

## News Release

# U of M Crookston Again Ranks among Top in U.S. News Best Public Regional Colleges in Midwest

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Additionally, Crookston Campus ranks 34th overall in the Best Online Degree Programs category and 29th in Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans

For the eighteenth consecutive year, the University of Minnesota Crookston ranks among the top U.S. News Best Colleges in the category Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges for 2016. The campus placed second. The category focuses on undergraduate education with fewer than 50 percent of the degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

Additionally, the campus ranked 34th nationally in the U.S. News Best Online Degree Programs and 29th in the category Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans for 2016. These offerings, typically degree-completion programs aimed at working adults and community college grads, were evaluated on their success at engaging students, the credentials of their faculty, and the services and technologies made available remotely.

"The Crookston campus offers a quality learning environment designed to help students achieve whether they are on campus or online," says U of M Crookston Chancellor Fred Wood. "This ranking reflects our long-term commitment to an exceptional, personalized student experience.

"We are focused on enhancing the opportunities students have to succeed academically and to build personal relationships with faculty and staff through a high quality curriculum, strong support services, required internships, and undergraduate research. All of which are designed to prepare them for a career or graduate or professional school school while earning their baccalaureate degree from the University of Minnesota."

Some of the most significant ranking factors for Best Online Degree Programs included such things as the prevalence of faculty holding a Ph.D. or other terminal degree, class size, the percentages of new entrants who stayed enrolled and later graduated, and the debt load of recent graduates. Since U.S. News began publishing rankings of institutions offering online degrees in 2012, the U of M Crookston has ranked in the top quartile in each of the listings. View the U.S. News rankings [list](#) for Best Online Degree Programs.

In order to qualify in the Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans, the Crookston campus had to qualify for a spot by being in the top three-quarters of the Best Online Degree Programs. The programs had to be housed in a regionally accredited institution and were judged on a multitude of factors, including program reputation, faculty credentials, student graduation rate, and graduate debt load. View the U.S. News rankings [list](#) for the category Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans.

To rank in the top of the Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges category, the U.S. News ranking system uses quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality. Schools are categorized by their mission, which is derived from the breakdown of types of higher education institutions developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. There were 363 colleges ranked in four regions--North, South, Midwest, and West--in the Regional Colleges category. The key measures of quality include graduation and retention rates; assessment of excellence; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance, which is the difference between actual and predicted graduation rates; and alumni giving. Scores for each measure are weighted to arrive at a final overall score. View the U.S. News rankings [list](#) for Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges.

The exclusive rankings will be published in the new "Best Colleges 2016" guidebook available on newsstands on September 29 – as well as the 2016 Web-exclusive rankings lists found only on [usnews.com/colleges](http://usnews.com/colleges) on September 9.

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 33 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umn-crookston.edu](http://www.umn-crookston.edu).

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