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FIU has strong entrepreneurial streak

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Campuses in Southwest Miami, downtown Miami and Pembroke Pines

THE GOODS: Nine graduate-level business degrees, including six MBAs and seven specialized master's degrees.

COST: Approximately \$400 to \$1,000 per credit depending on program.

CLASS SIZE: 35 to 40.

THE PITCH: FIU takes the "I" in the middle of its name seriously and its international MBA program ranks among U.S. News and World Report's top 20.

But it's the local crowds that FIU is trying to tap through multiple locations and flexible schedules.

The school offers a Saturday-only professional MBA that can be completed in 20 months, an evening MBA that can be completed in two to three years, and an 18-month downtown MBA that hopes to pull in urban professionals with after-hours classes and catered dinners.

FIU recently started a similar program at its Pembroke Pines campus targeting Broward's professional crowd.

Home to the Eugenio Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center, the campus has a strong entrepreneurial streak -- 20 percent of its 30,000 alumni have started their own businesses.

One of FIU's most rigorous programs is the executive MBA. The 20-month course includes a trip abroad and strict admission standards: Students must have at least eight years of working experience, including five in a top managerial position.

"You may have one professor, but you have many teachers," said Luis Casas, the director of marketing and recruiting for the College of Business. "You're learning from your classmates."