Ask the Experts

MBA programs can be incredibly expensive, so it’s a good idea to get a handle on their benefits and drawbacks before applying. For additional insight on this topic, WalletHub turned to a panel of experts. You can click on the experts below to read their bios and see their responses to the following key questions:

1. Is an MBA program worth the investment?
2. Would an MBA program offer candidates a competitive advantage in the job market?
3. Would you advise graduates to pursue further education or gain experience in the respective field?
4. Are MBA programs an efficient way for international students to gain access to the U.S. job market?

**Fred Burke**

Director, Graduate Career Management Center, The Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY)

Is an MBA program worth the investment?

For those who aspire to a leadership or management role within an organization, an MBA is well worth the investment of time, effort and financial resources. While cost is certainly a personal consideration when doing your research, remember to evaluate how the program can advance your career objectives. At Baruch College’s Zicklin School of Business, we offer a program that allows students to customize their MBA education experience. The Zicklin program has a set of
foundational courses taken by all students, a choice of functional skills courses to supplement that fundamental knowledge, and, as important, flexibility for students to select electives around their career interests.

**Would an MBA program offer candidates a competitive advantage in the job market?**

An MBA coupled with work experience allows students to rise above the competition in the job market, especially when aiming for higher-level career opportunities in a wide range of industries in both the private and public sector. The knowledge and experience gained in an MBA program prepares you to overcome industry challenges and develop as a strategic and effective business leader.

**Would you advise graduates to pursue further education or gain experience in the respective field?**

From the career management perspective, the most successful job outcomes and highest salaries are from the Zicklin graduates who have worked at least two years, if not more, before obtaining their MBA. But it’s more than the length of your resume that makes the most of your MBA experience. A diverse student body with different work experiences, which is one of the hallmarks at Zicklin, enriches discussions, broadens perspectives, and brings a world of experience and knowledge to intelligently apply learning to real-word situations.