

# Daily Pilot

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## UCI rises on Forbes MBA list

Rankings rate the nation's best business schools and come out every two years.

**By Andrew Edwards**  
Daily Pilot

UC Irvine's Paul Merage School of Business climbed 23 spots to take 38th place in Forbes' list of the nation's best business schools.

The list was published online Thursday. Forbes compiles rankings of MBA programs every two years, and this was the fourth time the lists were published. It was the school's best-ever position in the Forbes ranking.

The rankings were based on estimates of how much MBA graduates would earn five years after earning their degrees. The value of graduates' degrees were calculated by comparing students' salaries before and after attending business school. After costs like tuition were subtracted, Forbes estimated students with an MBA from UC Irvine would enjoy a \$73,000 return on their investment.

The top school on the list was the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in Hano-

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ver, N.H.

Graduates from that school's MBA program enjoy an estimated \$134,000 return on their educational investment.

In an e-mailed statement, Andy Policano, dean of UC Irvine's business school, said members of the university's business program want to teach students to become skilled managers working in an innovation-based economy.

When students look for jobs, employers will care more about applicants' skills than the ranking of their business school, said David Ankenbrandt of the Ankenbrandt Group, a Newport Beach-based job-placement agency. He said larger and older companies are more likely to care about where an applicant went to school than an entrepreneurial firm.

"If you're a Fortune 100 company, it probably means a big deal. I deal with entrepreneurs. They ... couldn't care less," Ankenbrandt said.

Business schools can help graduates make contacts, and Ankenbrandt said real estate developers like to see a USC degree on an applicants' resume. For most businesses in Orange County, though, Ankenbrandt repeated his view that knowledge matters more than where someone went to classes.

"UC Irvine is a good program. It's what you learn about it," he said.

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