

The Princeton Review Names University of Saint Mary a 2013 ‘Best Midwestern College’

2013 Award is 8th Consecutive Regional Best Honor for Saint Mary

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has been named a “Best Midwestern College” by *The Princeton Review*, a sought-after designation earned by USM now for eight consecutive years.

USM was one of only 153 Midwestern schools to earn the *Princeton Review* Best Regional College honor for 2013. Only about 25 percent of the country’s 2,500 four-year colleges make one of the *Review*’s four regional lists. In the Kansas City area, USM is part of a short list of “Best Midwestern College” winners that also includes the University of Central Missouri, University of Missouri-Kansas City, William Jewell, and Baker University.



The Princeton Review selects schools for its regional best-of lists based on the results of independent student surveys and the respective institution’s record of strong academics. The complete lists can be found online at PrincetonReview.com. Schools on the regional list are not ranked. USM’s Midwestern region includes colleges from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

“We’re pleased to recommend the University of Saint Mary to users of our site as one of the best schools to earn their undergrad degree,” said Robert Franek, *Princeton Review*’s senior vice president/publisher. “From several hundred schools in each region, we winnowed our list based on institutional data we collected directly from the schools, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of our staff, plus college counselors and advisors whose recommendations we invite.”

The Princeton Review asks students to rate their own schools on several issues—from the friendliness and accessibility of the faculty to the vibrancy of a given school’s student life program. Students also answer questions about themselves, their fellow students, and the general atmosphere and culture on campus.

Students responding to the survey on USM said Saint Mary offers “a ‘quality’ liberal arts education... with a personal touch.” Students raved about the “helpful and caring” faculty and said the campus is full of “friendly people who are always willing to do what it takes to solve your problem... students at Saint Mary are more than just an ID number.” Student respondents also remarked that “classes are not just lecture halls” and are taught by “very intelligent” professors who together comprise “the school’s greatest strength.”

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, vice president for academic affairs at the University of Saint Mary, noted that “once again the nationally recognized Princeton Review has applied its widely held

standard measures of academic quality to USM and found us worthy to be named a 'Best Midwestern College.

"We are grateful, and we are also proud of what we accomplish year after year."

The Princeton Review is an education services company known for its test-prep courses, tutoring, books, and other student resources. Headquartered in Framingham, Mass., with editorial offices in New York and locations across the U.S.A. and abroad, the *Princeton Review*, which is a privately held company, is not affiliated with Princeton University.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

###