University Accolades and Achievements

Mason Makes List of "Up-and-Coming Universities"

George Mason University was ranked #1 on U.S. News & World Report’s annual "Up-and-Coming Institutions" list.

The list, comprising 68 colleges and universities across the country, identifies “schools that have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities.” In its annual peer assessment survey, U.S. News asked education experts to identify schools that met those criteria. This is the third year in a row that a list of up-and-coming schools was created.

Mason Recognized in Top 200 of Academic Ranking of World Universities

George Mason University was ranked in the top 200 by the Academic Ranking of World Universities, a ranking conducted annually by China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education. Mason was ranked in the 151-200 group, among other institutions such as Dartmouth College, Louisiana State University and the University of Miami.

Mason was also ranked by the broad subjects of Social Science (#39) and Economics/Business (#46) among world universities.

Universities are ranked by several indicators of academic or research performance, including alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, highly cited researchers, articles published in the journals Nature and Science, articles indexed in major citations indices and the per capita academic performance of an institution.

Kiplinger's Names Mason to 'Best Values' List

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine again named Mason to its national list of the top 100 "Best Values in Public Colleges".
According to the magazine, it bases the rankings of public colleges on "a combination of outstanding academic quality plus an affordable price tag."

Academic quality is measured using the percentage of freshman scoring 600 or higher on the verbal and math components of the SAT or 24 or higher on the ACT, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates.

Total tuition, fees, room and board and textbook expenses are factored in for both in-state and out-of-state students, along with financial aid and average student debt upon graduation. The magazine stated that academic quality carried more weight than costs in its scoring system.

**Mason Recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education's Great Colleges to Work For Survey**

For the fifth year in a row, the Chronicle of Higher Education, the premier publication for academic news and issues, named Mason one of the "Great Colleges to Work For." Because the university was rated highly in more than four categories, it was also named as a 2012 Honor Roll school.

The categories in which Mason excelled are: Facilities, Workspace and Security, Job Satisfaction, Work/Life Balance, Professional/Career-Development Programs and Respect and Appreciation.

The survey of faculty and staff at 103 institutions across the country reported on 12 work environment issues considered to be the core attributes of a great academic workplace. Those that stood out in at least one of the categories made the list.

**Mason Ranks in World 'Webometrics' List**

Mason was ranked number 57 among U.S. and Canadian universities on the "Webometrics Ranking of World Universities.” The rankings are determined using a survey conducted by a Spanish research group called the Cybermetrics Lab which analyzes the web content and presence of a university.

On its worldwide list, which includes a total of 12,010 universities, Mason was ranked number 82. The list measures the impact and performance of universities according to their Web presence.

The purpose of Cybermetrics Lab is to "provide extra motivation to researchers worldwide for publishing more and better scientific content on the Web, making it available to colleagues and people wherever they are located."

**Mason Named One of America's Best College Buys**
Mason was ranked number 68 among the top 100 of “America's Best College Buys” in a report compiled by Forbes magazine and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Each school was evaluated according to overall quality relative to average tuition costs and fees for 2008. All schools with a four-year graduation rate lower than 20 percent were excluded from the Best Value ranking.

On Forbes' overall "Best Colleges" list of more than 600 undergraduate institutions, Mason ranks 273. The report is based on the quality of the education they provide, the experience of the students and how much they achieve. Data was gathered from a variety of sources including student evaluations of courses and instructors, postgraduate success, graduation rates and the number of students or faculty who have won nationally competitive awards.

**Mason Recognized Among Schools with Highest Minority Graduation Rates**

Mason was recognized as one of the few universities in the nation with little or no disparity in graduation rates between African American and Hispanic students compared with white students, according to two recent reports by the Education Trust.

The reports focused on two underrepresented minorities: African Americans and Hispanics. According to the reports, Mason graduates 57 percent of white students, compared with 63 percent of African Americans and 59 percent of Hispanics. Mason was also one of four public universities in Virginia to have a very small graduation gap between whites and African Americans and whites and Hispanics.

**Mason Ranks in Top 100 for Minority Degree Awards**

According to Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, Mason is ranked in the top 100 undergraduate degree producers awarding the greatest number of degrees to minority students. Mason ranked 29th for awarding bachelor’s degrees to Asian Americans and 54th for the number of bachelor’s degrees award to all minority groups. Out of all Virginia institutions on the list, Mason is ranked 75th for bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students.

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