



## **Executive MBA Council Analyzes Membership Data from Past Five Years**

ORANGE, CALIF., Dec. 31, 2009 – Over the past five years, applications to Executive MBA Programs worldwide increased steadily, according to the results of the Executive MBA Council’s 2009 Membership Program Survey. In 2009, the average number of applications per program was 92.6, up from 71 in 2005. “Interest in Executive MBA programs remains high, despite the challenging economy,” says Michael Desiderio, executive director of the Executive MBA Council. “Our programs continue to attract high caliber students, and employers’ support of students – through full or partial tuition reimbursement or simply time away from the office – is affirmation of the value of the Executive MBA to both the organization and the individual student.”

The council’s annual Membership Program Survey offers a comprehensive overview of worldwide programs. Approximately 311 member programs participated in the 2009 survey. Data for the survey was gathered in summer 2009.

### **High Caliber of Students**

- Average years of work experience (approximately 13.1) and years of management experience (8.3) have stayed relatively the same over the past five years.
- Average GPA has held steady (3.18 in 2009; 3.15 in 2005).
- Ninety-three percent of programs in 2009 required an interview, up from 87 percent in 2005.

### **Tuition Reimbursement**

- In 2009, 68 percent of Executive MBA students receive tuition reimbursement from their employer:
  - Thirty-six percent of students receive partial reimbursement, relatively the same since 2005 (35 percent).
  - Thirty-two percent of students receive full tuition reimbursement, down from 2005 (37 percent).
- Thirty-four percent of Executive MBA students are self-sponsored, up from 30 percent in 2005.

### **General Information**

- The percentage of female students remains steady (26 percent).

- Average student age is 37, relatively the same over the past five years.
- The number of Executive MBA programs has held steady over the past five years. The greatest growth is taking place in non-North American locations.
- Average program cost in 2009 was \$63,420, compared with \$53,180 in 2005.
- Program costs increased 5 percent from 2008, down from the average 9 percent annual increase.

### **Program Structure**

- Average class size is 45, up from 42 in 2005.
- Average program length continues to be 20 months.
- The percentage of programs requiring an international trip is 63 percent, up from 56 percent in 2005. China is the most popular destination, followed by India and Brazil.
- More programs (9 percent) have a specific industry focus, up from 5 percent in 2005. The most common industry focus is healthcare.
- The portion of program content offered through distance learning has increased from 6 percent in 2005 to 8 percent in 2009.

### **About the Executive MBA Council**

The Executive MBA Council provides a place for programs to share best practices and gathers industry data. Survey analysis was conducted by Percept Research, an independent market research firm and the council's research partner.

-30-

Contact:

Paula Mielke, [paula.mielke@embac.org](mailto:paula.mielke@embac.org)

651-492-4143