

The Gartner University Top 25 Research Methodology

Our methodology for this year's program assessments is similar to the methodology followed in the 2014 research. We sent RFIs to our numerous contacts in U.S. supply chain programs. We also followed up the RFIs with conversations with many of the schools, and conducted research on university websites and course catalogs to ensure that the RFIs were complete and accurate. Responses and clarifications were collected throughout the end of 2015.

The foundation for this ranking of supply chain programs was based on program-supplied RFI information, but additional input into the "industry value" component of the ranking comes from ongoing surveys of current supply chain and recruiting professionals. Supply chain leaders say that the quality and effectiveness of the recruiting pool are improved when students have real-world experience. Gartner, in turn, has responded by assessing each program's use of internships. This is an indicator of a program's focus on providing relevant learning experiences for the real world and the effectiveness of its industry partnerships (that is, the source of internships).

The evaluation criteria for the university programs appear in the following two snapshots. The final placement of university programs in our relative comparison is based on a composite score of three categories: program scope, industry value and program size.

Undergraduate Methodology Snapshot

Undergraduate Program Scope	Criteria Weighting
Number of stations taught	40%
Undergraduate Industry Value	
Recruit mentions	
“Best” mentions	40%
Undergraduate internships	
Average starting salary	
Undergraduate Program Size	
Number of full-time professors	20%
Number of full-time students	

Source Key:

How well curriculum aligns to Gartner Talent Attribute Model

Industry respondents to Gartner CSCO and Research Circle Surveys

University respondents to Gartner RFI

Graduate Methodology Snapshot

Graduate Program Scope	Criteria Weighting
Number of stations taught across programs	40%
Graduate Industry Value	
Recruit mentions	
“Best” mentions	40%
Graduate internships	
Average starting salary	
Graduate Program Size	
Number of full-time professors	20%
Number of full-time students	
Number of part-time students	

Source Key:

How well curriculum aligns to Gartner Talent Attribute Model

Industry respondents to Gartner CSCO and Research Circle Surveys

University respondents to Gartner RFI