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Among the Nation's Best

08.16.2010 | Campus and Community  The University of Dayton is among the top 100 national universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" issue released today.

The University of Dayton leaped 11 spots from 110th last year to 99th; its overall score jumped from 38 to 42. Improvements in peer assessment, retention rate, graduation rate, class sizes, the number of first-year students in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and selectivity helped increase the University's score.

"The University of Dayton is focused on recruiting and retaining academically gifted students and offering them a transformative education in the Catholic, Marianist tradition. We've taken a number of bold, forward-thinking steps — from innovations in the curriculum and laboratories to the hiring of more stellar faculty — that have helped increase our national reputation, said Daniel J. Curran, president. "The entire University community should take pride in being part of a top-tier university that continues to grow in pre-eminence."

Dayton improved one spot to tie for 55th among private national universities. It is eighth among national Catholic universities.

The magazine also listed the University of Dayton among its "A+ Schools for B Students." This is the third straight year the University of Dayton made this list of schools that the magazine says deserve a closer look.

*U.S. News* assigns schools to categories developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The national universities category consists of the 262 institutions that offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees.

The University has attracted a number of high-profile national rankings and accolades recently.

The Princeton Review's 2011 edition of *The Best 373 Colleges* lists the University of Dayton as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education. The University made five of The Princeton Review's top-20 lists: eighth in "Everybody Plays Intramural Sports," 16th in "Happiest Students," 18th in "Easiest Campus to Get Around," 19th in "School Runs Like Butter," which rates how smoothly the school is operated, and 20th in "Best Quality of Life."

The Princeton Review also named the University of Dayton one of the best colleges in the Midwest, which includes 152 schools in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The University of Dayton also is listed among the 40 best colleges in Acceptance, by Dave Marcus, a national guide for college applicants; the 2011 edition of *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* by Edward B. Fiske, which features more than 300 of the country's best colleges and universities; and Forbes.com's list of the top 15 percent of American colleges and universities.

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