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Excellent University, Happy Students

07.28.2008 | Campus and Community, Students The Princeton Review's 2009 edition of The Best 368 Colleges lists the University of Dayton as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education with some of the happiest students in the nation.

About 15 percent of the four-year colleges in the U.S. and two Canadian colleges were chosen for the book. It includes two-page profiles of the schools and student survey-based ranking lists of the top 20 colleges in more than 60 categories.

For the first time, UD ranks seventh in the country in "Happiest Students." UD retains its ranking as 11th in "Everybody Plays Intramural Sports."

According to the Princeton Review, "The happiest students are those who have found their place in a college that meets their academic and social needs, leaving them with so many activities that there's just not enough time in the day to be homesick or stressed."

Here's what the publication said about UD in the "Happiest Students" listing:

"Community is probably the first word that comes to the majority of the student body's minds," agree most of the students we surveyed at UD. While it may "sound really cheesy," undergrads insist that "everyone is family here" and that "you are welcome from the very moment you step onto campus."

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the student neighborhood, in which "porch sitting is a must on sunny days." One student explains, "Porches are symbolic of UD. Everyone sits out on their porch. It's one huge neighborhood where everyone is welcome to party or to chill." Complete strangers help each other all the time, and everyone says hi to one another." Most students are laid-back, down-to-earth, and fun, yet they know how to get down to business and study."

UD is ranked as a top-tier national university in U.S. News & World Report's 2008 edition of America's Best Colleges. UD ties for 112th among 262 universities nationally that offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees. Among national Catholic universities, it ties for eighth. Among national private universities, it ties for 58th.

The Princeton Review describes UD as academically challenging yet unpretentious, a campus where porches symbolize "community."

According to student surveys, UD's top programs include "a great premed program, a wonderful engineering department, an amazing teacher education program" and an "awesome business school."

Says Robert Franek, vice president of publishing for The Princeton Review. "We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics. We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them and our visits to schools over the years. We also consider the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents we hear from year-long. Finally, we work to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."

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