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Jim Barker

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## 2009 PEER ASSESSMENT OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### National Universities

Each year, *U.S. News & World Report* conducts a survey of undergraduate programs at colleges and universities. The results are used as part of the *America's Best Colleges* rankings. A list of your peer institutions is listed below by state. This survey is being sent to the president, provost, and dean of admissions at each of these schools. **Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.**

#### Directions for Overall Ratings:

1. Please rate the academic quality of undergraduate programs at the following schools in the national universities category. These schools are major research universities and leading grantors of doctorate degrees.
2. Please review the entire list first, considering each program's scholarship record, curriculum, and quality of faculty and graduates.
3. Using a black pen, rate each school **with which you are familiar** on a scale from marginal (1) to distinguished (5) by marking an "X" in the corresponding box. If you are not familiar with a school's faculty, programs, and graduates, please mark "don't know."
4. **Separate instructions for nominating "Up and Coming Institutions" are found in Section A, page 10.**
5. **Separate instructions for nominating "Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching" are found in Section A, page 10.**
6. **Separate instructions for nominating "Exemplary Undergraduate Programs" in 8 specialty areas are found in Section B, page 10.**
7. Return the completed survey in the postage-paid return envelope to Synovate, Inc. (If you have *misplaced the envelope*, you may return the survey to Angela Foster-Woods, *Synovate*, 222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60606-5809.)

Any questions? Contact the *America's Best Colleges*, help desk at (800) 408-5365 or [usnews@synovate.net](mailto:usnews@synovate.net).  
Thank you!











RATINGS

Distinguished 5	Strong 4	Good 3	Adequate 2	Marginal 1	Don't Know	
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**Section A - Up and Coming Institutions**

In this section we ask you to nominate colleges that are making recent improvements as an institution in academics, faculty, student, campus life, diversity or facilities in your U.S. News ranking category. These are schools that everyone is or should be watching because they are making promising and innovative changes on their campuses. Please nominate up to 10 "Up and Coming Institutions" by writing the identification codes for each school you select in Section A "Up and Coming Institutions." The identification codes are found next to school names on pages 1 to 9 of this survey. You may list your selections in any order and may select fewer than ten.

**Section A - Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching**

In this section we ask you to nominate colleges where the faculty has an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching from your U.S. News ranking category. These are schools whose faculty and administrators have placed a special emphasis on teaching undergraduate students and are committed to teaching undergraduate students in a quality manner. Please nominate up to 10 school with a "Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching" by writing the identification codes for each school you select in that Section A area below. The identification codes are found next to school names on pages 1 to 9 of this survey. You may list your selections in any order and may select fewer than ten.

**Section B - Exemplary Undergraduate Programs by Specialty - Programs to Look For**

In this section, we ask you to nominate schools with exemplary undergraduate programs in each specialty. Please nominate up to 10 schools in each area by writing the identification codes for each school you select on the list below. **(The identification code is found to the left of the school name on the accompanying booklet.)** You may list your selections in any order and may select fewer than ten.

**Section A**

**Section B**

<u>Up &amp; Coming Institutions</u>	<u>First-Year Experiences</u>	<u>Learning Communities</u>	<u>Senior Capstone or Culminating Academic Experiences</u>	<u>Undergraduate Research</u>
_____ (27-32)	_____ (27-32)	_____ (39-44)	_____ (45-50)	_____ (45-50)
_____ (33-38)	_____ (39-44)	_____ (45-50)	_____ (51-56)	_____ (51-56)
_____ (39-44)	_____ (45-50)	_____ (51-56)	_____ (57-62)	_____ (63-68)
_____ (45-50)	_____ (51-56)	_____ (57-62)	_____ (63-68)	_____ (69-74)
_____ (51-56)	_____ (57-62)	_____ (63-68)	_____ (69-74)	_____ (75-80)

V2-10

_____ (51-56)	_____ (57-62)	_____ (63-68)	_____ (63-68)	_____ (69-74)
_____ (57-62)	_____ (63-68)	_____ (69-74)	_____ (69-74)	_____ (14-80)
_____ (63-68)	_____ (69-74)	_____ (11-30)	_____ (13-30)	_____ (21-26)
_____ (69-74)	_____ (21-26)	_____ (21-26)	_____ (21-26)	_____ (27-32)
_____ (10-30)	_____ (27-32)	_____ (27-32)	_____ (27-32)	_____ (33-38)
_____ (21-26)	_____ (27-32)	_____ (33-38)	_____ (33-38)	_____ (39-44)
			_____ (39-44)	_____ (45-50)

**Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching**

**Service Learning**

**Study Abroad**

**Internships, Cooperative Education, or Practica**

**Writing in the Disciplines**