Third-tier ranking doesn't rankle UO officials

U.S. News National University Rankings

School	Rank	Reputation Score	Retention Rate
Stanford	4	4.9	97%
California	22	4.7	94%
UCLA	25	4.3	95%
USC	41	3.7	90%
Washington	Tier 2	4.0	90%
Arizona	Tier 2	3.6	76%
Washington State	Tier 2	3.1	84%
Oregon	Tier 3	3.4	78%
Arizona State	Tier 3	3.3	71%
Oregon State	Tier 3	2.9	77%

SOURCE: U.S. News & World Report

The University is still a good buy and has a well-known academic reputation, officials say

By Michael Hines
Editor in Chief

In a special edition released Aug. 24, U.S. News & World Report listed Oregon in its third tier of national universities.

Seven of the Pacific-10 universities ranked in the second tier or above. Oregon was joined by Arizona State and Oregon State in the third tier.

Despite the University's low ranking, Oregon officials are not unhappy with the report.

Of all of the schools in tier three, Oregon had the highest academic reputation at 3.4, said Lorraine Davis, vice provost for academic affairs. Stanford, which ranked number four of all national schools, received a 4.9 for its academic reputation, and Oregon State was given a 2.9.

"We're in the same tier that we were last year," Davis said. "Our reaction is positive toward the academic ratings and some frustration that state support is driving where we are."

Many of the other state schools around the country have different funding models, she said, and the Oregon model is part of the reason for low rankings.

"It's difficult to move into a higher tier given the lack of state support, comparatively," Davis said.

A new model that was recently approved by the Oregon University System and is currently awaiting legislative approval may solve some of the funding problems, she said. The new model would allow each Oregon university to keep its own tuition and fees, eliminating several tedious funding steps and a model that pooled all of the Oregon schools' resources.

"The financial situation doesn't put us in a competitive position comparatively, so we're optimistic and are pleased that we are acknowledged as having a reasonable academic reputation," Davis said.

Davis said the University does not feel overwhelmed in the Pac-10.

"We like to be in that company, to be honest, and don't expect our rankings to be what Sanford's and Berkeley's are," she said. "But we're proud to be affiliated with them."

Davis said the University is not upset about the rankings.

"This is just one more set of rankings," she said. "You don't just look at one set of rankings and say, 'Oh my gosh.' We take a look at all of the rankings that are out there and have to at least be aware where we're ranking," she said. "We hope and believe each one of them has their faults, has their positives."

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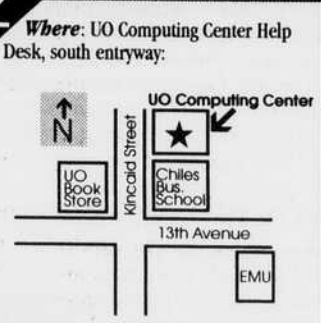

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