

## **Institute for Advanced Analytics**

The Institute for Advanced Analytics completed its fourth year of operation and graduated its fourth cohort of students in the Master of Science in Analytics (MSA) degree program. The continuing surge in demand for analytics professionals has earned the Class of 2011 the distinction of being the Institute's most sought-after cohort of graduates since its inception in 2007. Thirty-nine MSA students seeking employment logged a record-breaking 532 job interviews with 86 employers during the 90-day placement period preceding graduation—or 14 interviews per student—an increase of 40-percent over last year. Ninety-seven percent of the Class of 2011 had one or more offers of employment, and 92-percent had accepted their new positions by graduation day. Placement by graduation has exceeded 90-percent in each of the past four years despite the recession—a track record that sets the 10-month MSA learning experience apart from comparable degrees.

Thirty-two employers made offers of employment; ten employers tendered job offers to more than one student. Half of the employers that made offers had also made offers of employment to MSA graduates last year, as well. A total of 18 employers representing a wide cross-section of industry succeeded in landing one or more MSA candidates. Industry sectors include: apparel, banking, consulting, energy, financial services, Internet, pharmaceuticals, research, software, and telecommunications. Employer types range from new ventures to large multinational companies, and the types of jobs range from entry-level analysts to managerial and executive level positions.

Salary offers for graduates remain strong. Base salaries for MSA candidates with two or more years of professional experience (about half the class) average \$88,500. Offers range from \$70,000 to \$140,000 for candidates with experience. Base salary offers for candidates without prior work experience average \$73,400, up 7.2-percent over last year. Offers range from \$60,000 to \$90,000 for candidates with no previous professional experience.

Benchmark studies of student outcomes place the MSA in the ranks of the nation's top universities in terms of placement rates and starting salaries. Head-to-head evaluations with comparable one-year graduate degrees (finance at MIT, operation research at Cornell, and information systems at Carnegie Mellon) show MSA student outcomes to be at least as good, if not better. When matched against comparably sized MBA programs at public universities, the MSA program produces student outcomes—in half the time and at a fraction of the cost—that place it among the top-10 schools.

The admissions process for the MSA Class of 2012 has produced 40 talented candidates—the seating capacity of the program—who will begin studies in June. The admissions committee reviewed 185 applications. About half of the applicants (94) were interviewed for admission by a four-person panel of faculty and staff. A total of 45 candidates were offered admission; three subsequently declined and two deferred. The process yielded an acceptance rate of 24-percent.