

## **Alfred University tops US News list of "Great Schools at Great Prices"**

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Alfred University tops the US News and World Report 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. Last year, Alfred University was second in the North, but returned to the number one spot for the 2004 rankings. 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. Alfred University, it reports, awards need-based financial aid to 86 percent of its students, bringing the average cost of attending to \$13,627. "The U.S. News survey provides a real service to students and parents. This is particularly true in the Northeast where there are hundreds of educational institutions, all claiming to be excellent," said President Charles M. Edmondson. "This survey helps prospective students and their parents evaluate those claims and identify colleges and universities with genuinely high quality and excellent reputations. It is no accident that Alfred University is always high on this list. I am particularly proud that U. S. News has ranked AU as the 'No. 1 Value' in the Northeast again this year." The "Best Colleges Guide" ranks Alfred University 13th overall among the master's level institutions in the North region. This is the 16th year in a row that Alfred University has ranked among the top 15 colleges and universities in the region. "Ranking (by outside sources) continues to validate the quality of our programs," said Dr. David Szczerbacki, provost and vice president for academic and statutory affairs. "Given the competitive nature of higher education in the Northeast, the fact that we have been able to sustain our status among the top 15 since U.S. News began rating colleges 16 years ago attests to this fact. AU remains an excellent value for current and prospective students. This is a tribute to our dedicated faculty and staff." All of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland are included in the North region. 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. There are more than 1,400 colleges and universities in the U.S. Of those, 572 are considered to be 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...>