

10 Business Schools To Watch In 2018

BY: JEFF SCHMITT ON JANUARY 14, 2018 | 17 COMMENTS 78,376 VIEWS



MBA students engaging outside USC Marshall.

USC (Marshall)

Like Wharton, USC was a rankings dynamo in 2017. With *Bloomberg Businessweek*, it jumped eight spots to 30th. It rose another seven spots in the *U.S. News* ranking. It cracked the top 50 globally with the *Financial Times*. It even rocketed 25 spots in the *Economist* ranking. The net result? The school now ranks 26th overall in the latest *Poets&Quants* ranking.

Marshall has always been blessed with a great brand. Over the past two years, it has garnered the metrics to take the next step. For one, **the school's average GMAT crept above 700 with the Class of 2019**. In fact, it climbed from 692 to 703 in just one year, a sign that it is ready to play in the Top 20 with the likes of Emory and Texas. Marshall grads have also grown more attractive to employers. In 2016, median pay climbed nearly \$9,000, which was accompanied by an 11% improvement in placement. This year, the numbers continued their upward trajectory, as median base and median bonus rose by \$2,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

MBA students are starting to take a second look at Marshall too. During the 2016-2017 cycle, Marshall received over 400 more applications than the year before. One reason? The school is beloved by students and alumni alike. It finished among the top 10 MBA programs **in this year's Bloomberg Businessweek student satisfaction survey**. Yes, happy students make happy alumni. This sentiment is reflected in the growth of the vaunted "Trojan Network." 75,000 alumni strong, Marshall graduates are celebrated for looking out for students who follow in their footsteps. This pay-it-forward tradition doesn't mean just counseling or mentoring. More than that, Marshall grads are active – as in plugging Marshall MBAs into their networks and helping them land internships and jobs. This guardian angel ethos, coupled with a revamped career center led by placement phenom Mark Brostoff, means you can expect Marshall grads to increasingly clean up in the job market over the coming years.