8-22-2008

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Still a Top-Tier National University

08.22.2008 | Students, Campus and Community, Hot Topics  The University of Dayton ranks as a top-tier national university and one of the 10 best Catholic universities in the nation, moving up four spots in the U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges list released Friday, Aug. 22.

UD ties for 108th place 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 56, up two spots from last year.

U.S. News & World Report also listed UD among its "A+ Schools for B Students." This is the first time UD made this list of schools the magazine says deserve a closer look.

The rankings also show:

The University of Dayton excels at retention and graduation of students. Nearly nine out of 10 first-year students (87 percent) return for their sophomore year.

UD's graduation rate of 76 percent is well above the national average. Nationally, the average six-year graduation rate for all students is 57 percent, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Classes are small -- only 5 percent of UD's classes enroll 50 or more students.

Nearly one out of four UD alumni (24 percent) supports the University financially. That places UD fourth among national Catholic universities, behind the University of Notre Dame, Georgetown University and Boston College.

"Our ranking affirms our status as a top-tier national, private Catholic university," UD President Daniel J. Curran said. "This is a result of our distinctive faculty and students, UD's offering of a transformative education, rich learning and living environment and curricular innovations."

The University isn't a stranger to high-profile national rankings or accolades. The Princeton Review's 2009 edition of The Best 368 Colleges lists UD as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education with some of the happiest students, ranking seventh. UD ranks on Forbes.com's list of the top 15 percent of American colleges and universities. The National Survey of Student Engagement showed that UD receives stellar ratings in areas such as level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment. UD also is one of 10 religiously affiliated colleges nationally that excels at helping students "find purpose and meaning in life," according to Putting Students First: How Colleges Develop Students Purposefully.

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