

Ruth's Rankings 39. Appendix A: Background on business school rankings and accreditation

Harvard taught the first MBA program in 1908. In 1955, what was then a part of University of Karachi and is now the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi offered a Master's degree based on the U.S. model. INSEAD offered the first MBA in Europe in 1957 (History, 2014). In 1982, Wharton and Kellogg helped set up Sasin Business School of Management, affiliated with Chulalongkorn University. More information about Asian business schools' history and current status is in Feldman's article in University World News (Feldman, 2018).

Evolution of Rankings

I previously wrote about MBA rankings relative to their U.S. business libraries (Pagell and Lusk 2002) and summarized their history in my first writings on bibliometrics (Pagell, 2009).

Today's MBA rankings follow a history of scholarly rankings, covering periods starting in 1939 and moving from peer review to tools that are basic bibliometrics: counting publications and pages (Henry & Burch, 1974; Moore & Taylor, 1980; Niemi, 1988). Margulies and Blau surveyed professional school deans and ranked 12 schools (Margulies, 1973; Blau, 1974). Eight of their current top twelve business schools are top 10 in both US MBA rankings today and ten are in the top 20.

Business School	1973/74	U.S. News MBAs	Bloomberg BW	Research Rank 86-98
Harvard Business School	1	1	3	9
Stanford Grad School of Business	2	4	1	3
University of Chicago – Booth	3	2	5	5
University of Pennsylvania - Wharton	4	3	2	1
Carnegie-Mellon – Tepper	5	17	13	24
MIT – Sloan	6	5	4	13
Washington U St Louis -Olin	7	22	37	45
UCLA -Anderson	8	16	18	16
University of Michigan – Ross	9	7	19	2
Columbia University Business School	10	9	7	6
Indiana University -Kelley	11	27	32	21
Northwestern - Kellogg	11	6	8	10

Business Week published a reputations' ranking of U.S. business schools in 1988 (Byrne, 1988) followed by U.S. News in 1990 which introduced metrics. Although Trieschmann et al, using weighted page counts from 20 journals, found a significant difference between research rankings and U.S. News MBA ranking ($p < .05$), seven of their research schools are on the above MBA list (Trieschmann, Dennis, Northcraft, & Niemi, 2000).

Global Accreditation

There are three main accreditation bodies for MBAs: AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA.

AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International is the oldest, established in 1916 and largest. It now has locations in the U.S., The Netherlands, and Singapore. [AACSB](#) has 821 accredited institutions (including undergraduate programs) from 54 countries. Half of their schools are in the U.S. and 15% in Asia/Pac. Only North American schools were accredited until 1997. In addition to the countries covered in our rankings, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines also have accredited schools.

[EQUIS](#) is affiliated with [EFMD](#), the European Foundation for Management development which is located in Brussels. It has a European focus with only three stand-alone U.S. business colleges as members. Currently there are 224 accredited MBA programs. Click [here](#) for a list of EQUIS accredited schools and their other accreditations.

[AMBA](#), Association of MBAs, located in the UK, was established in 1967. It accredits MBAs, DBAs and Masters programs. It has 254 accredited MBA programs. Over 50% are European and no U.S. university is included. 60 are from Asia/Pac with over half from mainland China. Search by school or [country](#).

Use this [FINDMBA](#) advanced search interface to identify over 2000 business schools. It lists 481 programs or search for all full-time [Asian programs](#), that are accredited.

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