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

Outstanding University, High Quality of Life

07.28.2009 | Campus and Community  About 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges and two Canadian colleges were chosen for the book. It includes two-page profiles of the schools with rating scores in eight categories, and student survey-based ranking lists of the top 20 schools in 62 categories.

For the first time, the University of Dayton ranks seventh in the report in "Easiest Campus to Get Around." The University retains two other top-20 rankings as 13th in "Happiest Students" and 10th in "Everybody Plays Intramural Sports."

The University also received a rating of 95 on a scale of 60-99 for its quality of life. According to The Princeton Review, it "weighed several factors, including students' assessments of their overall happiness; the beauty, safety and location of the campus; the comfort of dorms; the quality of food; the ease of getting around campus and dealing with administrators; the friendliness of fellow students; the interaction of different student types; and the quality of the school's relationship with the local community."

The Princeton Review describes the University of Dayton as academically challenging yet unpretentious, a campus where porches symbolize "community."

"I thought the community aspect they repeated endlessly during my visit was just a way to get me to enroll at Dayton, but everyone is genuinely interested," said one student surveyed for the report. Both academics and service "are taken very seriously" at the University of Dayton.

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 University of Dayton is also ranked by U.S. News & World Report in its 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" as a top-tier national university. The University ties for 108th among 262 universities nationally that offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees. Among national Catholic universities, it is eighth. Among national private universities, it ranks 56th.

"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, vice president of publishing for The Princeton Review. "We also work to keep a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character. We make our choices based on institutional data we gather about schools, feedback from students attending them, and input from our staff who visit hundreds of colleges a year. We also value the opinions and suggestions of our 23-member National College Counselor Advisory Board and independent college counselors we hear from yearlong."

The Princeton Review's 62 ranking lists in "The Best 371 Colleges" are entirely based on its survey of 122,000 students attending the colleges in the book. The 80-question survey asks students to rate their schools on several topics and report on their campus experiences at them. Topics include student assessments of their professors, administrators, financial aid and campus food.

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