

AU a 'Best Value' institution in U.S. News & World Report guide

9/09/15

Alfred University (AU) is a “Best Value” institution, ranked sixth in the North in the 2016 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings released Sept. 9.

U.S. News explained the regional institutions appearing in its “Best Colleges 2016 Guidebook” provide a full range of undergraduate majors and master&s programs along with some doctoral programs. The 618 universities in the regional category this year are ranked against their peer group in one of four regions North, South, Midwest, West because, in general, said U.S. News, they tend to draw students most heavily from surrounding states. AU is among 15 institutions selected as Great Regional Schools at Great Prices in the North.

“I am very excited to be recognized as a Best Value University by U.S. News & World Report,” said Jamie Marcus, AU Admissions director, adding, “however, I am not surprised because Alfred University is an amazing place where students receive an outstanding education that lasts a lifetime without being burdened by a lifetime of debt.”

U.S. News and World Report takes into account a school&s academic quality and the 2014-15 net cost of attending for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost to attend equates into students/families receiving the better deal, according to the magazine&s methodology information.

Most of the data come from the colleges/universities themselves via U.S. News& statistical survey. This year, 92.7 percent of the 1,376 ranked colleges and universities nationwide returned their statistical information during the spring and summer data collection period.

U.S. News also noted its ranking formula gives significant weight to the opinions of those in a position to judge a school&s undergraduate academic excellence. The academic peer assessment survey allows presidents, provosts, and deans of admission to account for intangibles at peer institutions such as faculty dedication to teaching. This year the academic peer scores are based on the two most recent sets of survey results collected in spring 2014 and spring 2015.

The “Best Colleges 2016” guidebook will be available on newsstands beginning Tuesday, Sept. 29.