

## News Release

# U of M Crookston Again Recognized Among U.S.News Best Online Bachelor's Programs

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 U.S.News and World Report has ranked the University of Minnesota Crookston among

colleges and universities offering the nation's "Best Online Bachelor's Programs" for 2015. The U of M Crookston was ranked #34 among the 215 schools who were ranked in this year's survey, up from last year's 64th place. Since U.S.News & World Report 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.

The U of M Crookston was one of only two Minnesota colleges ranked in the top 100, the other being Concordia University - St. Paul. The full listing is available online at [www.usnews.com/online](http://www.usnews.com/online). "We're very pleased that the quality of our online programs and our excellent support for online students have once again been recognized by U.S. News and World Report", says Barbara Keinath, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "Our online programs are a key way in which we help fulfill the University of Minnesota's modern land grant mission. They provide educational access to students who could not otherwise complete their baccalaureate degree. Graduates advance in their careers, provide for their families, and contribute to the economic and social needs of their communities"

Of the 1,876 students enrolled fall semester on the Crookston campus, 935 were enrolled as online-only students in one of U of M Crookston's fourteen completely online degree programs. (These degrees are also offered more traditionally on-campus as well.) They include Accounting (B.S.), Applied Health (B.A.H.), Applied Studies (B.S.), Business (B.S.), Communication (B.S.), Entrepreneurship (B.S.), Finance (B.S.), Health Management (B.S.), Information Technology Management (B.S.), Manufacturing Management (B.M.M.), Marketing (B.S.), Quality Management (B.M.M. Q.M.), Sport and Recreation Management (B.S.) and the recently added International Business (B.S.) The online programs are delivered via three academic departments: Business; Liberal Arts and Education; and Math, Science, and Technology.

Rankings were based on student engagement (40 percent); faculty credentials and training (20 percent); peer reputation (20 percent); and student services and technology (20 percent). Indicators for the Student Engagement category included teacher accessibility and response timeframe as well as student collaboration opportunities, among others. Faculty Credentials and Training included the appropriate faculty credentialing as well as the institution having the resources properly train online instructors on how to teach distance learners. Student Services and Technology assessed colleges' level of offering "a strong support structure [that] provides learning assistance, career guidance and financial aid resources commensurate with quality campus-based programs." Finally, the category Peer Reputation, added in 2014, included "industry opinion accounts for intangible factors on program quality not captured by statistics."

Data was collected from accredited for-profit, private, and public schools. For more information about the rankings methodology, go to [www.usnews.com/onlinemeth](http://www.usnews.com/onlinemeth).

For more information about the University of Minnesota Crookston and its online degrees, visit [www.umcrookston.edu/online](http://www.umcrookston.edu/online), call 800-862-6466 ext. 8681, or e-mail [conline@umn.edu](mailto:conline@umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 31 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.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).



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