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NIU EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

EXECUTIVE MBA PURPOSE—
THE NIU EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE IN A BALANCED APPROACH TO EXECUTIVE EDUCATION.

Saturday-only program
- Average class size: 30-40
- Non-U.S. citizens: 3-5%
- Men: 75-80%  Women: 20-25%
- Average age: 38 (Range: 27-65)
- Average years of work experience: 15
A portion of each class consists of exceptional candidates with at least five but fewer than 10 years of work experience.

Schedule
The Executive MBA program admits students once a year.
- Students attend classes every Saturday for four semesters.
- Students do not attend classes during the summer between the first and second years. Students must earn 3 semester hours of credit during the summer through an international experience.
- First-year class attends a three-day residency weekend.

Optional short courses are held for incoming first-year students. Content covered includes accounting, finance, and team building.

GMAT scores
Required for all candidates unless the individual has a master’s degree in another field, or a professional degree. Minimum GMAT score is 450; if you are concerned about the GMAT, please consult the Executive MBA Office. GMAT may be waived, on a case-by-case basis, for applicants with ten or more years managerial experience.

Cost
$55,000 for 2015-2017
Cost includes books, fees, material, team weekend, Saturday lunches, and international trip.

Application Deadline: July 15

Professions represented in Executive MBA class
- Accounting
- Engineering
- Entrepreneurial
- Finance
- Health Care (including hospital administrators, nurses, medical doctors)
- Information Systems
- Law
- Manufacturing
- Not-for-Profit
As you see, the class members represent all types of professions. In fact, our purpose is to make the class a microcosm of the business world, including diversity on the basis of gender, ethnic background, and nationalities.

You’re Invited...

The Executive MBA program holds informational open houses throughout the fall and spring that give prospective candidates an opportunity to hear from program alumni.
Executive MBA Program

IMPACT YOUR CAREER FOR A LIFETIME!

We invite you to be a part of the Executive MBA program at Northern Illinois University. This rigorous, yet practical program is designed for the experienced individual striving to attain executive-level skills and knowledge. The curriculum is specifically designed to build on a base of managerial experience.

Only faculty members who relate well to the business and professional environment are involved in the program, and because all of the students in the program have significant managerial experience, they learn a great deal from each other. In addition, the unique, close relationships that develop during the two-year program become lifelong professional and personal friendships. As a result of these factors, the curriculum is uniquely tailored to blend theory and practice for the experienced executive.

Students in the program are sponsored by their employers. Current sponsors include some of the largest manufacturing and service firms in the Midwest, as well as a sprinkling of participating not-for-profit and small firms. In order to maintain a balance of participant backgrounds, firms are limited in the number of employees permitted in the program each year. The mix of individuals from various functional areas and from a wide variety of types and sizes of firms is key to a quality Executive MBA program.

The quality of the faculty and academic programs in the College of Business is attested to by the undergraduate and graduate accreditation of both the business administration and accountancy programs by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Of approximately 1,200 collegiate business programs in the U.S., only about 180 have achieved the four levels of accreditation earned by Northern Illinois University.

To help you make a decision regarding our program, we have provided information about its benefits, curriculum, faculty, support services, and structure. Supplemental forms are enclosed.

For additional information, please contact directly:
MBA Program
College of Business
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2897

Phone: 815-753-0257
FAX: 815-753-3300
E-mail: emba@niu.edu
Internet: www.cob.niu.edu/emba
First row, from left: Mike Geary (PPG Aerospace), Bob Ratini (Physicians Immediate Care), Rajan Mahadevia (F & I Administration Solutions LLC), Brian Duffy (Career Education Corporation), Markus Annen (Siemens), Keith Lewandowski (Navistar Defense, LLC), Wes Saber (Mars Chocolate), Jojo Vellanikal (Consumer Electronics Distributors, Inc.).

Second row, from left: Jonathan Lopez (ITW, Inc.), Jola Sokolowski (Siemens), Jennifer Lichner (Accertify), Alcira Borras (US Foods), Carol Thompson (Christianity Today), Allison Lausas (SunCoke Energy), Lacy Cortez (Line Craft, Inc.), David Schultz (FMC Technologies).

Third row, from left: Manny Lopez (AGCO Corporation), David Kim (Valspar), Travis Chavous (CDW, Inc.), Richard Bronson (Indak Manufacturing, Inc.), Jason Pederson (Abbott Laboratories), John Figliozzi (Rasmussen College, Inc.), Matt Parks (Mars Chocolate), Ken Cervenka (MacLean-Fogg Company).
ROI of an Executive MBA Program

The two questions most frequently posed by potential students and their sponsors:

“What is the ROI of NIU’s Executive MBA program to students?”

“What is the ROI to the sponsoring firms?”

ROI to Students

- High-quality teaching. Faculty selected on basis of ability to teach mature, experienced adults.
- High-quality students. Class composed of highly motivated managers.
- The curriculum. Encourages students to think cross-functionally and strategically about the company.
- Class size of 30-40 students. This encourages meaningful participation.
- Short length of program. Earn your MBA within 21 months, 18 months in the classroom.
- Saturday-only classes. Work and travel schedules are not interrupted.
- Convenient location.
- Less expensive than many private colleges. Total cost of program, including books, lunch, team weekend, and international trip, is $55,000 (see complete payment details on page 12).
- Quality reputation of NIU College of Business. Accredited by AACSB International.

ROI to Sponsoring Firms

Several of the benefits to students also benefit sponsors, but in addition:

- Firms use NIU’s Executive MBA program to develop executive talent from within their own organizations.
- Curriculum allows students to learn from their peers, through team-taught courses, group projects, and real-world consulting projects.
- Management teams within firms are strengthened as managers gain the conceptual, technical, and interpersonal skills required of business leaders.
- Quality of company’s educational investment assured through reputation of NIU and strict national accreditation of the College of Business by AACSB International.
- Short length of program (18 months in class) and Saturday-only classes provide minimum job interference and maximum educational effectiveness.
- NIU College of Business faculty has a reputation for quality teaching, in addition to academic and research credentials.
- Your employee also learns from other experienced managers and executives in the program. Sponsors range in size from AT&T, BP, Motorola, McDonald’s, and United Airlines to small entrepreneurs, hospitals, and government agencies.
- Cost is reasonable. Fees are $27,500 per year (see complete payment details on page 12), far below the cost of most private Executive MBA programs.

“I appreciate that Northern Illinois University provides MBA students the ability to gain knowledge to better themselves for the future. Most of this is through the classroom, but the opportunity to visit other countries can be just as good if not a better learning experience to professionals looking to increase their capacity. I look forward to taking this knowledge and applying it to my current role to better myself for the future.”

Scott Ward
Agco Corporation
Class of 2015
The Executive MBA is a conceptual yet practical program leading to the Master of Business Administration degree. The curriculum covers the general business subjects required for the MBA degree; however, it is not restricted by traditional academic boundaries regarding credit hours and semesters. Instead, topics are presented in modules of varying lengths. Topics such as financial and managerial accounting and business policy are given more time and emphasis. Communication skills in listening, writing, and speaking are stressed initially in the program and are integrated throughout the curriculum.

The first-year curriculum includes the basic business tools of financial accounting applications, legal issues facing managers, economic forecasting, marketing management, financial management, and international business. The second-year curriculum includes managerial accounting controls, strategic marketing, building an effective organization, operations management, leadership development, financial analysis, and overall policy analysis. The specific course, department, number, title, and credit hours appear in brackets.

Because the Executive MBA curriculum is continuously reviewed to reflect the ever-changing needs of the business environment, the College of Business reserves the right to alter the curriculum at any time, through appropriate procedures, for the purpose of effectively achieving its educational mission.

**Year I**

**Fall Semester**

**Evaluating Financial Performance.** [ACCY 505, Financial Accounting Concepts (2)]. The course assumes no previous background in accounting, but moves quickly through the fundamentals. The focus is on what accounting statements mean to the executive.

**Marketing Decision-making for Managers.** [MKTG 505, Graduate Survey of Marketing (2)]. No previous academic background in marketing is assumed, but the course quickly presents the principles. The focus is on the management of the marketing function.

**Operation Issues Facing Managers.** [OMIS 505, Principles of Operations Management (2)]. Issues and problems facing operations managers in the manufacturing and service environments are examined. Topics include product and capacity planning, quality and inventory management, and operations planning and control systems.

**Legal Environment.** [MGMT 511, Legal Aspects of Business (2)]. No previous legal training is assumed, but the course quickly immerses students in the types of legal issues managers must face.

**Spring Semester**

**Managerial Role in Business.** [MGMT 505, Principles of Management (2)]. The course builds upon the student's managerial experience using a series of independent readings and papers. Students are required to evaluate alternative theories and discover the managerial approach appropriate for their current and future leadership positions.

**Financial Tools for Managers.** [FINA 505, Fundamentals of Financial Management (2)]. No previous academic background in finance is assumed. The focus is on financial principles building upon the previous financial accounting course.

**Economic Analysis.** [FINA 500, Survey of Business Economics (2)]. The course introduces basic economic principles used by corporate executives.

**Global Business Issues.** [MGMT 647, International Management (3)]. The course provides students with a multi-disciplinary framework to analyze and assess international business environments that companies face when conducting business across borders.

**Consulting Project.** [UBUS 585, Consulting Project (3)]. Student will be provided with a real company and a real issue. The course is designed to provide students with the ability to apply their first-year EMBA education to a real project.
Summer

International Seminar. [MGMT 601, International Study in Management (3)]. Students participate in a mandatory nine-day international study program. The trip is scheduled in April. The trip is structured to include a mix of company visits, government briefings, and/or university lectures delivered in the countries visited. In 2014, students traveled to Singapore and Shanghai. Company visits included Chevron Phillips Chemical, Yum! Brands, Adobe, HAVI Logistics, Caterpillar, and Coca-Cola. The cost of the trip is included in the program fees.

Year II

Fall Semester

Managing the Corporate Capital. [FINA 607, Financial Analysis (3)]. A case-oriented course that builds upon the principles of finance presented in the previous finance course. Requires several class presentations and written case analyses.

Marketing Strategies. [MKTG 654, Marketing Management (3)]. In-depth analysis of the marketing plan of an organization is presented. Requires several case analyses.

Developing Leadership and Management Skills. [MGMT 635, Organizational Behavior (3)]. The course examines motivation, teamwork, conflict, leadership, and other behavioral concepts that influence individual, group, and organizational effectiveness.

Accounting for Corporate Costs. [ACCY 630, Managerial Accounting Concepts (3)]. The course focuses on the firm’s internal accounting reports and controls with an emphasis on budgeting and controlling operations.

Spring Semester

Applications of IS Strategies. [OMIS 640, Management of Information Systems Technology (3)]. Emphasis on systems technology and marketing; applications of information systems in strategic decision making and as an organizational resource.

Supply Chain Management. [OMIS 627, Operations Analysis (3)]. Analysis of the conceptual and analytical approaches to the solution of significant operations problems is discussed. Case analyses and quantitative solutions within a global competitive environment are emphasized.

Strategy Planning and Implementation. [MGMT 672, Strategic Management and Policy (3)]. Capstone course with a focus on issues of overall organizational goals, policies, and ethics.

Capstone Case Study. [MGMT 637, Entrepreneurship and Venture Management (3)]. Each study group explores topics through the evaluation of a real-world business case. This case competition allows students to look at decisions in a broad context and with consideration to all functional areas of business.
The faculty includes, but is not limited to:

**Terrence R. Bishop**, Ph.D., University of Iowa; associate professor of management; consultant to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; presented seminars on goal-setting and total quality management; author of numerous articles relating to human resource management and business ethics; teaches introductory management module.

**Jon Briscoe**, D.B.A., Boston University; consultant to Manus Associates and Orbis Learning Corporation; presented at conferences nationally and internationally; author of numerous articles on organizational behavior; research in organizational leadership, careers, and ethical behavior; winner of Golden Apple Award*; teaches organizational behavior.

**Edward J. Buckley**, M.B.A., Northern Illinois University; C-level executive specializes in business development, new product introductions, and strategic alliances; Owner and President of Information Providers, Inc.; more than 25 years in industry, including management roles at Fortune 500 companies; published trade publication articles, public speaking engagements, and TV spots; co-teaches capstone case study.

**Geoffrey Gordon**, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; chair of the Department of Marketing; OTA/Off The Record Research Professor of Investment Research; numerous articles and conference proceedings; research interest in product development; teaches marketing principles.

**Gerald R. Jensen**, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln; professor of finance; author of many articles in finance; published proceedings on investment; presenter at professional meetings; teaches financial management.

**James M. Johnson**, Ph.D., Ohio State University; professor of finance; consultant to business and industry specializing in corporate finance, financial analysis, and lease finance; conducted numerous workshops for industry organizations and private firms; published over 50 articles and books; advised numerous firms, including AT&T, Amoco, Coca Cola Financial, GE Capital, IBM Credit, and U.S. Department of Defense; winner of several Golden Apple Awards*; teaches financial analysis and capstone case study.

**Sarah J. Marsh**, Ph.D., University of North Carolina; chair of the Department of Management; presenter at the Academy of Management Annual meetings and Strategic Management International Conferences; consultant in the area of international development; teaches strategic management and policy.

**Brad McDonald**, J.D. University of Illinois; attorney assisting with creating business organizations, contract law, and various legal matters; teaches NIU CPA review course; reviewer of law modules for Wiley CPA Examination; teaches business law.

*The faculty are selected primarily for their teaching ability and their proven ability to relate to experienced managers. Selection to teach in the Executive MBA program is considered a mark of distinction. Tenure and rank are not considered.*

“I chose NIU’s Executive MBA for their academic reputation, national accreditation, convenient location and most importantly their value. What I got out of it was so much more! I walked away with not only a great education and stronger business acumen skills, but also a strong professional network of faculty members and classmates. Throughout the 18 months we shared many professional experiences, enjoyed laughter, a few tears, and built life-long friendships along the way.”

**Scott Sanders**
**Boston Scientific**
**Class of 2012**
“The NIU EMBA program offered me a great value and a unique opportunity to learn, develop and sharpen my leadership skills. The program delivers a wealth of knowledge and equipped me to develop essential strategies, tools and techniques to successfully manage businesses, run operations, and most importantly lead an organization. It is much more than just a learning—it is a live experience.

During the program I had the opportunity to study, network and collaborate with professionals from many industries. I had lived and worked in five different countries prior to pursuing my MBA, I definitely see the business world and my career in a different way with a new fresh perspective. The international trip, the case studies, and the class discussions were all exceptionally valuable.

The NIU EMBA program is my lifetime accomplishment and gave me a sense of achievement that I am proud of. It is in the mind and in the heart. I made the right choice; it is an excellent MBA by NIU.”

Wessam Saber
Mars Chocolate
Class of 2014
A variety of instructional methods are used in order to best achieve the optimal blend of theory and real-world application. The Executive MBA follows many of the same procedures and instructional methods of the traditional MBA program. However, modification of these procedures has been made to take advantage of the broad and varied experience of the students.

Executive Guest Speakers
Executives from the Chicago area are frequently invited to meet with the Executive MBA classes to share their business knowledge and experience. The perspectives and ideas that these business leaders present bring a real-world practical experience and add an important dimension to the classroom. Past speakers have included Richard Morrow (Amoco), Don Clark (Household International), Robert Galvin (Motorola), John Richman (Kraft, Inc.), Cornelis Boonstra (Sara Lee), Ramon Alvarez (MICRO SWITCH/Honeywell), Bob Waller (Dry Storage Corporation), Arthur Martinez (Sears Merchandise Group), Michael Corrao (Gingiss Formalwear, Inc.), James Pinckney (William James and Associates), Robert Growney (Motorola), Michael Duffield (Wallace Computer Services), Michael Leatherman (Wallace Computer Services), Don Dempsey (Caribou Coffee), and Steven Levitt (author of *Freakonomics*).

Classroom Activities
Instructors employ the teaching methods of lecture and discussion, case analyses, individual and group research, report writing, presentations, guest speakers, and business related projects. These methods have proved to be highly effective in providing education to executives.

Study Groups
One of the ways in which the Executive MBA differs from the traditional MBA is that the Executive MBA allows one to learn from fellow students as well as professors. When a student feels weak in a particular area, chances are one or two members of the study group will have a great deal of knowledge in that subject. The study group acts as a tutor. It also acts as a confidence builder for the participant encountering a difficult subject. If a student feels insecure about his/her performance, discussing the concern with fellow study group members often provides a more objective perspective that facilitates accomplishment of the task. Study groups stay together throughout the entire program, which allows lasting friendships to develop.

Ralph de la Vega, President and CEO of AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets, Class of 1989.
Lock Step
All individuals begin the program together, sharing the same educational experience and taking the same courses in the same sequence for the duration of the program. This lock-step approach allows students to develop effective teams with other class members that will often grow into long-term friendships.

Optional Summer Workshops
Since most Executive MBA students have not been in a formal classroom setting for several years, they may feel apprehensive about their present knowledge concerning some of the subjects that will be covered in the program. To help alleviate this, we developed workshops in two areas—accounting and finance—that are considered to be critical to a student’s understanding of and performance in Executive MBA course topics. These workshops are designed to provide students with sufficient background information to begin the particular class. There is no additional cost for these workshops, which are offered on Saturdays during the summer prior to the first year. Students will be notified of the exact schedule after applying to the program.

Team-Building Program
The Executive MBA holds a weekend team-building program at the Q Center in St. Charles, Illinois, the first weekend of classes. Students arrive on Friday noon and stay at the center until Saturday evening. Throughout the weekend students participate in panel discussions regarding the importance of teams, classroom activities, and team-building exercises. A portion of the weekend is devoted to a leadership dynamics program conducted by qualified experiential facilitators.

In this experiential program, the Executive MBA students engage in exercises that strengthen team-building skills, including trust, group support, leadership values, and communication. The major objectives are to provide the individual study groups with the opportunity to identify and utilize the strengths and assets of each group member. Also, the program provides each student with an experience that has the potential to increase motivation, promote individual risk-taking, and enhance group problem solving.

Consulting Alliance Experience
NIU’s Executive MBA Consulting Alliance Experience provides students with a real-world business environment throughout their EMBA program. Students bring their professional expertise, and broaden their MBA curriculum, as they consult on company-related projects.

Students work with real businesses on real issues in real time. The Consulting Alliance Experience includes Project Consulting, during the first year of the program which allows students the opportunity to develop solutions to a specific issue facing a for-profit or not-for-profit. Company-in-Residence spans the second year in which students develop a financial analysis and marketing plan for a business, in addition, students may work on IT or operations management issues. The Capstone Project is the students culminating experience in the program. Students develop a complete business plan for a company to help it grow profitably.

Whether an entrepreneurial startup, a new product launch, or a unique business solution, the NIU Executive MBA Consulting Alliance Experience allows students to perfect their team skills, apply shared knowledge, and present solutions that make a difference!

Career Services
The Executive MBA provides career services that are uniquely tailored for mid- to upper-level executives. Throughout their EMBA program, students who choose to do so, work one-on-one with a professional career coach regarding both career accelerators and career changers. These dedicated coaches understand the EMBA audience and bring a level of credibility and expertise that is relevant for Executive MBA students. Students are given the opportunity to engage in one-on-one coaching, career-related workshops, and personal assessment tools.
**Physical Facilities**

“*The NIU Executive MBA program reenergized my career after 30 years of various managerial and executive roles. The faculty skillfully facilitated inspiring class discussions on a variety of business, managerial, and self-development topics. My classmates were a diverse group of global business professionals from many different countries. The study group forum used by the EMBA program produced weekly exchanges of ideas outside the classroom resulting in exceptional presentations from all groups. This collaboration of ideas to reach solutions to real world global issues is now used by me to ensure an improved “customer-centric” focus to business problems.*

*The Saturday schedule allowed me to continue my work-related travel and balance my family life. I strongly recommend the NIU EMBA program to anyone wishing to gain a competitive advantage in today’s world. I feel that my overall return on investment was exceptional.***

Kenneth D. Cervenka  
MacLean-Fogg Company  
Class of 2014

All classes are held at NIU Naperville, conveniently located along the I-88 East-West Corporate Corridor in Naperville. The facility is specifically designed for training, seminars, and meetings and is conducive to executive learning. Classrooms have wireless connectivity for laptops and are equipped with all the latest audiovisual technology. On all class days, a buffet lunch is served. Refreshment breaks are also provided in the morning and afternoon.

NIU Naperville is conveniently located along I-88 (East-West Corporate Corridor) in Naperville.
Application Procedure

Each applicant must submit the following to: MBA Office, College of Business, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2897.

Graduate Application Form and Fee: Online applications speed our ability to reply to you and ensure the accuracy of our records. Online applications over our secure server require a credit card to pay the $40 application fee. Alternatively, you can visit the Graduate School and complete an application. The website is www.grad.niu.edu/apply/index.shtml.

Supplemental Form: Students should complete and mail the supplemental information form as early as possible. This form should be mailed directly to the MBA Office.

College Transcript: An official transcript from the college or university from which the student graduated must be sent directly from that institution to the MBA Office.

Letters of Recommendation: Two letters of recommendation are required. Letters of recommendation should be completed by a professional associate who has known the candidate at least one year.

Interview: After an application and supporting documents are submitted, a personal interview with the assistant dean will be scheduled.

Graduate Management Admission Test: For complete information, visit their website at www.mba.com.

There is a possibility to waive the GMAT requirement for individuals with ten or more years of managerial experience. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

A complete application must include (material does not need to be submitted all at once):
1) Application for Admission to the Graduate School and Goal Statement
2) Executive MBA supplemental information
3) Application fee
4) Two letters of recommendation
5) Official GMAT score
6) Official transcripts
7) Sponsorship form

“Choosing to attend NIU’s Executive MBA program was a winning decision for me. The program is affordable, allows for a full-time work schedule, NIU is a well-respected institution, and is one of the select few B-Schools in Illinois to have the highly regarded and globally recognized AACSB accreditation.

The difference between a traditional MBA from NIU, and the EMBA, is the program structure. The classes and coursework are identical. The program does not cut corners, nor does it offer a diluted version of the course. The added advantage of participation in the EMBA program is having the opportunity to tap into the collective, professional experience of my classmates which is highly rewarding.

The curriculum provides a great balance of competencies like leadership, finance, and marketing, just to name a few. The effects of my studies were immediately noticed by my employer once I began the program. The global business course and international trip gets extremely high marks. While other institutions may offer a class in international business, NIU provided me with the opportunity to go abroad and meet face to face with C-Level executives of major companies like YUM!Brands and Coca-Cola.

On a scale of 1-10, the program receives an 11 in my book.”

Elois Sprolls
Chicago Trading Company
Class of 2015
Candidates are encouraged to apply as early as possible. The selection of Executive MBA candidates for the class starting August 2015, will begin in early spring 2015.

Applicants are selected primarily on the basis of their work record. A minimum of five years’ successful professional experience is required. A baccalaureate degree in any area with a grade point average of at least 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale) and a score of 450 or higher on the GMAT are expected. The GMAT may be waived if an applicant has more than ten years managerial experience. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Class size. A maximum of 50 class members are carefully selected to include a balanced mixture of participants with comparable managerial and professional responsibilities but different backgrounds and organizational affiliations. No specific undergraduate degree, course prerequisites, or training is required for admission.

Company sponsorship is expected. The candidate must submit a signed Sponsorship Form (included with the application forms) prior to admittance into the program.

Applicants accepted to the program must post a non-refundable deposit of $2,500 to hold a place in the class. The deposit is due 10 days after official acceptance and is applied to the first-year fee of $27,500. The balance of the fee is to be paid within 30 days of admission. Fees for the second year are $27,500. If a participant leaves the program for any reason after he or she has been accepted and enrolled, it is the policy of the College of Business that fees will not be refunded. Although sponsoring companies in many instances pay the costs or reimburse participants in part or in full, the participant is responsible for prompt payment to the university and for maintaining a current student financial account.

Students are regular graduate students. Participants in the Executive MBA program are admitted to the Graduate School and accordingly are considered regular graduate students and subject to the general policies of the Graduate School regarding grading standards and graduation. All students are required to maintain at least a 3.00 (B) grade point average.

“As an alumna of NIU, I have Huskie pride in my blood. When I decided to pursue my MBA, NIU topped my list. Ultimately my choice came down to reputation, program quality and schedule, cost, and of course the international opportunity didn’t hurt!

I remember thinking “what have I gotten myself into?” during the first weeks of EMBA, but that quickly changed. Suddenly I started to see things differently. I was contributing to my company in new ways with a newfound confidence that was getting me noticed. As a direct result of what the program was teaching me, I received a promotion during the first year of the EMBA program. I watched in awe as my team members and classmates made similar transitions into new roles and discovered strengths in themselves they hadn’t realized before. The EMBA program at Northern Illinois University challenged me, changed me and ultimately gave me knowledge and confidence that opened an endless number of doors to my career and future.”

Stephanie Kotsios
Radco Industries, Inc.
Class of 2015
Alumni Activities

The Northern Illinois University Executive MBA program has more than 1,000 graduates. These graduates have formed a very large, active alumni association.

Selected past graduates serve on an advisory committee that assists and advises the director in making decisions regarding strategic issues that affect the Executive MBA program. The committee also plans and helps implement alumni activities. Picnics, outings to athletic contests, and other special, as well as professional events are planned for alumni participation.

Lasting relationships are readily developed in the Executive MBA program and enthusiastically continued through alumni activities.

“The EMBA program at Northern Illinois has been a tremendous compliment to my career. I was able to utilize the learnings immediately, which provided a clearer understanding of how my company operates. The diversity of students and expertise and experience of the faculty has provided methods on how to improve performance and create efficiencies across industries, many of which I have leveraged at work. I enjoyed the experience; it was a great decision and journey!”

Anthony Armato
Sears Holdings
Class of 2015

The Executive MBA staff handles the complexities of university procedures, such as registration, book purchases and distribution, and the preparation of letters that facilitate the candidate’s reimbursement by his/her employer, thus reducing the burdens placed on the student.

*From classroom to graduation.*
**Class Schedule**

During the first year, classes meet one day per week on Saturdays. Students will attend two classes every Saturday; the first will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 12 noon, and the second will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. This schedule will continue through the fall and spring until the first Saturday in May. Classes are not normally held during the regular university vacation periods of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Scheduled classes adjourn for the summer. During the program’s second year, classes will follow the same pattern as the first year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-12 noon</td>
<td>Class (continuation of morning class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 noon-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Class (continuation of afternoon class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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“The Impact of an Executive MBA Education

A degree that addresses the reality of business today and in the future, NIU’s Executive MBA provides business leaders an education to improve on-the-job performance and the rewards that come with success.

EMBA Up Close, What you need to know about the Executive MBA
www.executivemba.org/pdf/ebook_emba_up_close.pdf

The Executive MBA Experience
www.executivemba.org/

“When I started the NIU EMBA program, it was a number of years since I sat in a classroom. I was concerned about getting back into the routine of school, the time involved, and how I would fit school into my schedule along with work, family, and church. The commitment of the faculty and staff to the students were a tremendous help with my transition back to school.

The EMBA program is a collaborative environment that draws faculty, classmates, and study groups together. One of my goals is to challenge the way I approach business cases and change the way I think. The study groups allow me to learn from my classmates, who are professionals in other industries, and apply what I learn immediately to my business. Being part of the study groups allows all students to glean from their teammates and is one of the program’s strengths.

The program has far exceeded my expectations. The faculty challenges me on a weekly basis and I leave class eager to apply what I learn. The program has made an impact on my career advancement. Since I started the program I have taken on additional responsibilities, direct reports, and have been involved in several key projects within my company. My recommendation to those thinking about the program is to jump in now. It goes fast and you will enjoy the ride.”

Michael Vrlenich
Rexam Beverage Can
Class of 2015
"Having several options to consider for a MBA Program, I chose the Executive MBA program from NIU because its structure focused on real world experience and cohort learning. You start the class with peers of similar work experience, you share your knowledge and experience with the class, you learn from each other and from experienced faculty, and you finish the program as a group. The program structure offered work, family and curriculum balance. The 18-month duration and the class meeting every Saturday suited my schedule. Of course cost was one of the major deciding factors too. The international trip and the two real world business consulting projects, which most business schools in and near the Chicago area do not offer, happened to be the most rewarding part of the Executive MBA program. In the end, my decision to attend NIU for my Executive MBA turned out to be wise and worthwhile."

KANNAN BALAKRISHNAN
Edgilet Corporation
Class of 2012

A variety of organizations throughout the Chicago region sponsor students in the Executive MBA program. These organizations include hospitals, not-for-profits, and a wide range of both small and large businesses. Following is a sampling of past corporate sponsors:

Abbott Laboratories
Alberto Culver
AT&T Operations Inc.
BP
Calesco Norells NA
Caterpillar
Chicago Tribune Company
CNA Insurance
Coventry Health Care
Cypress Care
Emerson Process Management
Essential Group, Inc.
Exelon-Byron Generating Station
Flinn Scientific
GE Energy Services
General Mills
HSBC Banking Corp.
HOH Water Technology
Knowles Electronics, LLC
Hard Hat Services
IBM
International Truck & Engine
Keson Industries
Lucent Technology
Masonite Corp.
Motorola
Navistar Inc.
Novaspec, Inc.
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Pepsico
Pioneer Press
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
R R Donnelley
Rush Copley Medical Center
ThermoFisher Scientific
Trondent Development Corp.
United Airlines
US Cellular Corp.
Vactor Manufacturing Inc.
Walgreen Co.

Students participate in a weekend orientation and team building experience.
Pursuing an advanced degree like an Executive MBA can be a difficult decision to make. You have competing demands on your time already. There are real costs as well as opportunity costs to consider. Maybe you don’t feel 100% confident that you have the ability to be successful at this level of education. But once you’ve made the decision, NIU’s Executive MBA program will deliver on the promise to have an impact on your career, your leadership potential, and your life!

I’ve had the opportunity to be a part of this program for over 20 years, and I can assure you that the benefits our students receive from the program more than make up for the perceived and real costs that you may be worried about. I can also assure you that, like hundreds of NIU EMBA graduates, you can make the time to invest in the program, and that the investment will be worth it. And, if you have concerns about your potential for success in the NIU EMBA, our experienced staff will help guide you in assessing if you are ready for the EMBA challenge.

NIU’s EMBA program is unique in its hand-on approach to managing the process as well as content delivery. It is unique in its focus on building strategic and team skills, within the framework of a rigorous business management curriculum. It is unique in that professors and practitioners work together to deliver content to ensure a clear balance between theory and practice that will help advance your leadership potential in your organization. NIU’s EMBA can make a significant difference on your future. You just need to make the decision that it is right for you, and we will do the rest to provide you with an exceptional education.

Denise Schoenbachler

Now that you have looked through the EMBA brochure and read the quotes from our alumni, I think you see that NIU’s Executive MBA offers a program to accommodate you—your schedule and your needs. The decision to pursue an MBA is an important one, but what I hear from our EMBA alumni is that ‘enrolling in NIU’s EMBA was one of the best decisions of my life!’

NIU’s Executive MBA is rigorous, but worthwhile. You will need to invest your time, effort, and energy while in the program. The good news is that you will soon realize you are becoming a changed person in the workplace. You will look at business differently and you will approach your day-to-day work responsibilities with new perspectives.

The NIU Executive MBA will change your life; why not start now?

Ann E. Carrel
Executive MBA Highlights