Among the Best
University of Dayton, Ohio (url: http://www.udayton.edu/index.php)

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The Princeton Review's 2012 edition of The Best 376 Colleges lists the University of Dayton in the top 15 percent of the best institutions for undergraduate education in the nation and the Midwest.

The Review says the University of Dayton is "known for friendly students, strong academics and Flyer basketball" as well as "academically challenging yet unpretentious [and] casual, yet fun."

"Academics are important at Dayton, but people aren't engaged in cut-throat rivalries with people to get ahead in the classroom. If you're struggling, it's easy to find someone to offer a helping hand," said one student.

The annual Princeton Review list is drawn from the 2,500 four-year colleges in the U.S. and three colleges outside the U.S. It includes detailed profiles of the schools with rating scores in eight categories, and student survey-based rankings.

The University received a rating of 90 on a scale of 60-99 for its quality of life, which is based on responses from students "to several questions covering food on and off campus, dorm comfort, campus beauty, ease of getting around campus, relationship with the local community, campus safety, the surrounding area, interaction between students, friendliness and happiness of the student body and smoothness with which the school is administered."

The education services company widely known for it test prep programs and college and graduate school guides, selected the University as one of 153 "Best in the Midwest" institutions for 2012. The list includes institutions in 12 states mainly for excellent academic programs, the company said.

According to student surveys, the University's top programs include "a great premed program, a wonderful engineering department, an amazing teacher education program" and an "awesome business school." True to its Marianist tradition, the University also has "the largest campus ministry in the country."

The Review said: "The number of options is unusual for an institution with such a small-school feel."

"We commend the University of Dayton for its outstanding academics, which is the primary criteria for our choice of schools for the book," said Robert Franek, senior vice president, publisher and author of The Best 376 Colleges.

"Our choices are based on institutional data we collect about schools, our visits to schools over the years, feedback we gather from students attending the schools, and the opinions of our staff and our 28-member National College Counselor Advisory Board. We also work to keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."

Based on student surveys, The Review also listed the University as No. 6 on the top-20 list of "Jock Schools," which considers intramural and intercollegiate sports as well as Greek life.

In the latest review of entrepreneurship programs, The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine ranked the University's program as a top-10 undergraduate program for the fifth straight year, making it the highest-ranked undergraduate program among Catholic universities nationwide and among all schools in the Midwest (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois).

The University of Dayton also ranks in the top 100 national research universities by U.S. News & World Report in its latest edition of "America's Best Colleges." The ranking places the University among the top 100 national research universities, the top 60 national private research universities and the nation's 10 best Catholic universities.

Washington Monthly magazine gives the University of Dayton high marks for living its motto of "Learn. Lead. Serve." The magazine ranked the University 77th overall in its latest ranking of 258 national universities. In the service category, the University ranks 17th. The rankings measure schools' graduation rates, research expenditures, and the number of students who give back to their country. The University also ranks in the top 10 of Catholic universities.

The University of Dayton is also listed among the 40 best colleges in Acceptance, by Dave Marcus, a national guide for college applicants and and the 2012 edition of The Fiske Guide to Colleges by Edward B. Fiske, which features more than 300 of the
country's best colleges and universities.


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