. Georgia (Terry) / 69 |
| 15. Southern California (Marshall) / 218 | 31. Minnesota (Carlson) / 67 |

The highest ranked MBA programs with similar cohort sizes to the MSA tend to fall between 20th and 30th in the ranking. The highest ranked MBA programs, 20th or above, usually have large full-time cohorts in the range of 200-1000 students. The top-5 highest-ranked MBA programs with similar cohort sizes to the MSA program, selected for comparison this year are:

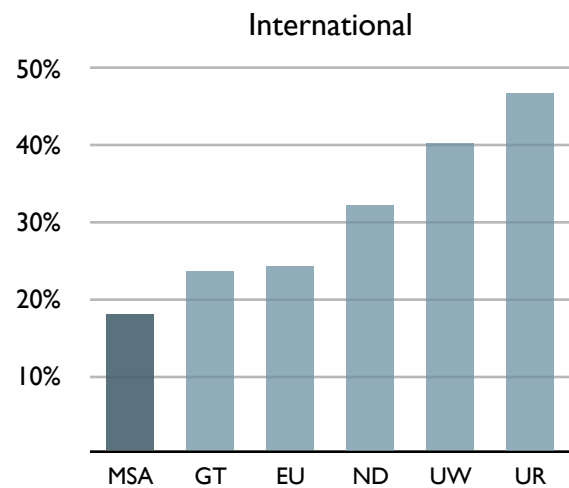
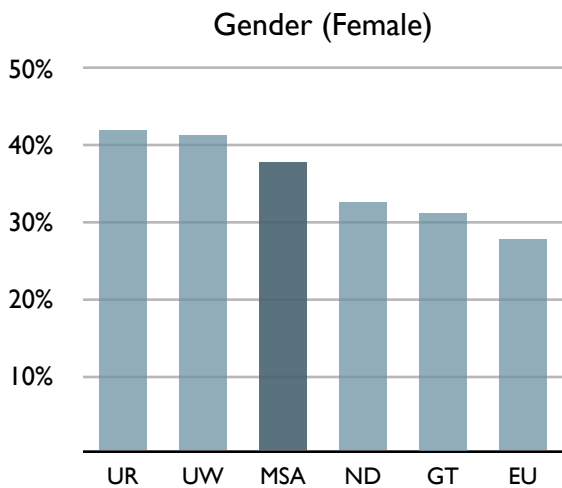
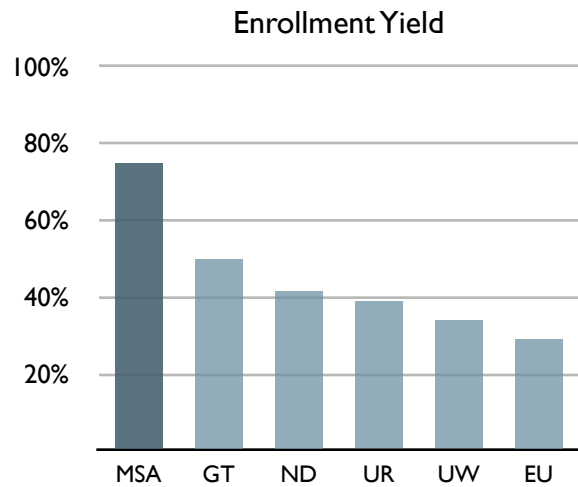
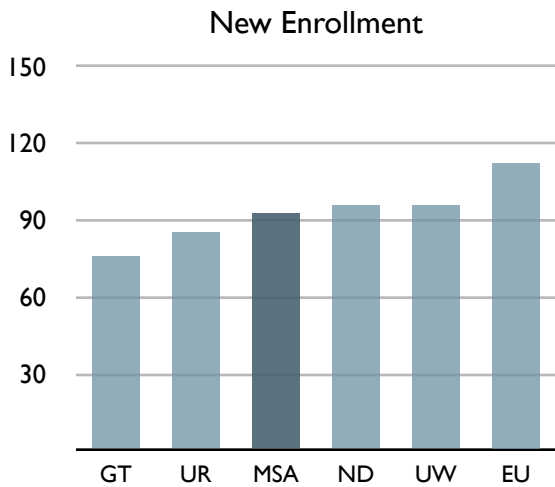
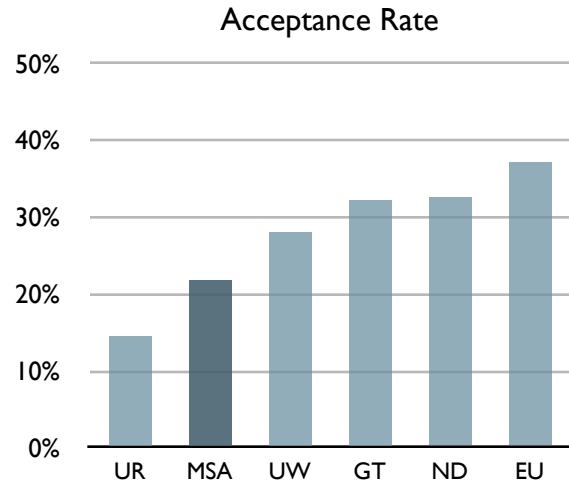
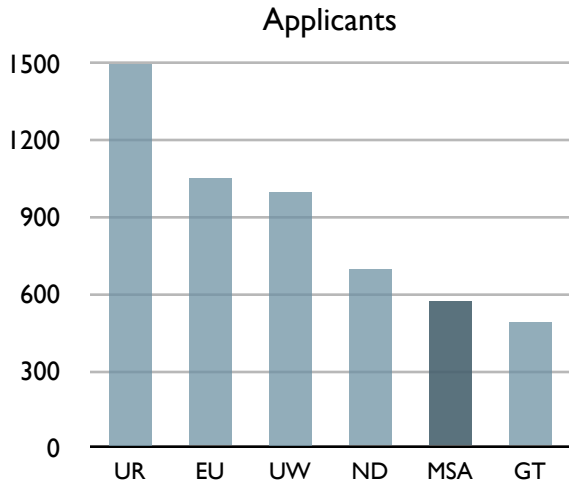
- 17. Emory (EU)
- 20. University of Washington (UW)
- 26. Georgia Tech (GT)
- 27. Rochester (UR)
- 30. Notre Dame (ND)

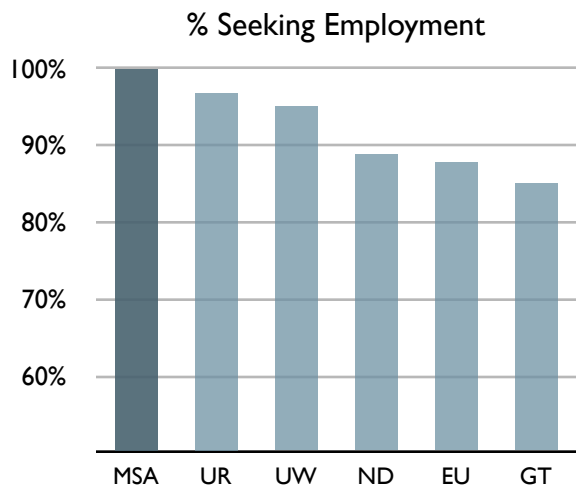
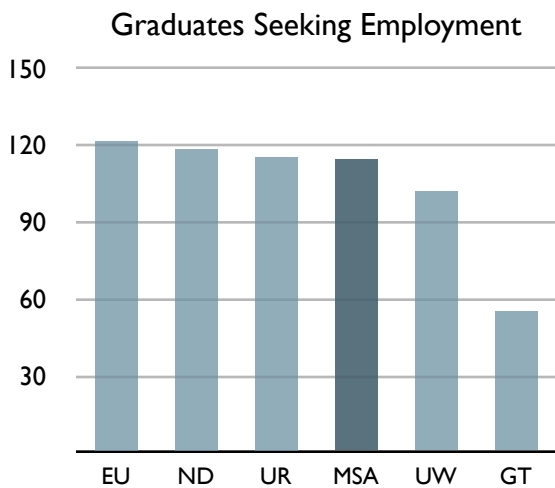
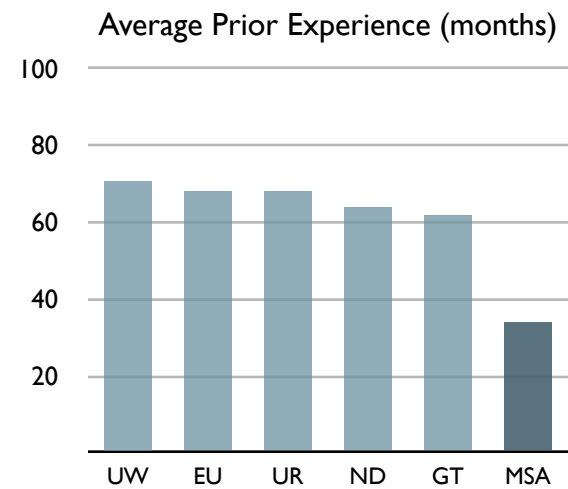
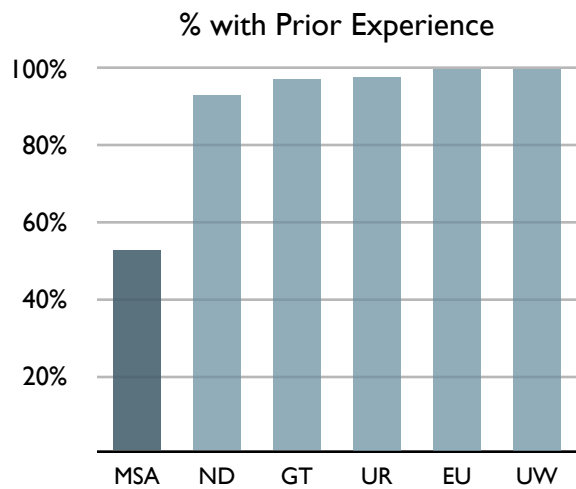
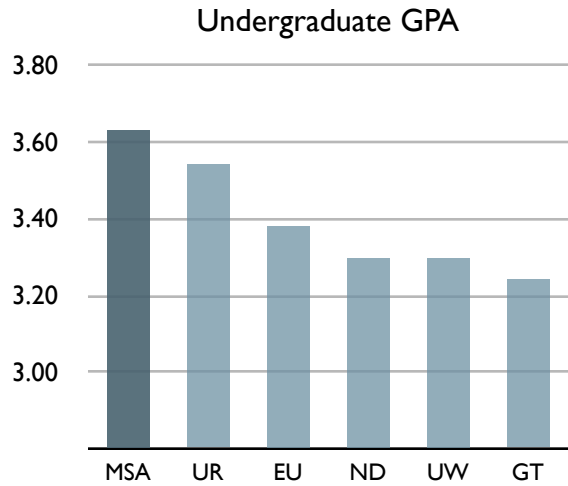
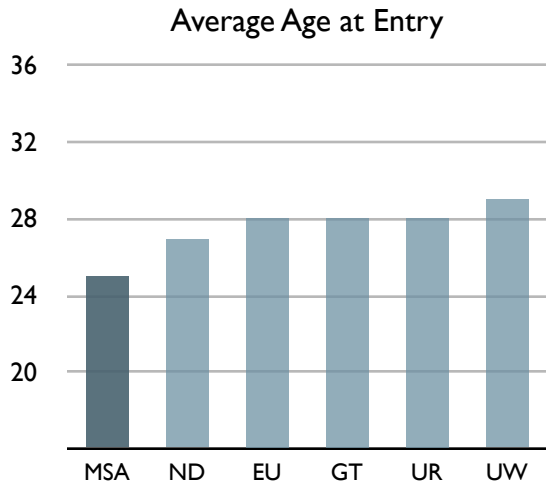
The benchmark study is updated each year (in April) with the latest data from *U.S. News*. The admissions data reflect the prior Fall semester incoming enrollment, and the outcomes data reflect the prior year’s job placement. Schools used in this study may change from year to year based on the changes in the annual ranking or cohort sizes.

For more information on the U.S. News ranking of business schools, see:
<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-business-schools>

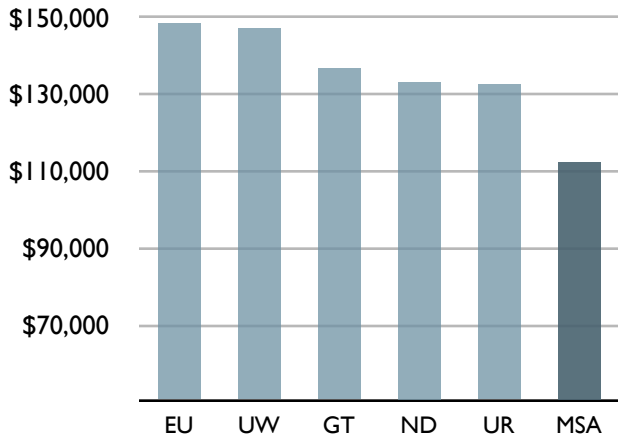
Based on the available data, the following metrics are used to benchmark the MSA against the top-5 comparable-sized MBA programs:

Number of Applicants	Average Base Salary
Acceptance Rate	% Reporting Salary Data
Enrollment	% Employed at Graduation
Enrollment Rate	% Employed 3-Months After Graduation
% Female Students	Signing Bonus
% International Students	% Receiving Signing Bonus
Length of Work Experience	Tuition and Fees
% Work Experience	Tuition and Fees – Residents
Age	Average Indebtedness
Undergraduate GPA	% Students with Debt
% Seeking Employment	ROI Payback Period
Number Seeking Employment	ROI Payback Period – Residents

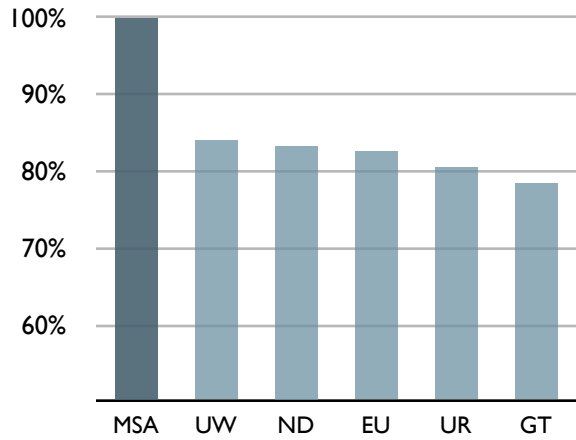




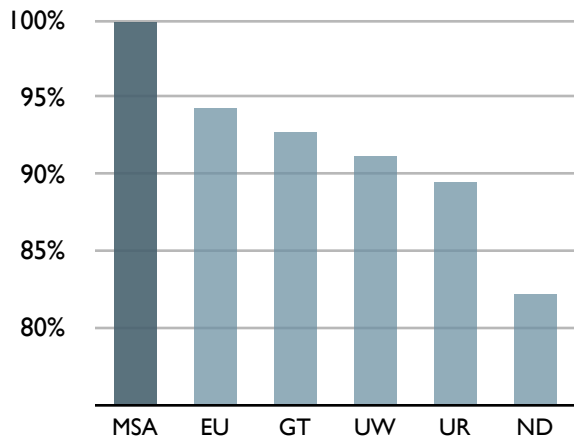
Average Base Salary



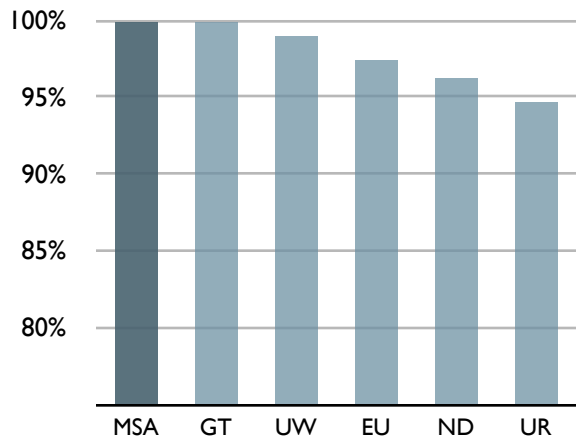
Graduates Reporting Salary Data



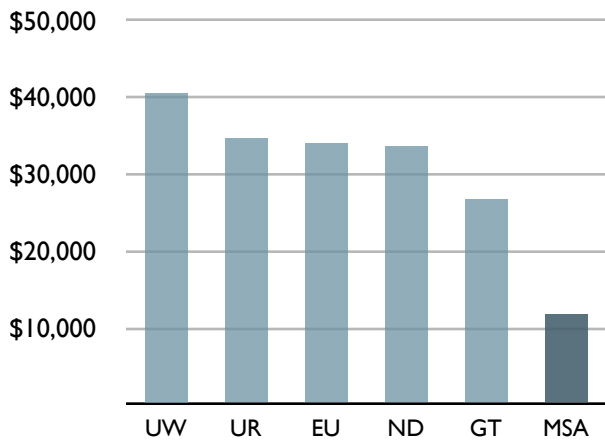
Employed at Graduation



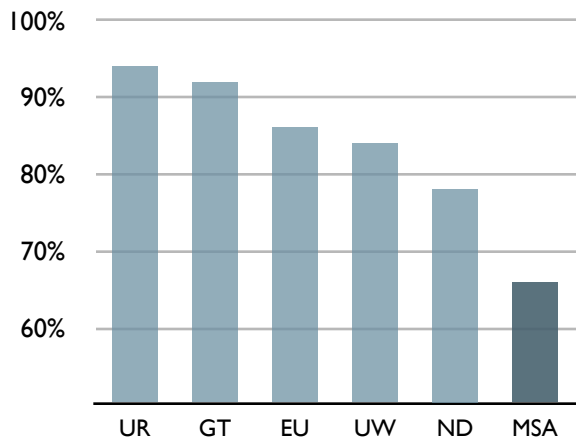
Employed 3-Months After



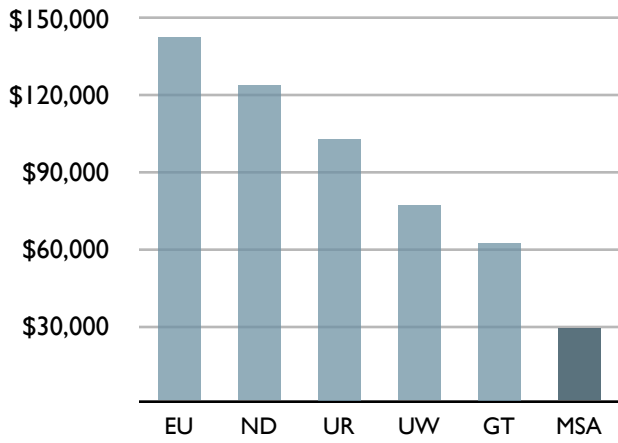
Average Signing Bonus



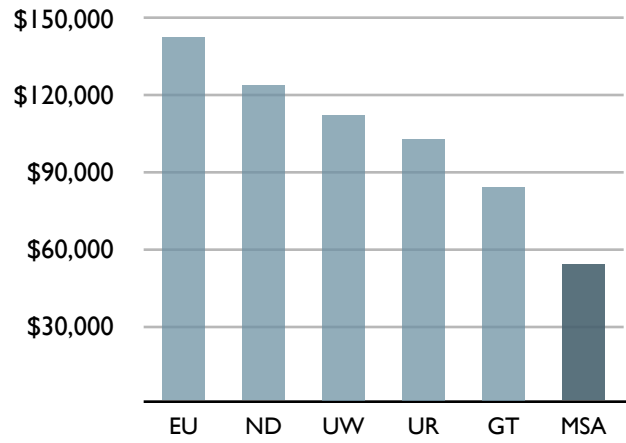
% Receiving Signing Bonus



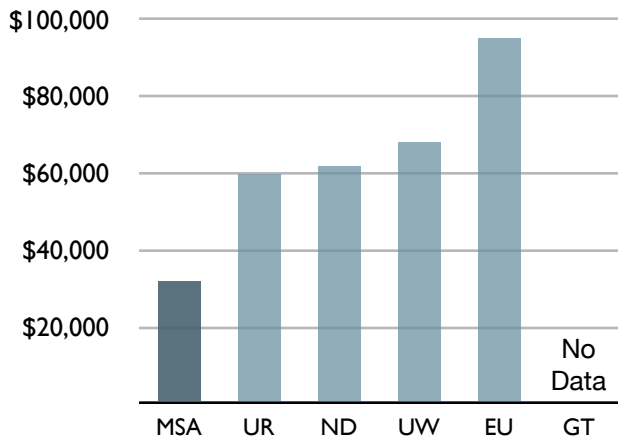
Resident Tuition & Fees



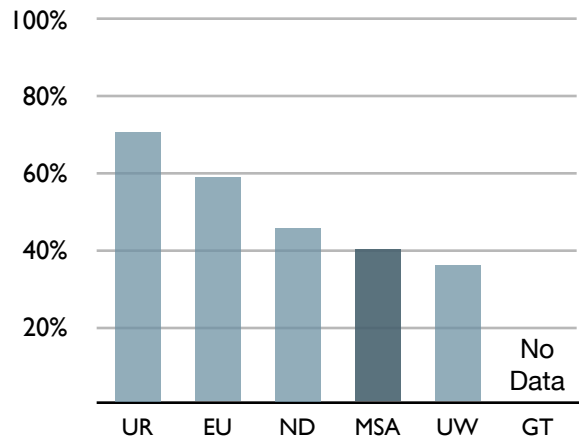
Non-Resident Tuition & Fees



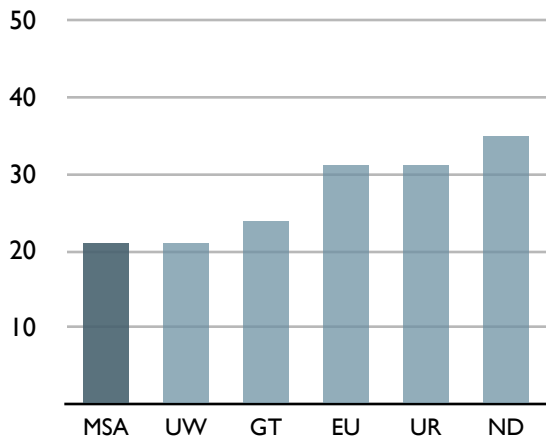
Average Student Indebtedness



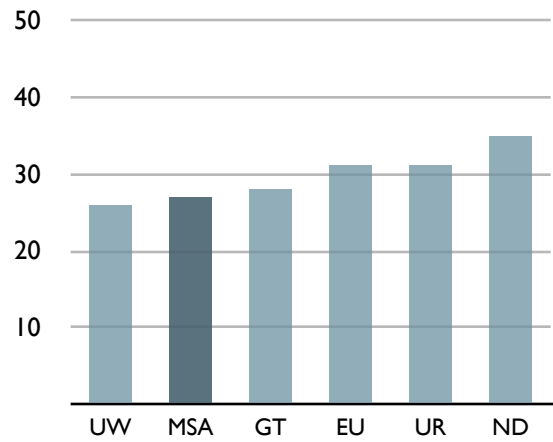
Graduates with Debt



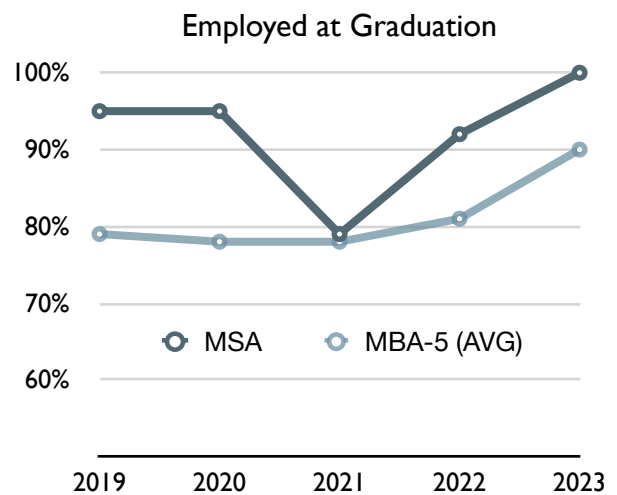
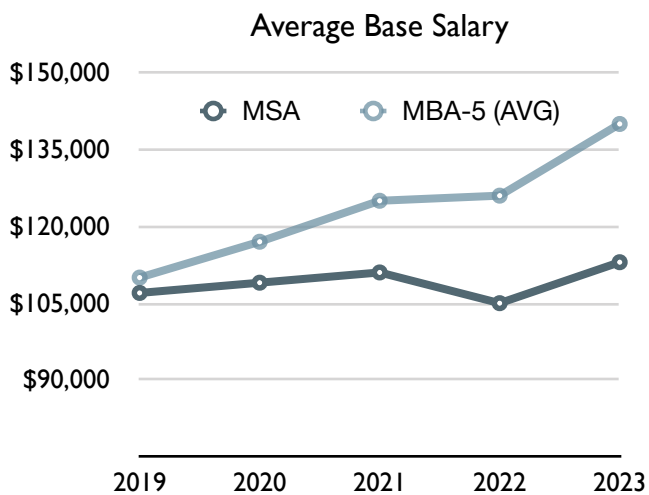
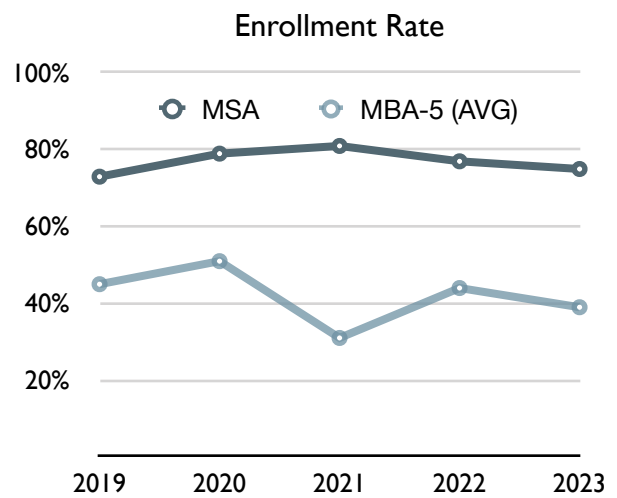
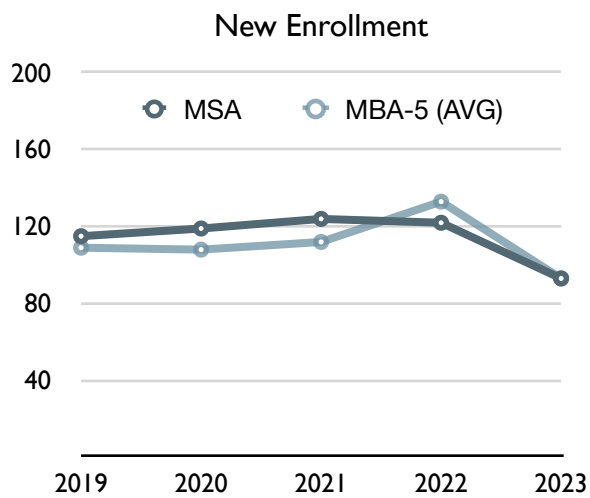
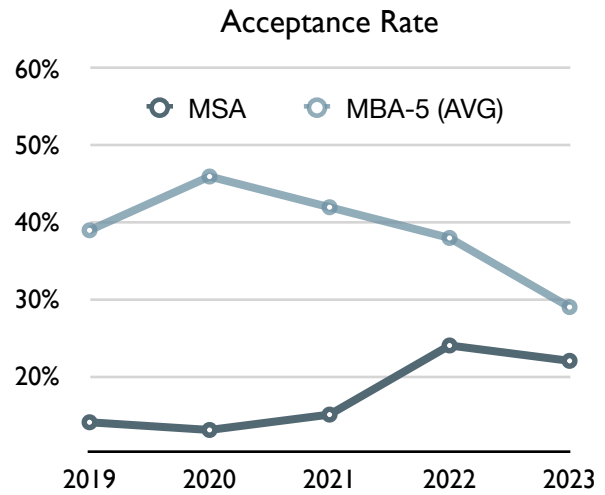
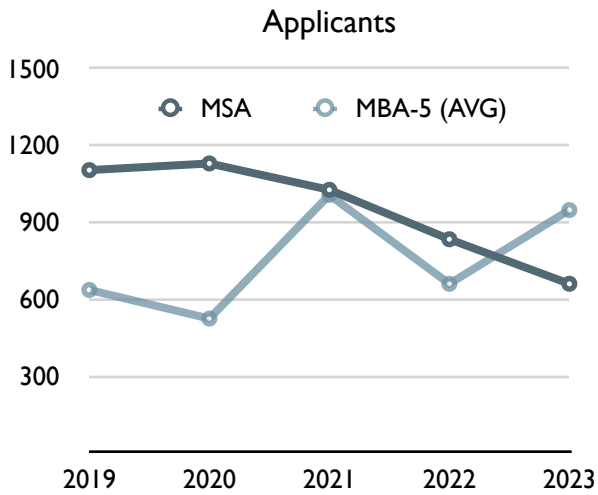
Resident Payback Period (months)



Non-Resident Payback Period



	MSA	MBA PROGRAMS					
		Mean	EU	UW	GT	UR	ND
US News Rank (April 2023)	–	–	17	20	26	27	30
Rank Score (out of 100 points)	–	79	85	82	77	76	75
Number of Applicants	661	949	1,055	1,000	492	1497	700
Acceptance Rate	22%	29%	37%	28%	32%	15%	33%
Enrollment	93	93	113	96	76	85	96
Enrollment Yield	75%	39%	29%	34%	50%	39%	42%
% Female Students	38%	35%	28%	41%	31%	42%	33%
% International Students	18%	33%	24%	40%	24%	47%	32%
Average Age	25	28	28	29	28	28	27
Undergraduate GPA	3.63	3.35	3.38	3.30	3.24	3.54	3.30
Prior Work Experience (mo.)	36	71	71	71	69	77	65
% Work Experience	53%	98%	100%	100%	97%	98%	93%
% Seeking New Employment	100%	91%	88%	95%	85%	97%	89%
Average Base Salary (\$000)	113	140	149	147	137	133	133
Reporting Salary Data	100%	86%	83%	84%	93%	90%	82%
Employed at Graduation	100%	90%	94%	91%	93%	90%	82%
Employed 3-mo. After	100%	98%	98%	99%	100%	95%	96%
Signing Bonus (\$000)	12	34	34	41	27	35	34
% Receiving Signing Bonus	66%	87%	86%	84%	92%	94%	78%
Tuition and Fees (\$000)	54	113	143	112	85	103	124
Tuition and Fees – Residents	29	102	143	77	62	103	124
Average Indebtedness (\$000)	32	71	95	68	–	59	62
Students with Debt	40%	53%	59%	36%	–	71%	46%
Payback Period (months)	27	30	31	26	28	31	35
Payback Period – Residents	21	28	31	21	24	31	35



About the Data

Data in this report are compiled primarily from two sources: (1) Institute records on admissions and employment published annually; and (2) publicly available information from each of the universities chosen for comparison and compiled by U.S. News in its annual ranking of business schools. Business schools comply with certain accepted guidelines in compiling admissions and employment data, and the Institute abides by those guidelines, as closely as possible, in its own reporting.

Please make note of the following:

- (1) The MSA is 10-months in duration (running from late June to early May each year. By comparison, Full-time MBA program are typically 21 months (or four semesters over two academic years).
- (2) The length of the MBA program adds to the overall cost of degree, in terms of tuition, and lost wages while in school. The cost can be mitigated by summer internships between the first and second year.
- (3) About half of MSA candidates enter the program without prior professional work experience (i.e., directly out of their undergraduate degree program). By contrast, in the benchmark, almost all MBA candidates have prior work experience averaging more than 5 years. For this reason, data for MSA candidates with prior work experience is used in the benchmark comparison on starting salaries. Although it reduces the size of the population for comparison, it's important to note that MSA salary reporting is significantly higher on average than for the MBA programs in the benchmark.
- (4) The benchmark report is updated annually. Universities used in the comparison may change due to changing in the ranking, as well as changes in the cohort sizes.
- (5) The Return on Investment (ROI) payback period does not taken into account scholarship money that may have been received by a student. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Payback period (months)} = \frac{((\text{Pre-Salary} + \text{Tuition}) \times \text{Duration}) - (\text{Signing Bonus} + \text{Summer Salary})}{(\text{Post-Salary} - \text{Pre-Salary})} \times 12$$

This report is prepared and certified by:

Dr. Michael Rappa
Institute Director

Source URL: <http://analytics.ncsu.edu/reports/benchmark/2023.pdf>

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