



Office of Media and Public Relations

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University Accolades and Achievements 2008 – 2009

Mason Tops List of Up-and-Coming Schools

U.S. News & World Report named George Mason University the nation's number one university to watch on their new list of "Up-and-Coming Schools."

The list, comprising 70 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 first time a list of up-and-coming schools has been created.

Mason Recognized in Top 100 of Academic Ranking of World Universities

George Mason University was ranked in the top 100 North and Latin American Universities by the Academic Ranking of World Universities that is conducted annually by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education.

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.

Mason Makes The Princeton Review's List of Best Value Colleges

Mason is one of the nation's best values among undergraduate institutions, according to The Princeton Review. The New York-based education services company features Mason on its list of America's 100 "Best Value" colleges for 2009.

The guide profiles 50 public and 50 private colleges and universities. Of these 100 schools, the list ranks the top 10 public and the top 10 private. The remaining 80 are unranked and listed alphabetically. Mason is the only school in the Washington, D.C., region to be selected for the list.

The best value choices for 2009 are based on the surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 colleges and universities. The selection criteria consisted of more than 30 factors in three areas — academics, costs of attendance and financial aid — using data from each institution's 2007-08 academic year. Also, more than 160,000 student surveys provided input for the academic ratings.

Kiplinger's Names Mason to 'Best Values' List

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine this year again named Mason to its national top 100 "Best Values in Public Colleges" list.

According to the magazine, it bases the rankings of public colleges on "a combination of outstanding academic quality plus an affordable price tag."

Measures of academic quality cited are the percentage of the 2008-09 freshman class 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.

On the cost side, 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 the average debt a student accumulates before graduation.

The magazine stated that academic quality carried more weight than costs in its scoring system.

AARP Names Mason One of Best Places to Work for Those 50+

For the third year in a row, Mason has been named one of the 50 best places to work for persons 50 years of age and older by the AARP.

The AARP recognized Mason for providing a supportive workplace culture; opportunities for employees that include a life planning and eldercare seminar series for those interested in learning more about caring for an elderly relative, planning retirement or aging in place; support groups, information and referral services regarding eldercare; individual and family long-term care coverage to retirees of any age; flexible work schedules; and opportunities for retirees to continue participating in campus life activities.

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

For the second 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." Mason was the only four-year college in Virginia recognized in 13 different categories.

The survey of faculty and staff at 247 institutions across the country reported on 26 different work environment issues. The results were published in the Chronicle issue dated July 10, 2009.

One of the categories in which Mason was lauded was "work-life balance." An example cited in a separate article in the same issue is Mason's flexible work policy which allows employees to adjust their work schedule to something other than the traditional workday. With their supervisor's approval, some employees can also arrange to work at home or on an alternate campus that is closer to home for a portion of the workweek.

Mason Ranks in World 'Webometrics' List

In a survey conducted by a Spanish research group called the Cybermetrics Lab, Mason was ranked number 70 on its "webometrics" list of U.S. and Canadian universities.

On its worldwide list which includes a total of 4,000 universities, Mason was ranked number 86. The list measures the impact and performance of universities through their Web presence.

According to the Cybermetrics Lab, its purpose in publishing the rankings 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 Ranks in Top 100 of America's Best Public Colleges

Mason was ranked in the top 100 of America's Best Public Colleges in a report compiled by Forbes magazine and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

The report ranks 600 public and private undergraduate institutions 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, post-graduate success, graduation rates and the number of students or faculty who have won nationally competitive awards.