



PHOTO CREDIT: AUDREY KEMP

UEI HVAC mechanic students

OC's MBA Enrollment Falls For 5th Straight Year

By PETER J. BRENNAN

Business schools serving Orange County experienced an 11% drop in enrollment.

It's the largest drop in the past five years and continued an ongoing local trend; the last time the Business Journal reported increasing MBA enrollment was 2016.

This year's decline was widespread as 12 of the 16 schools on the Business Journal's annual directory of MBA Schools reported a decline. Three smaller schools didn't report their numbers.

Only one, Garden Grove's **Stanton University**, reported an increase, 3.2% to 162 students.

The biggest decline was at **University of Massachusetts Global**, formerly known as **Brandman University**, which reported a 22% decline to 354 students. **Chapman University** last month transferred the nonprofit Brandman to University of Massachusetts Global, a newly launched nonprofit affiliate of UMass.

The area's biggest MBA program, **University of California, Irvine**, reported a 0.5% decline to 630 students.

CSUF's New Dean

UCI's business school got a new dean at the start of the year, **Ian Williamson**, while



300+ enrolled in Cal State Fullerton's MBA program

this summer **Sridhar Sundaram** took over as dean of **California State University, Fullerton's College of Business and Economics**.

Sundaram assumed his new role at the largest business school in California on July 15.

The Business Journal's MBA directory shows 3,228 students are paying an average \$39,439 to earn the graduate degree, which is often the pathway to top management positions.

In recent years, traditional MBA programs have been in decline as students forgo expensive programs for more flexible learning options such as hybrid instruction and pay-as-you-go programs. ■

IEC

from page 20

"critical need" of e-commerce and online shopping.

"The pandemic has really pushed warehousing, e-commerce and the need for supply chain management. There's an incredible shortage right now at **Walmart** and **Amazon**. We can't train enough truck drivers for those two companies alone."

Future Essential Workers

IEC says it's not in competition with the community colleges or universities.

Its target student is often a first-generation college student who needs a highly supportive, hands-on environment.

"There's a large group of students out there who have been historically and traditionally

ignored and avoided by post-secondary education," Fateri said.

"They don't learn theoretically but by doing—but they are our core and whom we love. If we weren't here, they wouldn't have an option or a choice."

Depreciating Degrees

The pandemic has shown how critical trades-related workers are to the economy, Fateri said, adding that one of the most disruptive trends of the next decade will be the devaluation of college degrees.

"The value of a degree is going down by the month because of employers. The leading employers of the country—**Google**, **Facebook**, **Tesla** and **Apple**—no longer care if you have a bachelor's degree. They're eliminating the stigma of having a degree by emphasizing competencies and skills in the hiring process.

"That's a fantastic thing." ■

THE LIST MBA SCHOOLS



LOUNA AL HALLAK
Chief Academic Officer
Stanton University



SRIDHAR SUNDARAM
Dean
California State University, Fullerton



DERYCK J. VAN RENSBURG
Dean
Pepperdine University



IAN WILLIAMSON
Dean
University of California, Irvine



DREW WOLF
MBA Program Director
Concordia University Irvine


































GLENN WORTHINGTON
Dean, School of Business and Professional Studies
University of Massachusetts Global

THE LIST MBA SCHOOLS

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LISTS
Automakers, Auto Dealers

LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

School •Address	School logo	Total current MBA enrollment •yearly % change	Full-time faculty •Part-time faculty	Programs offered	-Minimum completion time (in months)* -Minimum tuition cost (completion of degree)*	Accreditation	Partial list of S. Calif. sites	Top MBA official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
Anaheim University 1240 S. State College Blvd., Ste. 110 Anaheim 92806-5152 Website: anaheim.edu Email: admissions@anaheim.edu		11 ⁽¹⁾ NA	0 ⁽¹⁾ 15 ⁽¹⁾	MBA in International Business; MBA in Global Sustainable Management; Master of Entrepreneurship	18 \$16,075	DEAC	MBA programs are 100% online	Robert Robertson dean, Akio Morita School of Business (714) 772-3330/(714) 772-3331	
Azusa Pacific University 1915 W. Orangewood, Ste. 100 Orange 92868-2046 Website: apu.edu Email: dlevasheff@apu.edu		11 ⁽¹⁾ NA	20 ⁽¹⁾ 30 ⁽¹⁾	MBA; Master of Business Management; Master in Professional Accountancy	12 \$27,804	IACBE, WASC, AACSB candidate	Azusa, Orange County, Inland Empire, Murrieta, Victorville	Roxanne Helm-Stevens interim dean (626) 815-3463	
Biola University 13800 Biola Ave. La Mirada 90639-0001 Website: biola.edu/mba Email: mba@biola.edu		74 -10.8%	10 2	MBA; Master of Management, Nonprofit Organizations; Master of Professional Accountancy, M.A. in Leadership & Innovation, Graduate Certificate in Personal Financial Planning	16 \$28,500	ACBSP, WASC	La Mirada, online	Gary Lindblad dean (562) 777-4015/(562) 906-4545	
California Southern University 600 Anton Blvd. Costa Mesa 92626-7221 Website: calsouthern.edu Email: admissions@calsouthern.edu		57 ⁽¹⁾ NA	10 ⁽¹⁾ 100 ⁽¹⁾	MBA with concentration (financial management, healthcare administration, human resource management, international business, management, project management, strategic leadership)	24 \$16,350	WASC, ACBSP	online	Steven Hess interim dean, School of Business and Management/ interim dean, School of Education (714) 882-7848/(714) 263-7470	
California State University, Fullerton 800 N. State College Blvd. Fullerton 92831-3547 Website: business.fullerton.edu Email: businessgradprograms@fullerton.edu		304 -5.3%	161 169	MBA; M.A. in Economics; M.S. in: Accountancy, Accounting & Finance, Taxation, Information Systems, Information Technology	24 \$34,650	AACSB, WASC	Fullerton, Irvine	Sridhar Sundaram dean (657) 278-3622	
California State University, Long Beach 1250 Bellflower Blvd., CBA 363 Long Beach 90840-8501 Website: csulb.edu/cob-graduate-programs Email: mba@csulb.edu		320 -21.6%	44 52	MBA; Saturday MBA, Evening MBA, Online MBA, Accelerated Full-time MBA	21 \$30,000	AACSB, WASC	Long Beach	Rod Smith interim director, graduate programs in business (562) 985-5565/(562) 985-5590	
Chapman University 1 University Drive Orange 92866-1005 Website: chapman.edu/mba Email: mba@chapman.edu		185 -21.3%	50 ⁽¹⁾ 20 ⁽¹⁾	MBA; Juris Doctor/MBA; MBA/Master of Fine Arts; MBA/M.S. in Food Science; M.S. in Accounting; M.S. in Real Estate	21 \$92,000	AACSB, WASC	Orange	Thomas Turk dean, Argyros School of Business and Economics (714) 997-6684	
Concordia University Irvine 1530 Concordia W. Irvine 92612-3299 Website: cui.edu Email: mba@cui.edu		69 -5.5%	2 9	MBA	18 \$38,000	WASC, IACBE	Irvine	Drew Wolf MBA program director (800) 229-1200/(949) 854-6864	
Hope International University 2500 E. Nutwood Ave. Fullerton 92831-3104 Website: hiu.edu Email: graduateadmissions@hiu.edu		35 -18.6%	4 23	MBA and M.S. in Management both with concentration (general management, marketing management, nonprofit management)	12 \$25,500	WASC, IACBE	Fullerton	Lydia Knopf dean, College of Business & Management (714) 879-3901/(714) 681-7450	
National University 3390 Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa 92626-1502 Website: nu.edu Email: sobm@nu.edu		359 -2.2%	1 24	MBA; Master of Accountancy; M.A. in Human Resource Management, Management Information Systems, M.S. in Organizational Leadership	14 \$25,880	WASC, IACBE	Costa Mesa, Ontario, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, Twentynine Palms, Los Angeles	Kamlesh Mehta MBA director (858) 642-8400/(858) 642-8740	
Pepperdine University 18111 Von Karman Ave. Irvine 92612-0109 Website: bschool.pepperdine.edu Email: gsbmadm@pepperdine.edu		110 ⁽²⁾ -13.4%	93 32	Multiple MBA program options: Joint MBA degrees offered- BS/MBA, BS/IMBA, BSM/ MBA, JD/MBA, MBA/MPP; M.S. Degrees: Business Analytics, Applied Finance, Global Business, Human Resources, Real Estate, Management & Leadership, Organization Development, Business	24 \$99,840	AACSB, WSCUC	Irvine, Los Angeles, Calabasas, Malibu	Deryck J. van Rensburg dean (310) 568-5500/(310) 568-5727	
Stanton University 9618 Garden Grove Blvd., Ste. 201 Garden Grove 92844-1563 Website: stanton.edu Email: info@stanton.edu		162 3.2%	4 22	MBA	30 \$10,800	WASC	Garden Grove, Los Angeles	Louna Al Hallak chief academic officer (714) 539-6561/(714) 539-6542	
University of California, Irvine 4293 Pereira Drive Irvine 92697-3125 Website: merage.uci.edu Email: mbaprograms@uci.edu		630 -0.5%	51 77	Full-time MBA; Fully-Employed MBA; MBA for Executives; Master of: Finance, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Professional Accountancy; M.S. in Business Analytics	24 \$106,515	AACSB, WASC	Irvine	Ian Williamson/Jon B. Kaplan/ Yuhai Xuan dean/assistant dean, MBA & specialty masters programs/ associate dean, masters programs (949) 824-4565/(949) 824-2944	
University of La Verne 2855 Michelle Drive, Ste. 250 Irvine 92606-1026 Website: laverne.edu/locations/irvine Email: occ@laverne.edu		516 -13.9%	55 130	MBA; MBA for experienced professionals; M.S. in: Leadership and Management, Accounting, Finance, Gerontology, Data Analytics; Master of: Public Administration, Health Administration	15 \$30,030	WASC	La Verne, Bakersfield, Burbank, Santa Clarita, Irvine, Ontario, Oxnard, Victorville, Vandenberg, Point Mugu	Emmeline de Pillis dean, College of Business and Public Management/professor, management (714) 505-6939/(714) 505-6937	
University of Massachusetts Global 16355 Laguna Canyon Road Irvine 92618-3801 Website: umassglobal.edu Email: apply@umassglobal.edu		354 -22.2%	8 54	M.A. in Organizational Leadership; Master of Business Administration; Master of Public Administration; Master of Science in Human Resources	12 \$19,080	WSCUC	Antelope Valley, Irvine, Menifee, Ontario, Palm Desert, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Clarita, Santa Maria, Victorville	Glenn Worthington dean, School of Business and Professional Studies (949) 341-9800	
Webster University 32 Discovery, Ste. 250 Irvine 92618-3157 Website: webster.edu/irvine Email: irvine@webster.edu		31 -8.8%	3 1	MBA; M.A. in Management & Leadership; M.S. in Cybersecurity, M.A. in Human Resources Management	15 \$30,000	ACBSP, Higher Learning Commission	Irvine, Los Angeles	Simone Cummings dean, George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology (949) 450-9066/(949) 450-9004	

*For most populous program
Abbreviations: NA: not applicable;
Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate
⁽²⁾ For Orange County campus only

Highlight provided for fee