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USFSP’s Online MBA Ranked #32 in Nation, #2 in Florida

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U.S. News & World Report ranked the Online MBA Program at USF St. Petersburg (USFSP) among the nation’s top 20-percent in its 2015 survey of Best Online MBA Programs. Of 195 universities, USFSP is ranked #32 in the nation and #2 in Florida behind the University of Florida. The rankings were based on five general categories: Student Engagement, Admissions Selectivity, Peer Reputation, Faculty Credentials and Training, and Student Services and Technology. USFSP’s program scored especially well in Faculty Credentials and Training, in which it tied at #6 nationally.

“This is indeed an honor and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the talented faculty and staff at our Kate Tiedemann College of Business,” said USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. “Our program’s success is rooted in the flexibility and convenience it offers, particularly for working professionals. This AACSB-accredited program is also grounded in a tradition of quality, with online courses that are taught by the same highly-credentialed faculty who teach our graduate courses on campus.”

USFSP Online MBA students have the option of taking some classes on campus. Courses are offered in eight-week sessions, allowing students to complete the program at a part-time pace. Additionally, USFSP offers a suite of MBA Essentials modules, which provides a fast-tracked alternative to non-business students who may be missing prerequisite courses.

“Online curricula are developed with significant effort to ensure these courses provide just as much value to students as on-campus courses,” said Gary Patterson, interim dean of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. “Many of the courses include innovative group exercises providing students with an opportunity to collaborate on projects, just as traditional students do on campus. And we keep our course caps low to ensure that students have direct and easy access to professors.”

Patterson adds that approximately 85-percent of USFSP’s recent MBA graduates are working in the 10 fastest-growing industries, with many of those jobs in Florida. The average starting salary for new MBAs is $68,000.
This year, for the first time, U.S. News & World Report created a stand-alone ranking of online MBA programs to help students research and compare online programs. The magazine reports that about 5.4 million students, or one in four, took at least one distance education course during the fall of 2012, according to recent data released by the National Center for Education Statistics.