

Alfred University ranks second on US News list of Great Schools at Great Prices

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ALFRED - For the second year in a row, Alfred University is second in on US News and World Report's annual ranking of "Great Schools at Great Prices" among master's degree-awarding institutions in the North region. US News and World Report's "Best Colleges" issue, due on newsstands next week, ranks the schools it says offer quality education at an affordable price. This year, Alfred University remains at second, the same as last year, behind Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. The magazine looks at academic quality and the average cost of attendance to determine what it calls "Great Schools at Great Prices." "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal," according to US News. Behind Alfred University is Hood College in Maryland. Other New York State schools on the list are LeMoyne College, fourth; Rochester Institute of Technology, sixth; St. Bonaventure University, 11th; and Nazareth College, 13th. Alfred University awards need-based financial aid to 88 percent of its students, bringing the average cost of attending to \$16,318, according to figures compiled by US News. "This is a great endorsement of Alfred University as a 'student-centered' institution," said President Charles M. Edmondson. "Our faculty and staff should take great pride in being recognized in this manner. It also justifies the faith that our donors display in supporting us so generously." Overall, Alfred University is ranked 14th in the North among universities offering master's level degrees. Every year since US News began ranking colleges and universities, Alfred University has ranked in the top 20 among comparable institutions in the North, which includes all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Last year, AU was 16th in the region. "With hundreds of colleges and universities in the Northeast alone, it's often difficult for prospective students and their parents to differentiate among them, particularly since all of them claim to be excellent in one way or another," said Edmondson. "The U.S. News survey provides a service to students and parents by offering specific criteria with detailed information. This is certainly not the only method for assessing quality but it is one of the few with a clear rationale." He cautioned, however, that rankings alone should not be the determining factor in choosing a school. "The U. S. News rankings do not include an assessment of students' experiences in the classroom, or how well they do after graduation. Those are areas where colleges and universities like Alfred University are particularly strong," said Edmondson. "Rankings, naturally, have to be based on numbers, and there's no simple number that will measure student and alumni satisfaction with their educational experience." US News and World Report ranks colleges and universities according to the degrees they offer, from national doctoral institutions to regional comprehensive colleges that offer baccalaureate degrees, but no advanced degrees. Alfred University is ranked among the master's degree universities in the North because it offers a full range of undergraduate degrees, as well as an appreciable number of master's degrees, but not enough doctoral degrees to place it among the national research universities. US News says there are 572 regional master's degree universities. US News and World Report's "Best Colleges" is perhaps the best-known of the college guides, but there are several others. To see how Alfred University is ranked by the "experts," see <http://www.alfred.edu/exp...>