

Some UF colleges rank high

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While UF has slipped to No. 17 in the rankings, some of its individual schools and degree programs, such as accounting and engineering, consistently rank among the best.

In the 2008 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges," schools within the Warrington College of Business Administration were listed among the top 10 for public universities.

The marketing school ranked sixth and the Fisher School of Accounting ranked 10th.

Dominique DeSantiago, an associate director of the Fisher School of Accounting, said the faculty, students and the support from alumni and friends are the three reasons why the accounting program ranks among the best.

"The school also offers a combined-degree program for students who would like to receive a bachelor's and master's degree within five years, DeSantiago said.

The rankings aren't used to evaluate the school's success, he added.

Rankings are always wonderful," he said. "But they're pretty much a beauty contest."

DeSantiago said it's getting harder to maintain the school's excellence because of UF's dwindling budget.

Ten years ago, the school had 25 faculty members. Now there are only 15.

"That could potentially jeopardize the success of this program," DeSantiago said.

The College of Engineering's programs have also fared well over the years.

In 2006, the materials engineering program ranked fifth in the nation and civil engineering ranked eighth.

Megan Gales, interim communications director with the College of Engineering, said there are many reasons why engineering programs are considered elite, such as research.

Gales said other factors go into the school's continued excellence, including the quality of students and faculty, the talent and the test scores.

Because the college is known for its difficult classes, faculty members have recently developed mentoring programs for students who feel stranded in subjects like fluid mechanics or transport phenomena.

"We want to see the students do well," Gales said. "We want to keep them."

The school has a special program for incoming freshmen in the summer. Students complete about 16 to 18 hours of course work and receive four credit hours.

"It's insane. They wake up at the crack of dawn," Gales said. "But it helps them learn the habits they need to succeed."

UF RANKINGS

Overall	17 th
Warrington College of Business	17 th
▪ Marketing program ...	8 th
Fisher School of Accounting	10 th
College of Engineering	16 th
▪ Materials Engineering program ...	5 th
▪ Civil Engineering program ...	8 th

*according to U.S. News & World Report

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