Sykes College of Business
Executive MBA

The Sykes College of Business draws together talented faculty, sophisticated technology and cutting-edge curriculum to provide students with the tools to succeed in a changing world. The Executive MBA is a two-year, 48-credit-hour program meeting every other Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. With business during the week and classes on the weekends, EMBA students find that the learning never stops. Many students apply concepts and strategies from the program immediately in their workplaces, adding instant value to their studies and careers.

Leadership Development

The Executive MBA (Master of Business Administration) program at the Sykes College of Business provides experienced business professionals a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to building leadership skills for the new economy and preparing for future challenges. Over the course of their studies and program experiences, they develop global perspective, strategic vision and innovative thinking — important tools for making the right decisions and managing risk in a changing world.

EMBA students learn from faculty with high academic credentials, exceptional teaching skills and strong professional backgrounds — many professors have executive experience or have had companies of their own. Students also learn from their classmates, who bring a broad scope of professional expertise and insight. As a result, classroom discussions are lively and rich with real-world business examples and implications. Small class sizes and a team approach help develop a sense of camaraderie as EMBA students form close-knit groups and important, lasting business connections. The EMBA program encourages real-world learning through client projects, internships, case studies, consulting, strategic planning and data collection and analysis. The program’s international travel component helps students incorporate a global view into their studies.

UT’s close proximity to downtown Tampa offers easy access and connections to the business community. Hundreds of companies, including T. Rowe Price, Citigroup, The Nielsen Company, Syniverse Technologies, Coca-Cola Enterprises and Franklin Templeton Investments, recruit at UT each year.

Internationally Recognized Program

The Sykes College of Business is accredited by AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), the premier business accrediting organization. The College is rated one of the “best business schools” by U.S. News & World Report (2012); one of the 296 best business schools in the world by The Princeton Review (seventh year in a row); and in the “Excellent Business Schools” category in the 2011 Eduniversal Worldwide Business Schools ranking. The EMBA program was rated a “Best Value” in Fortune magazine.
EMBA courses address sustainability, knowledge and innovation management, creative global problem solving, decision analysis and other relevant areas. Faculty members keep students apprised of current trends and strategies, and introduce connections with the business community through guest lecturers who enrich learning.

Hands-on, Team Approach

Students progress through the curriculum in a team structure called a cohort, allowing them to cultivate valuable business relationships and personal connections. As executives with diverse backgrounds, team members share ideas with mutual benefits and develop professional opportunities.

Exceptional Value and Convenience

The Executive MBA program meets every other Saturday for two years. A strategically designed curriculum requires students to take two classes at a time, together with their cohort, and work through the program consecutively. Since EMBA students work full-time, this schedule helps minimize disruption of career and family life. The program is competitively priced against other top Executive MBA programs.

Experiential Global Component

In the program’s second year, a series of courses prepare students for an international experience, during which they explore the possibilities of operating businesses outside of the U.S. Their studies include a global assessment and strategic business analysis, culminating in a 10-day trip abroad that takes learning beyond the classroom. In recent years, EMBA students have traveled to Chile, Argentina, China and India.
The Sykes College of Business values its close connections with the Tampa Bay business community, comprised of many successful local, national and international companies. Relationships with business leaders help UT stay abreast of trends and build opportunities for students and faculty. More than 700 community leaders are involved with UT’s various boards and advisory groups. In return, UT provides the business community with excellent programs, meaningful research and thoughtful, strategic analysis.

Florida Directors’ Institute
With its mission of assuring exceptional performance through effective corporate governance, the Florida Directors’ Institute provides expertise to practitioners, professional associations and other organizations. Institute programs — offered annually for one, two or three days — seek to improve the quality of participation and informed decision-making at the senior management and board of directors levels. Programs are limited in attendance to provide an informal, highly interactive environment for networking and sharing knowledge.

Fellows Forum
The Fellows Forum features three CEOs or presidents of companies who speak about current issues and trends affecting business. The event is sponsored by the Board of Fellows, a group of business owners who support UT by providing scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. The Fellows Forum draws members of the business community, UT students and faculty, and serves as an annual fundraiser for student scholarships.

TECO Energy Center for Leadership
Located on the UT campus, the TECO Energy Center for Leadership offers customized programs for high-potential leaders, conducts leadership seminars for area business executives and brings nationally recognized speakers to campus. The Center also engages in applied leadership research and coordinates grants and conference attendance.

The Executive MBA curriculum emphasizes teamwork, leadership development and real-world exploration of issues relevant to current and emerging business trends.

Helen Harmon ’11
HR Manager, Granite Services Inc.
After a rewarding undergraduate experience at UT, Harmon knew exactly where she wanted to go for her Executive MBA. She appreciated the one-on-one attention from her professors in the Sykes College of Business, and found she was able to apply classroom lessons immediately to her job as human resources manager at Granite Services, a GE Energy affiliate. Harmon valued UT’s dynamic learning environment and said her interactions with other business students contributed significantly to her professional growth.

“Tackling an EMBA program isn’t easy, but it’s a strong investment in your future and can be an experience of a lifetime,” she said.
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Career Advancement

Graduate business students and alumni have free, lifetime access to a variety of tools and networks to help advance their careers. This includes HIRE-UT, a specialized online resource exclusively for UT students and alumni. HIRE-UT posts job openings from companies looking for well-qualified candidates.

UT’s strong relationships with local and global companies bring a wide range of possibilities for current graduate business students and alumni looking for new opportunities. Because of their overwhelmingly positive experiences with hiring UT students and alumni over the years, many of these companies keep coming back to HIRE-UT.

One of the distinctive characteristics of a UT education is the built-in network of active alumni and links to the local and international business communities. While some UT graduates continuing to live and work in the Tampa Bay area, many go on to work for businesses around the world. Opportunities abound for business connections between students and alumni on a variety of levels.

Coaching Success

More than 120 Tampa Bay business executives from a variety of industries volunteer as coaches for UT graduate business students through the Tampa Bay Coaches Association. The relationships born from these partnerships often prove invaluable to both parties. Students may request to be paired with professionals who work in certain areas or have particular specialties.

Coaches meet with students regularly to work on strategies such as interview techniques, negotiation and networking. Some coaches offer job shadowing or internship opportunities, while others decide to hire UT graduates.

Eric Gaines ’11
Risk Management Technical Coordinator, General Electric

A West Point graduate with a B.S. in electrical engineering, Gaines served as an Army officer followed by years as an engineer for Quaker Oats and General Electric. In his current role as a risk management technical coordinator for GE, Gaines welcomed the opportunity to participate in UT’s highly regarded EMBA program. He values the insight he has gained into today’s economy and global business from professors and fellow students. Armed with an MBA from one of the world’s top graduate business schools, Gaines plans to put his strategic planning and finance skills to work as he continues to move up the corporate ladder.

“We have an excellent group of people in the program with diverse opinions and backgrounds. I appreciated all of their input and especially enjoyed our discussions and the professors’ views in strategic management and economics. The EMBA experience here has really opened my eyes and helped me see where I want to go next.”

About UT

The University of Tampa is a medium-sized, private university offering more than 150 areas of undergraduate study and 10 graduate programs. Richly diverse, UT is the school of choice for approximately 7,000 students from across the country and around the world.

Visit www.ut.edu/graduate for more information about UT and the Sykes College of Business.