

UA grad programs get high marks

By Eric Swedlund
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three University of Arizona graduate programs are ranked among the top five in their fields nationally, and the university has numerous other top 50 programs, according to U.S. News & World Report rankings released today.

The College of Pharmacy and the Eller College of Management's management information systems program both rank fourth, while the UA's social psychology program ranks fifth.

Both the Eller College and the James E. Rogers College of Law rank among the top 50 programs nationally. The business school ranks 40th, down from 35th last year, while the law school ranks 41st, up from 43rd last year.

In doctoral programs at the College and Social and Behavioral Sciences, the UA ranks 17th in sociology and 55th in psychology. The UA is ranked 41st in economics, 45th in history, 46th in English, 55th in engineering and 58th in education. In specialties, the UA was 16th in higher education administration and 21st educational psychology.

Graduate programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine are ranked every year, with other programs ranked about every three years.

The rankings in the 2006 edition of America's Best Graduate Schools, which hits newsstands Monday, can come as good news for programs that rank favorably, but officials as usual caution against reading too much into them.

"It's a double-edged sword," said UA law Dean Toni Massaro. "We're always glad when it's good, but I just don't think any linear kind of ranking of schools does justice to the whole place. Each student needs to do a holistic assessment."

The law school ranks as the 23rd most diverse, one of the areas in which the UA has historically performed well. But the study doesn't measure the sense of community at the law school, the efficiency or the price - all areas in which the UA is very competitive, Massaro said. The James E. Rogers College of Law is 19th when ranked only with public universities.

"There are ways in which the comparisons just aren't revealing the performance of the school," Massaro said. "The most important thing is the quality of education, and in that we rival anybody in the country."

Eller College interim Dean Ken Smith said the management information systems program has been in the top five since the inception of the rankings.

"We'll continue to be a major leader in that area, maybe even a greater leader than we have been," he said. "The MBA (master's in business administration) program overall is holding its own in a solid part of the top 50."

Where the UA's top graduate programs rank

Information systems

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Carnegie Mellon University
3. University of Texas-Austin

4. University of Arizona

5. University of Maryland-College Park

Social psychology

1. Stanford University
2. Indiana University-Bloomington
3. University of Iowa
4. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

5. University of Arizona

Pharmacy

1. University of California-San Francisco
2. University of Texas-Austin
3. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

4. University of Arizona

4. (tie) Purdue University

The college also ranked 13th in entrepreneurship, the same as last year, and the accounting program is ranked for the first time at 27th. Supply chain and logistics ranked for the first time, at 22nd.

Five total rankings are done for entrepreneurship programs, some more detailed and some based more on reputation, but Smith said the UA is in the top five in each one.

"We've got lots of different people doing rankings; they're all approaching it in a different way, all coming to a slightly different conclusion," he said. "But there's a great deal of consensus across the rankings in terms of how well we're doing."

Pharmacy Dean J. Lyle Bootman said the college rose from seventh since the last ranking.

"Obviously we're very pleased to see we made some movement," Bootman said. "It's nice to be one of the top-ranked."

The college is second behind the University of California-San Francisco in National Institutes of Health research rankings.

"Research and education go hand in hand," he said. "That's what we're most proud of - our students are on the cutting edge."

Sociology professor Linda Molm said the department is pleased that the social psychology program ranks in the top five, as it did in the last ranking in 2001. A nationally recognized program is valuable in recruiting quality faculty members and students, she said.

"We've got a long tradition of a very distinguished program, and we're pleased to see that retained," she said. Last fall, U.S. News & World Report ranked the UA 46th among public universities and 98th overall.

• Contact reporter Eric Swedlund at 573-4115 or at eswedlund@azstarnet.com.

All content copyright © 1999-2005 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.

Ads by Google

[Juris Doctor Program](#) • www.TaftU.edu

America's Premier Accredited Distance Learning Law School

[The Right School for You](#) • www.educationadvance.com

We do the College Search for You. Get the info and Get Started Now.

[Online Law School](#) • EducationEngine.com/cls.htm

Premier Online Law School. 100% Online. JD & Executive JD. aff