ALTERNATIVE, from previous page

$2,400 for books and course materials.

"There are four MBA specialties: management, marketing, HR management and health care management," said Nick Fluge, COO and president of the online division. "We appeal to the highly motivated individual who wants to get ahead, to achieve and earn."

Barry University

Barry University, a Catholic school located in Miami Shores, offers an evening and Saturday conventional MBA program, which requires 36 credit hours. A master's of international business degree requires 39 credit hours for completion. Tuition costs $610 per credit hour, said Jose Poza, marketing director for the Andreas School of Business, so that the conventional MBA degree costs $21,960 and the MIB degree costs $23,790. A full-time student taking the maximum class load could finish the degree in 11 months, he said.

There are 75 students currently enrolled in the programs, which offer several specialties.

"This fall, we will offer a Saturday-only MBA program to be given at the Miami Herald building at 1-75 and Sheridan Street," Poza said. "It will cost $450 per credit hour and will be available to Knight-Ridder employees for $375 per credit hour."

Carlos Albizu University

With campuses in the Doral area of Miami-Dade and San Juan, Puerto Rico, Carlos Albizu University is still virtually unknown to most South Floridians.

It offers an accelerated MBA program, requiring 36 credit hours and can be completed in a year by attending its once-a-week, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. class, said Jose Olivera, the masters managing secretary for the university. The tuition is $453 a credit hour. The degree costs $16,380.

The private, nonprofit institution has an 18-acre local campus and currently has 29 students enrolled in its accelerated MBA program.

Florida International University

Miami's Florida International University offers four MBA programs, two of them designed for working students.

The Monday through Thursday (and an occasional Saturday) program requires 55 credit hours and costs approximately $12,000 for Florida residents, according to Sally M. Gallion, assistant dean, for marketing, communication, and publications at the College of Business Administration and Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business.

In 2002, 144 applied for the program and 63 were admitted. The evening MBA program has 350 enrolled. The average age is 29 and 14 percent are international students representing 26 countries.

The 21-month executive MBA program takes place over three Saturdays and one Friday each month. Its focus is on global strategy and information technology. It requires 46 credit hours and costs Florida residents approximately $38,500, according to the university's www.fi.edu Web site.

In 2002, 101 applied for the program and 58 were admitted. There are currently 103 students with an average age of 35 pursuing executive MBA studies.

Lynn University

Lynn is located in suburban Boca Raton where the MBA program is offered two evenings a week as well as online, said Ralph Norcio, dean of the College of Business and Management.

"There has been more demand for the program than we expected," Norcio said. "We already have close to 100 students on campus."

He cites the fierce competition for jobs where a high school diploma or bachelor's degree is just not enough for today's major career paths.

"We offer the MBA in six eight-week terms per year where students can take one or two courses a term," Norcio said. "It has also been offered for the last three terms completely online."

Tuition is billed at $460 a credit hour, or $1,380 for a three-credit course. Full MBA tuition at Lynn is currently $16,560.

Nova Southeastern University

Nova Southeastern University, a private school, is becoming an MBA powerhouse at its H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business & Entrepreneurship, where approximately 2,000 are enrolled in various MBA programs.

"We offer conventional MBA programs during the day, as well as Friday night/Saturday programs, and complete online MBAs as well," said Preston Jones, associate dean at the business school. It takes 43 credit hours to earn the
LOCAL OFFERINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Alternative MBA program</th>
<th>Online program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida International University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Southeastern University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Miami</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach Atlantic College</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Phoenix</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American International University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Albizu University</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Schools

More than 25 percent of PBAC students are foreign

ALTERNATIVE, from previous page

MBA at NSU: The cost for the daily or weekend program is $475 per credit hour, or $20,425 for the degree. Online candidates are charged $525 per credit hour, or $22,275 for the Internet-based MBA.

MBA specialties abound: entrepreneurship, leadership, healthcare, finance, and marketing are the concentrations.

"It's the largest area MBA program for a reason," Jones said. "All the professors are PhDs -- and have years of actual industry experience."

Palm Beach Atlantic College

More than 25 percent of the student population at Palm Beach Atlantic College is made up of international students, said Rickey Andrew, admissions counselor for the MBA program. "It [an American MBA] gives students more prestige and better opportunities in their own countries."

Mauricio Escudero, a student from Mexico City in his third year of MBA study, agrees.

"The MBA gives me more opportunity to recognize and absorb job learning skills," he said. "It's not only a different kind of a business relationship in the U.S., but a different language and cultural environment."

Palm Beach Atlantic offers an evening MBA program at its West Palm Beach campus, and many classes are online.

"It's moving in that direction," Andrew said. "More than 50 percent of enrollees in the program and, by the rate it's growing, we look to have a record fall enrollment."

Classes are offered from 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. on one night a week for a 16-week semester, with others offered from 5:20 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. two nights a week.

It takes 36 to 44 credits for the MBA degree, depending on whether or not four required courses were taken as an undergraduate. Tuition cost ranges from $11,520 to $15,360.

St. Thomas University

St. Thomas University offers a number of MBA programs, including a combination three-year MBA/law degree.

"We offer either a Master of Business Administration or a Master of International Business degree for working students," said Joseph Iannone, dean of the graduate school.

The MBA is offered in four 11-week night terms each year.

"A course load is typically two classes per week, each from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.," he said.

"There are currently 115 students enrolled in the MBA program, up from 85 in the last year. We offer it at the main Miami campus, and in addition at our Coral Gables and Kendall facilities," Iannone said.

Each three-credit course is billed at $540 per credit, so that the degree will cost $19,440 to $22,680 over the 18-months or two years it takes a student to finish. The degree requires between 36 and 42 credits, depending on whether or not some key undergraduate courses were taken.

The MBA course can be completed in 18 months, but most students take two years, Iannone said. Some classes are also available online, but not the entire program.

"We are moving toward online offerings," he said.

Typical student financing is via no-interest Stafford loans for a maximum of $8,500 a year, conventional student loans of $10,000 a year and/or corporate re-imbursement.

"Our mission differs a university is to serve the student, especially from traditionally under-represented groups," Iannone said.

"Our class size ranges from one to 15 and we also want to use and adapt the best technology. We like the mix of small classes and cutting edge technology," he said.

There are 115 students in the MBA program.

"It's attractive in that it can be taken while still employed," he said. "I see the program continuing to expand for both the MBA and the Master of International Business degrees."
Local universities bring MBA courses to work

BY JIM FREER

Going to school has turned into "school coming to you" for some businesses that help employees earn MBAs, other degrees or certificates.

Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University are among the schools that are part of this emerging trend known as on-site education.

FAU's College of Business has offered an on-site MBA program and several non-credit certificate programs at South Florida businesses and government agencies since the late 1990s.

FIU's College of Business Administration has offered a non-degree Master's Certificate in Project Management at employers' sites since the late 1990s, and it plans to launch several other on-site, non-degree business programs.

The program, sponsored by the not-for-profit Project Management Institute, consists of seven courses in which participants study concepts of leadership, management, team facilitation, conflict resolution and negotiation strategies.

"It is for managers in all ranges and covers all aspects of project integration," said Vince Daniels, director of business development at FIU's Department of Professional Education.

FIU offers the Project Management program in open enrollment sessions at its campuses and offices of businesses and local government agencies that sponsor their employees.

On-site programs give employers a chance to build camaraderie among employees, while also letting them avoid a second commute on school nights, said Marilyn Wiley, associate dean for graduate programs and research at FAU's College of Business.

On the other hand, Wiley pointed out that "many employers are less willing to sponsor and pay for all these programs" amid this decade's slower economy than they were during the late 1990s.

Far more frequently, employers will sponsor, and reimburse all tuition — or portions of it — for groups of employees who take MBA courses at university campuses.

Numerous South Florida employers send groups of students to FIU campuses, primarily in evenings, for MBA programs, Daniels said.

FIU has no immediate plans to offer MBA programs at employers' offices, Daniels said.

On-site programs give employers a chance to build camaraderie among employees, while also letting them avoid a second commute.

Marilyn Wiley
Associate dean, FAU College of Business

For several years, FAU has held MBA classes at the Boca Raton office of ACTS Retirement-Life Communities.

"We are talking with them about offering some non-credit business programs for some of their supervisory people, which we would hold at their site," said Carl Riegel, chairman of the Department of Industry Studies at FAU's College of Business.

This year, FAU completed its first MBA program at the South Florida offices of BellSouth.

FAU is talking with Fort Lauderdale-based Arby's about the prospect of holding MBA courses at offices of that company.

FAU's MBA program consists of 14 courses and 40 hours of coursework, including its on-site programs.

For students who work full time, the program usually takes two to two-and-a-half years of night and weekend courses, Wiley said. Tuition and fees are about $8,000 per student.

"If a business comes to us, we will talk about an on-site program," Wiley said.

But FAU is putting more focus on recruiting businesses to sign up groups of students for its on-campus MBA programs.

Partly because of the state's tight budget for education, Wiley said FAU does not want to "overextend itself" by having faculty members spend time teaching away from campuses.

A link to Toronto

But by early next year, FAU might be actively marketing some new on-site programs through a venture with Canada's York University of Toronto, Ontario.

York's Schulich School of Business has been offering what it calls "in-company customized programs" for 25 years.

In late June, FAU and Schulich were holding discussions about setting up an on-site program in South Florida that would include faculty of both universities.

"Schulich is the expert in offering continuous learning for companies' executives and managers," Riegel said. "If we do this with them, we will actively solicit businesses."

A partnership between FAU and Schulich would include an MBA program, and several non-degree programs and courses.

Non-degree programs probably would include management courses for engineers, finance courses for managers in non-financial departments with some understanding of that topic and leadership programs, Riegel said.

Companies involved with FAU's on-site Project Management program include United Airlines and Carrier Corp.

Many local companies, including architectural firms and construction companies, also have hired FIU to offer the program on-site.

"We offer these programs continuously for the Miami-Dade government," Daniels said.

The Project Management Institute, based in Newtown Square, Pa., offers its program in 125 countries. FIU is among universities that are registered to have faculty members teach the nine courses in the Project Management program.

The program consists of 20 classes, taught at weekly and bi-weekly intervals for six months.

Daniels said FIU is considering its own on-site, non-degree programs in international bank management and accounting and finance for non-financial managers.

FIU has an early 2004 target date for launching the programs.

FIU also is seeking certification from the Board of Certified Financial Planners to offer that group's Certified Financial Planner program.

The university would offer that program at its campuses and to businesses at their sites, Daniels said.