



Time to Go Back to School?

How to pick the continuing education program that's right for you

Comparing SMM to an MBA is not really an apples-to-apples comparison. Which is the right program for you? The following is a cheat sheet to highlight the differences in three of the more popular executive education programs in our industry: Strategic Metals Management, MBA, and Executive MBA.

Name of program	MBA	EXECUTIVE MBA	SMM
Type of program	Business	Management, Entrepreneurship, Global Business, etc., depending on school	Leadership
Content	In-depth management, marketing, finance, etc.	Advanced business topics, depends on the program	Metals centric business topics
Degree or certification?	Degree	Degree	Non-Degree
Where are classmates from?	A variety of industries	A variety of industries	The metals industry, encouraging networking and relationships
Length/frequency of program?	Two or more years, depending on full or part-time	Varies on program	Five week-long modules over 18 mos.
Resident or non-resident?	Non-resident	Typically a combination of resident and non-resident	Resident for 1 week at a time
Location	Classes at the school or satellite location	Can be at school or another city/location	Washington University/Olin School of Business in St. Louis, MO
Cost	Average cost of an MBA in 2015 was \$40,000.	Average cost was \$74,705 in 2015.	\$37,900, inclusive of materials, accommodations and meals