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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Jeff Bliss

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(805) 756-1511

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### **Cal Poly Top Western Public University in U.S. News Ratings; College of Engineering Among Nation's Best Undergraduate Programs**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly has been rated the best public, largely undergraduate university in the West by U.S. News & World Report for the 10th consecutive year.

In addition, the university's College of Engineering was ranked No. 9 among all engineering programs at nondoctoral schools. Aside from the three major service academies (West Point, Annapolis and the Air Force Academy), Cal Poly was the highest-rated public institution in the engineering category.

Cal Poly tied for 10th among all universities in the nation in a new category recognizing schools with superior internships and other work-experience programs. The only three public institutions rated ahead of Cal Poly in this category were Georgia Tech, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Michigan.

Cal Poly was also listed as the eleventh-most-selective public undergraduate university in the nation, admitting only 47 percent of prospective students who apply.

Cal Poly remained in the No. 5 position among all institutions in the magazine's Western Universities-Master's rankings. U.S. News grouped in that category institutions that "provide a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs (and) few, if any, doctoral programs."

"Achieving this recognition for 10 consecutive years is further confirmation of the quality of our faculty and the instruction they provide our students, as well as the hard work of our support staff," said University President Warren J. Baker. "It assists us in our efforts to put into the hands of our faculty and staff the resources they need to continue that work and spurs us to continue developing broader partnerships with industry and private donors."

In this year's list of engineering specialties, Cal Poly's College of Engineering was again among the top five schools in six of seven categories and was the top public university in four of those categories.

In the nationwide rankings of individual undergraduate engineering programs at schools without Ph.D. programs, both public and private, Cal Poly's civil engineering, computer science, and industrial and manufacturing engineering programs were ranked No. 3, aerospace engineering tied for fourth, and electrical engineering and mechanical engineering each tied for the No. 5 position.

Cal Poly received high marks again this year for academic reputation, its freshman retention rate and the quality of its students.

Among all Western Universities-Master's institutions, public and private, Cal Poly tied for third in academic reputation, or "peer assessment" as U.S. News calls it.

Academic reputation was the only subjective factor used to calculate the rankings and was the single most influential factor. It was based on a survey of presidents, provosts and admissions directors of other universities and counts for 25 percent of the score used to rank an institution.

Engineering school rankings were determined by a survey of deans and senior faculty members at similar institutions.

The new assessment of work-experience internships and similar programs was done through a survey of college presidents, chief academic officers and deans of students.

U.S. News categorizes America's approximately 1,400 accredited four-year colleges and universities by mission. Research universities such as Stanford and the University of California campuses, which offer doctoral programs, are listed in the National Universities class.

The U.S. News rankings of the nation's best colleges were released online today. The magazine's ratings are available on the World Wide Web at [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com) and will be published in a book and in the Sept. 23 issue of U.S. News & World Report.

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#### **Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
805.756.7266  
[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)