

Alfred University a 'Great School at a Great Price'

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Alfred University continues to be ranked among the top master's degree-awarding institutions in the North on U.S. News and World Report's listing of "Great Schools at Great Prices." In the US News and World Report's "Best Colleges 2009," due to arrive at newsstands next week, Alfred University is ranked second among institutions that offer the best academic quality for the price of attendance. "The formula used to determine which colleges and universities offer the best value relates to a school's academic quality, as indicated by the 2009 US News ranking, to the 2007-2008 academic year net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid," according to US News. "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal." "It is gratifying to remain at the top of the 'Great Schools at Great Prices' list," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "For the past eight years, the University has consistently ranked either number one or number two on the list, a remarkable affirmation of the value of an Alfred University education. Our faculty and staff create the quality of the programs; the generosity of our donors makes the University affordable." While there might be a national controversy over how universities and colleges use the income from their endowments, Alfred University has consistently allocated endowment earnings to provide need-based financial aid for its students, many of whom come from low-to-moderate income households. According to US News, 79 percent of Alfred University's students receive financial aid, and pay an average cost of \$19,305. As it has each year since U.S. News began ranking colleges and universities, Alfred University remains among the top 20 master's degree-granting institutions in the North, this year coming in at 17th. "The North, with its abundance of public and private colleges and universities, is by far the most competitive of the four regions in the US News rankings," noted Dr. Suzanne Buckley, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. "For Alfred University to rank as highly as it does is a credit to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff. Only three New York State institutions are ranked higher than Alfred in the master's North category."