Success with the Online Executive MBA

The University of Nevada, Reno’s College of Business Online Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) is ranked among the top online MBA programs in the country. Over the past year, the EMBA has received national recognition and has been featured in several mainstream publications. Kambiz Raffee, associate dean of the UNR College of Business and director of UNR Online Executive MBA, says “The Online Executive MBA is a signature program of the College of Business at UNR. The high visibility and solid reputation that the program has is because of its quality students and faculty along with the superb work of the staff. It makes me proud of the continued success of the program.”

The EMBA was named one of the “Top 25 Online MBA Programs for 2015” by the Princeton Review. U.S. News & World Report ranked the EMBA No. 29 of 195 schools in the “Best Online MBA Programs” category, and most recently, the program was ranked #35 by Online Course Report in their “50 Best Online MBA Programs in America.” Rankings are based on many factors including affordability, structure of curriculum, student feedback, and the prestige of the university offering the master’s degree.

Accreditation is one of the most important factors for prospective students when searching for online degree programs. The University of Nevada, Reno is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The University’s College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is the highest level of accreditation attainable in business education.

The EMBA’s flexible yet rigorous curriculum is taught by experienced and esteemed faculty from the College of Business. It is competitively priced at $30,000 for the entire program, which makes it an excellent value in graduate education. The 100 percent online, 12-course curriculum is offered as a two-year cohort program beginning in the fall. Students take two courses each term (Fall, Spring, Summer); this allows students in each cohort to begin the program at the same point, move through the curriculum together, and build supportive working relationships in a stimulating online environment. “We develop our courses with students’ future success as our ultimate goal, making sure they are both challenged and supported as they develop advanced business skills,” says Raffee.

In order to maintain integrity, the program limits the cohort size, making it incredibly competitive. To be accepted into the program, applicants must have at least five years of professional work experience. The EMBA attracts experienced professionals from many different professions, including healthcare, finance, engineering, education, mining, and many more. The visibility from the rankings are attracting diverse and talented applicants to the program from across the country and world, many of whom have over 15 years of work experience. The program has grown significantly since its first cohort in 2011, which was made up of 11 students.

The EMBA will begin its fifth year in fall 2015. As the fifth cohort of 44 members commences, the third cohort of 27 students will graduate from the program, increasing the total number of graduates to 64. Graduates of the EMBA exit the program equipped with valuable skills and training to succeed in today's ever-changing business environment. Sonal Chabani, class of 2014, is one of many graduates who has been successful in her career after graduating from the EMBA. “I chose the EMBA program at UNR because I wanted an MBA to get to the next stage in my career. I wanted to ensure I got my degree from a quality institute that was recognized and accredited,” Sonal says. Her success is attributed to the skills she learned in the program: “The skill that I benefited from most is the ability to market my personal brand. I also feel more confident in speaking with people from diverse backgrounds and understand different viewpoints better. Most of all I learned that I can take on a lot of responsibilities and deliver on time”

The strong reputation of the College of Business, paired with a flexible and refined curriculum, makes the EMBA an appealing choice for business professionals who can obtain an MBA from a top-tier school while continuing to work full-time. The rankings achieved by the College of Business Executive MBA are “major milestone(s) for the program” said Raffee. “The hard work of faculty, students and administration of the program have made this possible.”

For more information about the Executive MBA, visit www.emba.unr.edu.

— Cailin Rock, EMBA Program Coordinator