

The Executive MBA Program at Notre Dame

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Are you an executive leader in your field? Thinking about taking your career to the next level? Then the Executive Masters of Business Administration at Notre Dame may be just the program that you are looking for.

Paul C. Velasco, the Director of the Stayer Center for Executive Education at Notre Dame, provides leadership and direction for the two Executive MBA programs on Notre Dame's South Bend and Chicago campuses. He explains that the executive MBA is targeted to make a difference in industry leaders. "The Executive MBA Program builds business and leadership acumen for an executive audience," Velasco says. "All these leaders seek to accomplish two goals through the EMBA program — to develop their business acumen to better drive value creation within their organization, and to do so while always maintaining a values-centered leadership perspective."

Experience makes a difference

Velasco explains that although most students in the program average around 38 years old, the program participants range in age from 30-60. Compared to a traditional MBA program, the Executive program is designed for more experienced leaders. With 20 years of this program behind them, the staff at Notre Dame are able to focus on the development of higher-level management skills, with a solid understanding of leadership through their Integral Leadership curriculum. Velasco also points out that in contrast with other executive MBA programs, the Notre difference occurs across two dimensions. "First, we help students to develop their own leadership perspective through our Executive Integral Leadership program," he says. "And secondly, the Notre Dame EMBA program places a greater stress on strategy — developing our students to create resilient strategies that will stand the test of time."

High success rate

The Executive MBA programs see a successful graduation rate of over 95%, which Velasco credits to an intensive applicant-screening program. "We work to carefully select applicants that are well-prepared to be successful in our programs," he explains. "We also carry this approach into Executive Education's non-degree programs, all of which work to develop a leadership perspective in our students."

Strategy-driven

One key difference of Notre Dame's executive program Velasco points out is its dedication to real-life results. "Our approach to strategy, which includes live cases and a project-oriented international immersion, cannot be found elsewhere in the region," says Velasco. As any student knows, sometimes the real world can be a far cry from the classroom, but according to Velasco, students through Notre Dame's program choose a trek that focuses on the knowledge they will need in the workplace. "Students choose this program because our new curriculum provides a best-in-class education that is not available through other EMBA programs."

Valerie Olsen is a recent graduate of the program and an executive at Target who maintains that the practical aspect of the program holds great appeal for students. "I loved the cohort aspect of the program," she explains. "It is a realistic view of how to build effective teams and provides a great way to build close relationships and networks that I will continue to grow long after the program."

Values matter

Like one would come to expect from this community leader, Notre Dame's Executive MBA program focuses on the ethical side of the business world as well.

[We have a] values-centered-leadership perspective," states Velasco. "We believe that businesses must operate as a force for good within the world, and train our students to think of broader perspectives in every course they engage."

Valier affirms that she chose the program largely for its ethical basis. "The newly designed curriculum weaves ethical leadership, strategy, and spirituality throughout," Valerie says. "The program has pushed me to dig deeper into strategy, what it means to be an ethical leader, and expect more out of the businesses I work with. "

Financial assistance is available for training in the Executive MBA program at Notre Dame. For full-time graduate students, standard financial aid packages apply and Notre Dame offers eight fellowships a year to award up to \$20,000 of grant money per student. Fellowships are provided through the John Cardinal O'Hara Society. The Deadline for South Bend students to apply for a fellowship is June 15, 2013.

"I truly love the program and would do it again in a second," Valerie exclaims. "This program has helped me to elevate my business acumen, but also take it one step further and allowed me to differentiate myself by being able to strategically align my career goals with my personal goals; allowing me to be successful in all aspects of my life."

*More information on the Executive MBA program at Notre Dame can be found
www.business.nd.edu/Executive_MBA.*