9-1-2015

Press release : 2015 : 09 : 01 : USFSP No. 23 in 2016 Best College Rankings

University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Office of University Advancement.

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USFSP No. 23 in 2016 Best Colleges Rankings

U.S. News & World Report has released its 2016 Best Colleges Rankings, and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) is ranked at No. 23 among the nation’s Southern Regional Public universities. Criteria for the rankings include undergraduate academic reputation, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and graduation rate performance, among others. This is the highest ranking for USFSP, which has consistently improved in the magazine’s list of highest-ranked public colleges and universities over the last three years. USFSP is ranked at No. 58 among all public and private regional universities in the south.

“This latest ranking is indeed an honor and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the talented faculty and staff at USFSP,” said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. “We’re in very good company, alongside some of the country’s finest public research institutions.”

U.S. News & World Report describes its ranking formula as using “quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality.” Regionally accredited schools are categorized by criteria developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2010.

“The rankings by U.S. News & World Report are valued within higher education because the magazine’s research methodology is sound,” said V. Mark Durand, USFSP’s interim regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. “The criteria used can help students and parents make informed decisions about the kind of college experience they want most.”

For instance, added Durand, the magazine measures academic excellence, but also student-faculty ratio, which for USFSP is 19:1. “For students who want to study at a smaller institution, work closely with faculty and/or engage in undergraduate research, these rankings can help identify institutions, like USFSP, which can meet those expectations.”

In January, U.S. News & World Report ranked USFSP’s Online MBA Program 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. Earlier this summer, the magazine ranked the program among the nation’s top 20-percent of Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans.