



2016

**TOP IN TAX EDUCATIONAL SURVEY**

THE LEADING UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE &  
LEGAL PROGRAMS ACCORDING TO TAX EMPLOYERS

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## **Top in Tax Survey: Bridging the Gap Between Academia and Employment**

Each year, TaxTalent conducts an educational survey where tax employers have an opportunity to rank the best U.S. Undergraduate, Graduate and Legal programs. As the only online career and leadership development community for tax professionals, one of TaxTalent's long-term missions is to help bridge the gap between academia and the professional world of tax. In fact, we believe the real client for tax educational programs is ultimately the tax employer.

### **Top in Tax Survey Methodology**

The results are based on responses from 155 current U.S. heads of tax of in-house corporate tax departments who were surveyed throughout an eight (8) week period in 2015. The following U.S. tax programs are ranked directly from the employer perspective.

- Undergraduate Accounting
- Master of Science - Taxation (MS Tax)
- Master of Accounting (MAcc)
- Master of Accounting – Taxation Specialization (MAcc Tax)
- MBA in Taxation (MBA Tax)
- Juris Doctor - Taxation (JD Tax)
- LL.M. – Taxation (LL.M. Tax)

Respondents were asked to select up to five schools per program that they hold in highest regard when hiring candidates.

If you would like to learn more about our mission to help bridge the gap between tax education and professional tax career development, [click here](#).

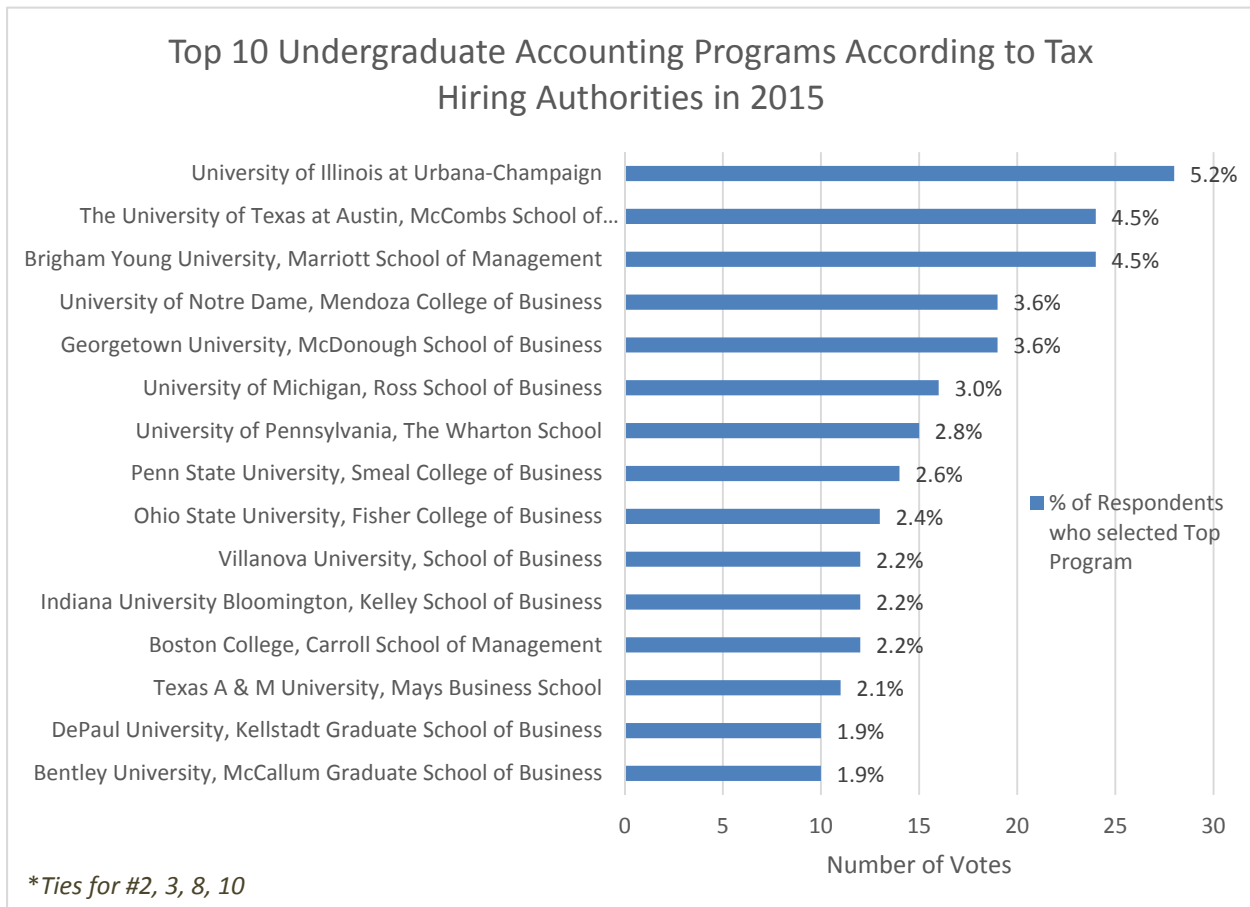
For more information on this survey, please contact Jennifer Fort at 843-216-7444 or email [jennifer@taxtalent.com](mailto:jennifer@taxtalent.com).

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**2015 Undergraduate Accounting Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 153 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 142) schools for ranking the Undergraduate Accounting programs.



*Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).*

8 schools were named among the Top 10 Undergraduate Accounting programs for the third consecutive year.



**2015 Undergraduate Accounting Comparison**

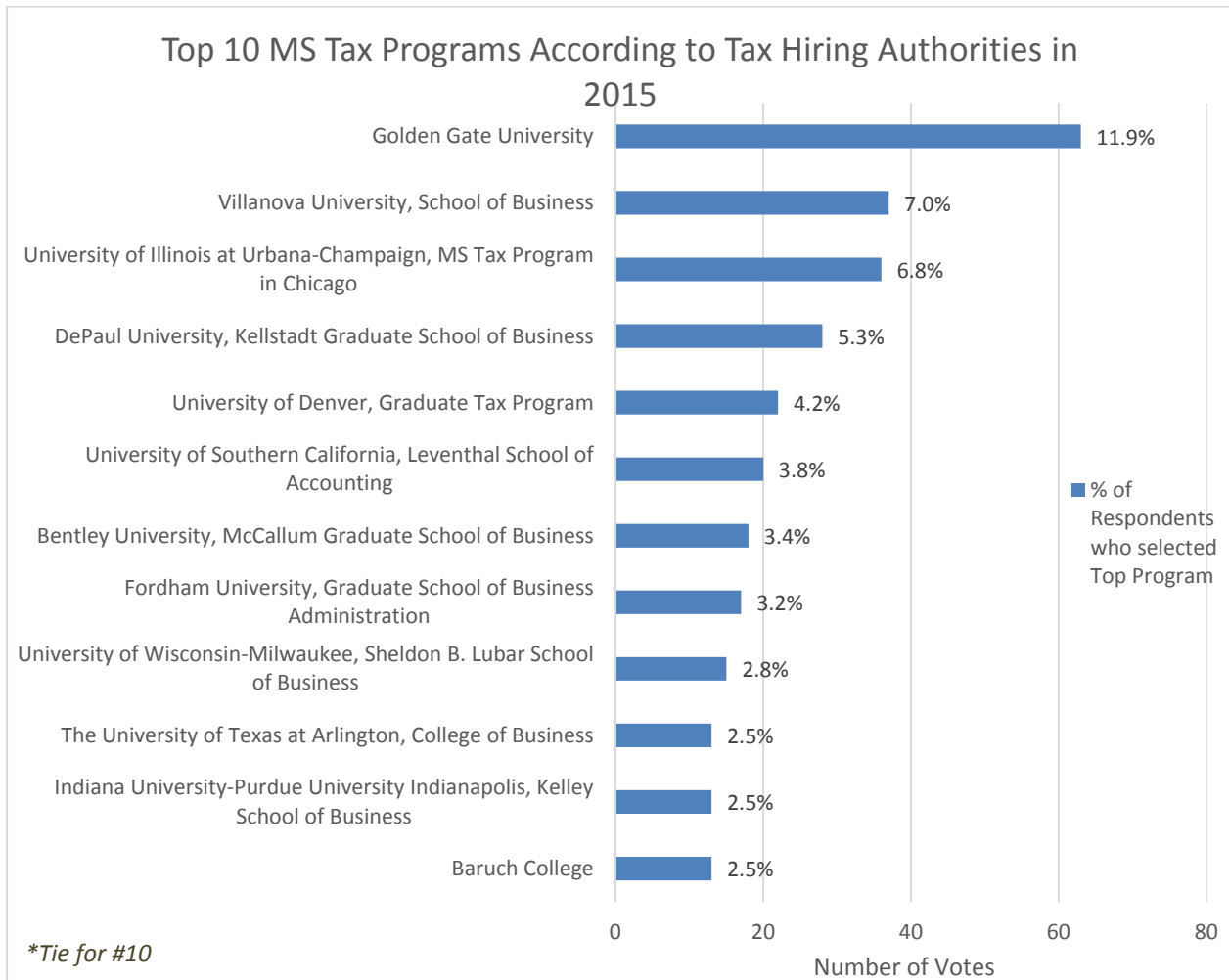
<b>Repeat Top 10 Undergraduate Accounting Program</b>	<b>2013 Rank</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2	2	1
Brigham Young University, Marriott School of Management	4 (tie)	4	2 (tie)
The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business	1	1	2 (tie)
Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business	9	10 (tie)	3 (tie)
University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business	4 (tie)	7	3 (tie)
University of Michigan, Ross College of Business	--	--	4
University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School	5	3	5
Penn State University, Smeal College of Business	--	--	6
Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business	--	--	7
Boston College, Carroll School of Management	--	--	8 (tie)
Indiana University Bloomington, Kelley School of Business	--	--	8 (tie)
Villanova University, School of Business	--	--	8 (tie)
Texas A&M University, Mays Business School	--	--	9
Bentley University, McCullum Graduate School of Business	8	10 (tie)	10 (tie)
DePaul University, Kellstadt School of Business	10	6	10 (tie)
New York University, Stern School of Business	3	8	--
The University of Michigan, Stephen M. Ross School of Business	6	5	--

[Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 Undergraduate Accounting survey](#)



**2015 MS Tax Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 154 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 67) schools for ranking the Master of Science - Taxation programs.



*Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).*

8 schools were named among the Top 10 MS Tax programs for the third consecutive year.



**2015 MS Tax Comparison**

<b>Repeat Top 10 MS Tax Programs</b>	<b>2013 Rank</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
<b>Golden Gate University, School of Taxation</b>	1 (tie)	2 (tie)	1
<b>Villanova University, School of Business</b>	--	--	2
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, MS Tax Program Chicago</b>	2 (tie)	1	3
<b>DePaul University, Kellstadt Graduate School of Business</b>	1 (tie)	2 (tie)	4
<b>University of Denver, Graduate Tax Program</b>	3	3	5
<b>University of South California, Leventhal School of Accounting</b>	--	--	6
<b>Bentley University, McCallum Graduate School of Business</b>	6	7	7
<b>Fordham University, Graduate School of Business Administration</b>	2 (tie)	6	8
<b>UW-Milwaukee, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business</b>	7	10	9
<b>The University of Texas at Arlington, College of Business</b>	9 (tie)	8 (tie)	10 (tie)
<b>Baruch College</b>	--	--	10 (tie)
<b>Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, Kelley School of Business</b>	--	--	10 (tie)
<b>Pace University, Lubin School of Business</b>	4	8 (tie)	--
<b>St. John’s University, The Peter J. Tobin College of Business</b>	5	8 (tie)	--
<b>American University, Kogod School of Business</b>	8	9 (tie)	--
<b>University of Miami, School of Business Administration</b>	9 (tie)	9 (tie)	--

[\*Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 MS Tax survey\*](#)



**2015 MAcc Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 145 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 146) schools for ranking the Master of Accounting programs.



*Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).*

16 schools were named among the Top 10 MAcc programs for the second consecutive year.





**2015 MAcc Comparison**

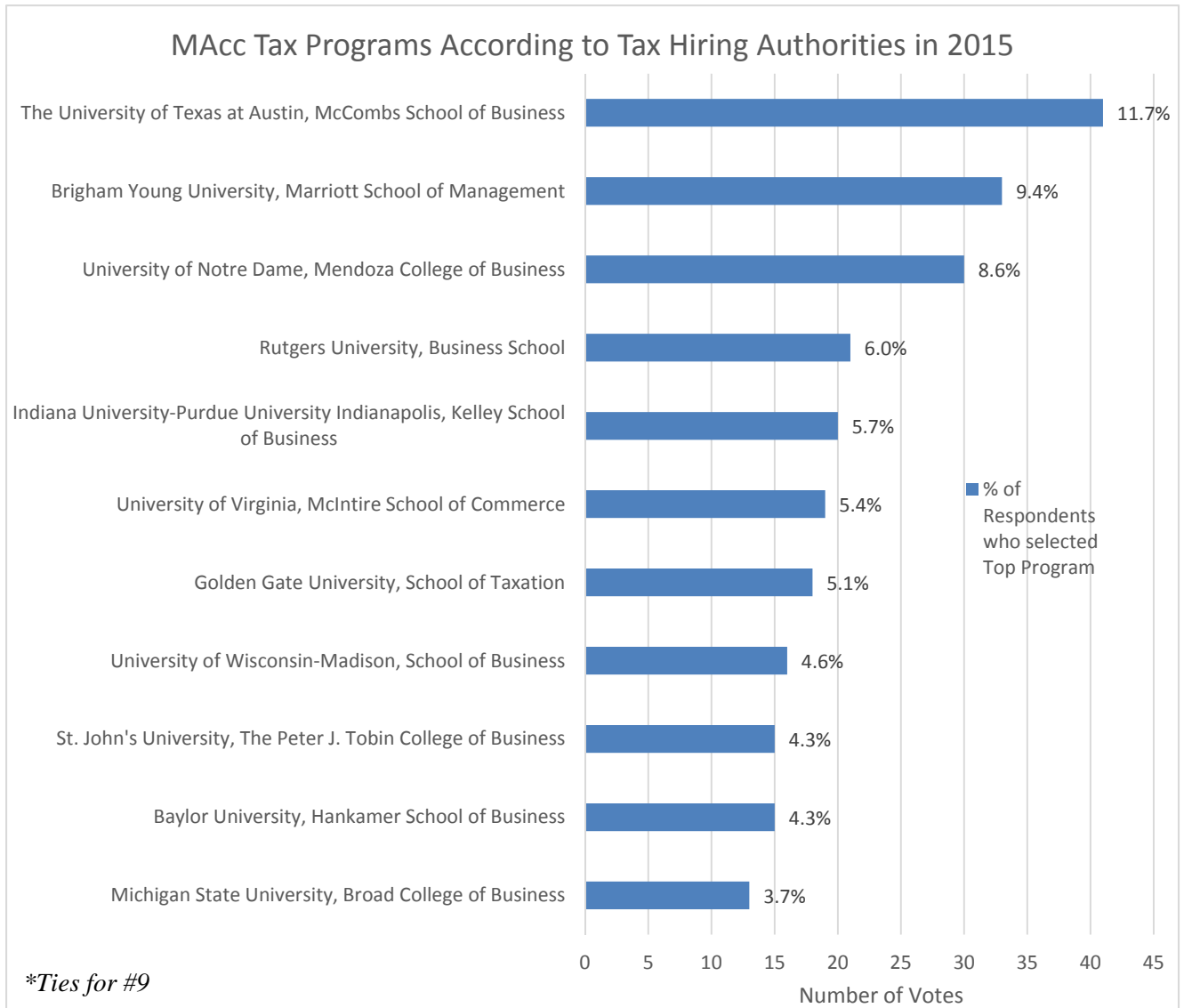
<b>Repeat Top 10 MAcc Programs</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
Brigham Young University, Marriott School of Management	2	1 (tie)
University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business	4	1 (tie)
Villanova University, School of Business	10 (tie)	2
University of Michigan, Ross School of Business	5 (tie)	3
University of Florida, Fisher School of Accounting	--	4
Baylor University, Hankamer School of Business	5 (tie)	5 (tie)
Texas A & M University, Mays Business School	--	5 (tie)
Bentley University, McCallum Graduate School of Business	9 (tie)	6 (tie)
Boston College, Carroll School of Management	6 (tie)	6 (tie)
DePaul University, Kellstadt Graduate School of Business	3	6 (tie)
University of North Carolina, Kenan-Flagler Business School	8 (tie)	6 (tie)
University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Business	--	6 (tie)
Fordham University, Graduate School of Business Administration	9 (tie)	7 (tie)
Indiana University Bloomington, Kelley School of Business	--	7 (tie)
Golden Gate University, School of Taxation	6 (tie)	8 (tie)
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business	10 (tie)	8 (tie)
Michigan State University, Broad College of Business	7 (tie)	9 (tie)
Pace University, Lubin School of Business	9 (tie)	9 (tie)
University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce	6 (tie)	9 (tie)
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Silberman College of Business	--	10 (tie)
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Kelley School of Business	--	10 (tie)
The College of William & Mary, Mason School of Business	8 (tie)	10 (tie)
University of Southern California, Leventhal School of Accounting	--	10 (tie)

[Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 MAcc survey](#)



**2015 MAcc Tax Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 146 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 52) schools for ranking the Master of Accounting – Taxation Specialization programs.



*Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).*

8 schools were named among the Top 10 MAcc Tax programs for the second consecutive year.



**2015 MAcc Tax Comparison**

<b>Repeat Top 10 MAcc Tax Program</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business	3	1
Brigham Young University, Marriott School of Management	1	2
University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business	--	3
Rutgers University, Business School	--	4
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Kelley School of Business	--	5
University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce	7 (tie)	6
Golden Gate University, School of Taxation	6	7
University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Business	5	8
Baylor University, Hankamer School of Business	8	9 (tie)
St. John's University, The Peter J. Tobin College of Business	9	9 (tie)
Michigan State University, Broad College of Business	4	10

[\*Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 MAcc Tax survey\*](#)



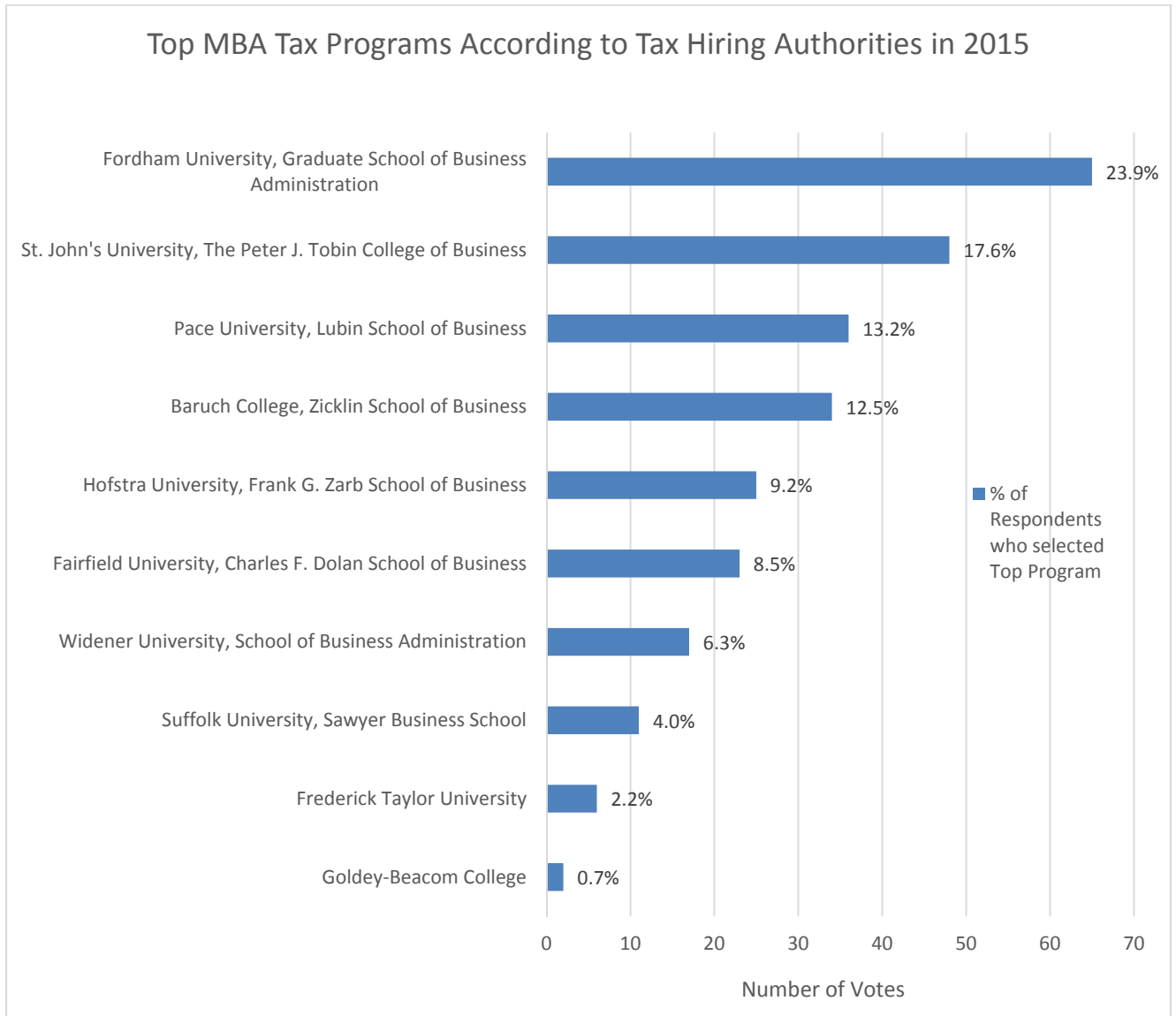
**Undergraduate & Masters Program Comparison**

<b>Undergraduate Accounting Program</b>	<b>Undergrad Rank</b>	<b>MS Tax Rank</b>	<b>MAcc Rank</b>	<b>MAcc Tax Rank</b>
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b>	1	3	--	--
<b>The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business</b>	2 (tie)	--	--	1
<b>Brigham Young University, Marriott School of Management</b>	2 (tie)	--	1 (tie)	2
<b>University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business</b>	3 (tie)	--	1 (tie)	3
<b>Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business</b>	3 (tie)	--	--	--
<b>University of Michigan, Ross College of Business</b>	4	--	3	--
<b>University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School</b>	5	--	--	--
<b>Penn State University, Smeal College of Business</b>	6	--	--	--
<b>Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business</b>	7	--	--	--
<b>Villanova University, School of Business</b>	8 (tie)	2	2	--
<b>Indiana University Bloomington, Kelley School of Business</b>	8 (tie)	--	7 (tie)	--
<b>Boston College, Carroll School of Management</b>	8 (tie)	--	6 (tie)	--
<b>Texas A&amp;M University, Mays Business School</b>	9	--	5 (tie)	--
<b>DePaul University, Kellstadt Graduate School of Business</b>	10 (tie)	4	6 (tie)	--
<b>Bentley University, McCallum Graduate School of Business</b>	10 (tie)	7	6 (tie)	--



**2015 MBA Tax Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 142 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 10) schools for ranking the Masters in Business Administration Tax programs.



*Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).*

10 of the schools were named among the Top 10 MBA Tax programs for the second consecutive year.



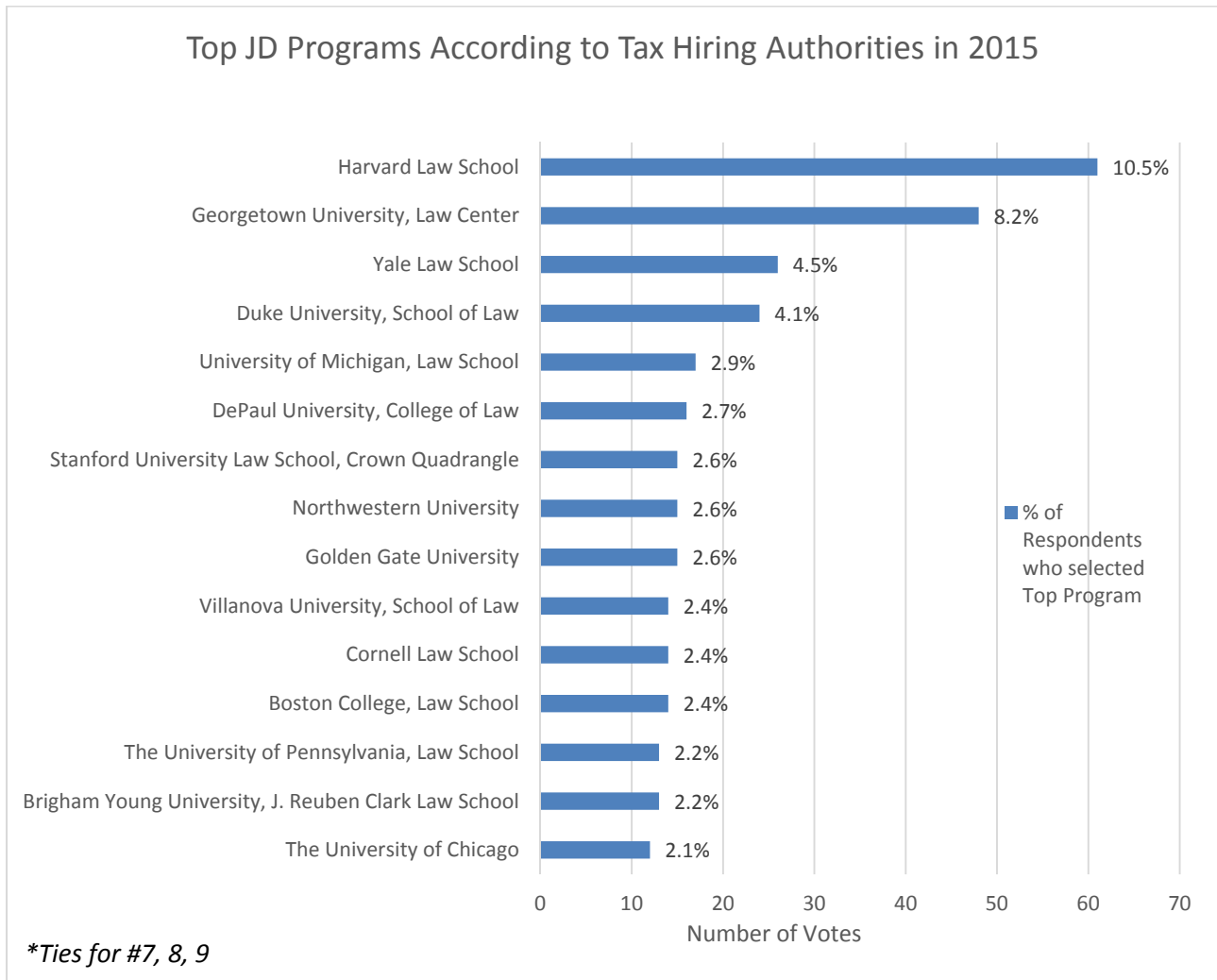
**2015 MBA Tax Comparison**

<b>Repeat Top 10 MBA Tax Program</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
<b>Fordham University, Graduate School of Business Administration</b>	1	1
<b>St. John's University, The Peter J. Tobin College of Business</b>	2	2
<b>Pace University, Lubin School of Business</b>	3	3
<b>Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business</b>	5	4
<b>Hofstra University, Frank G. Zarb School of Business</b>	4	5
<b>Fairfield University, Charles F. Dolan School of Business</b>	7	6
<b>Widener University, School of Business Administration</b>	6 (tie)	7
<b>Suffolk University, Sawyer Business School</b>	6 (tie)	8
<b>Frederick Taylor University</b>	8 (tie)	9
<b>Goldey-Beacom College</b>	8 (tie)	10

[\*Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 MBA Tax survey\*](#)

**2015 JD Tax Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 151 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 144) schools for ranking the Juris Doctor – Tax programs.



Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).

2 schools were named among the Top 10 JD Tax programs for the second year in a row.



**2015 JD Tax Comparison**

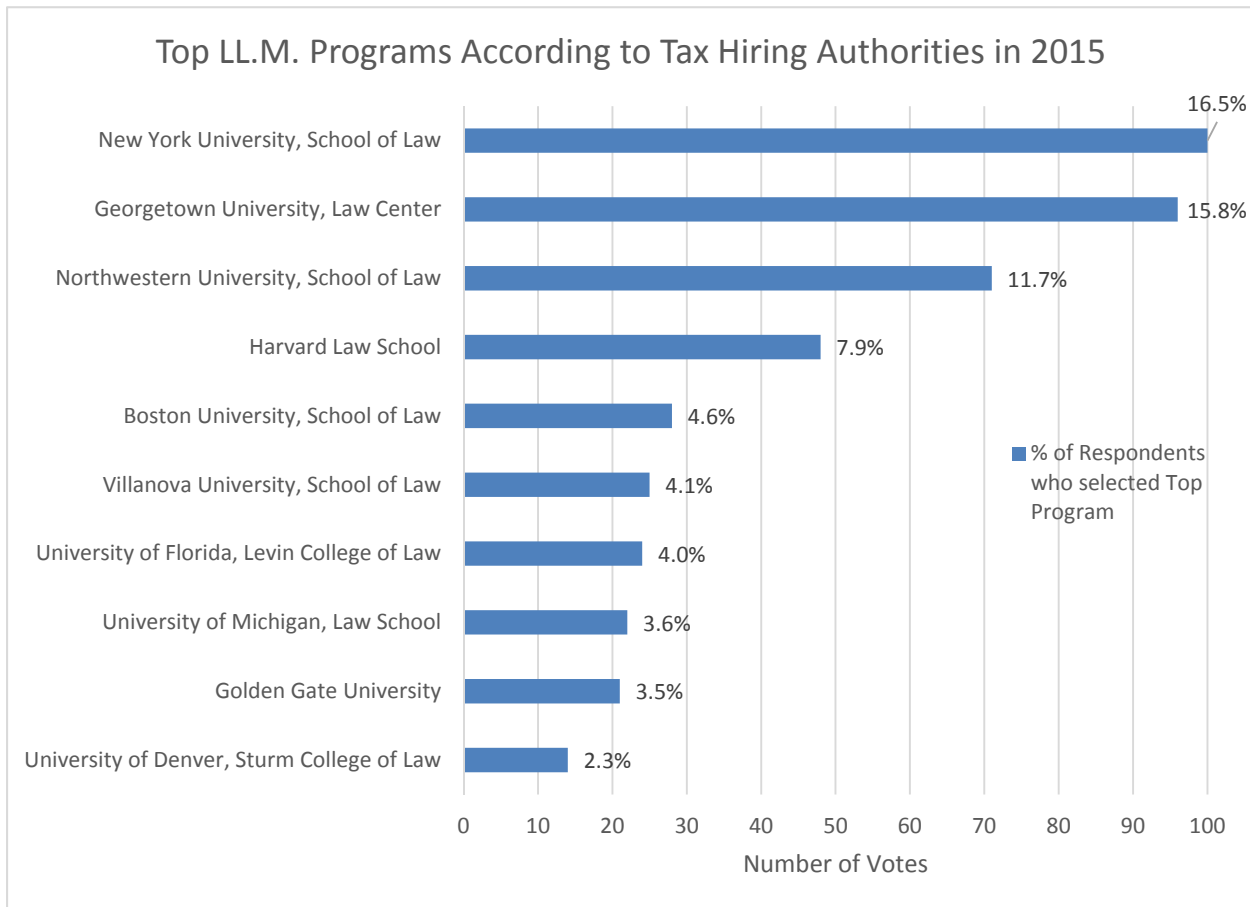
<b>Repeat Top 10 JD Tax Program</b>	<b>2013 Rank</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
Harvard Law School	--	--	1
Georgetown University, Law Center	1	1	2
Yale Law School	--	--	3
Duke University, School of Law	--	--	4
University of Michigan, Law School	--	--	5
DePaul University, College of Law	5	4	6
Golden Gate University	--	--	7 (tie)
Northwestern University	--	--	7 (tie)
Stanford University Law School, Crown Quadrangle	--	--	7 (tie)
Boston College, Law School	--	--	8 (tie)
Cornell Law School	--	--	8 (tie)
Villanova University, School of Law	--	--	8 (tie)
Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School	--	--	9 (tie)
The University of Pennsylvania, Law School	--	--	9 (tie)
The University of Chicago	--	--	10
The University of Pennsylvania, Law School	2	2	--
Villanova University, School of Law	3	3	--
Michigan State University, College of Law	7	5	--
Loyola University, Chicago School of Law	4	6 (tie)	--
University of California, Hastings College of the Law	6	6 (tie)	--
George Mason University, School of Law	9	7	--

[Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 JD Tax survey](#)



**2015 LL.M. Tax Results**

**Respondent Profile:** 155 currently employed heads of corporate in-house tax departments selected up to 5 (out of 35) schools for ranking the LL.M. – Taxation programs.



Respondents were able to select up to 5 schools (values do not add up to 100%).

8 schools were named among the Top 10 LL.M. Tax programs for the third consecutive year.



**2015 LL.M. Tax Comparison**

<b>Repeat Top 10 LL.M. Tax Program</b>	<b>2013 Rank</b>	<b>2014 Rank</b>	<b>2015 Rank</b>
New York University, School of Law	1	1	1
Georgetown University Law Center	2	2	2
Northwestern University, School of Law	6	6	3
Harvard Law School	--	--	4
Boston University, School of Law	4	5	5
Villanova University, School of Law	5 (tie)	8 (tie)	6
University of Florida, Levin College of Law	3	4	7
University of Michigan, Law School	5 (tie)	3	8
Golden Gate University, School of Law	10	8 (tie)	9
University of Denver, Sturm College of Law	--	--	10
DePaul University, College of Law	7	7	--
University of Miami, School of Law	8	9	--

[\*Click here to view the complete results of the 2015 LL.M. Tax survey\*](#)

## Conclusion

To help realize our vision, we actively pursue initiatives that help support prospective and committed tax students, tax professors and schools with tax related programs. All of our scholastic outreach and efforts are focused on aligning the needs and wants of employers with what students will need to prepare for gainful employment in the tax profession. Some of our efforts include:

1. An online educational roadmap for prospective tax students to understand their options and pathways to a successful tax career.
2. Free membership to the TaxTalent career portal where students can connect with seasoned tax mentors.
3. Free access to expert tax career coaches that can help guide students with answers to questions in a confidential or public forum.
4. Fostering the creation and support of Tax Clubs at select Universities that are committed to building their tax related educational programs.
5. Free student access to the largest database of tax scholarships, tax internships and entry level jobs for tax students.

Our vision is to increase the awareness of the opportunities in the tax profession and act as a promotional media to help increase the supply of future tax leaders. The Top in Tax Survey is a one-of-a-kind data source for employers to publicly disclose which schools and programs offer the best value for students looking to enter and succeed in the tax profession.

For more information on this survey or if you have any additional suggestions for what you would like us to include in our 2017 Educational Survey Series, please contact Jennifer Fort at 843-216-7444 or email [jennifer@taxtalent.com](mailto:jennifer@taxtalent.com).