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Princeton Review Ranks Winthrop a "Best Value" Institution

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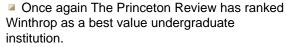
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03/28/2006

Princeton Review Ranks Winthrop a "Best Value" Institution

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The 2007 guide profiles 103 public and 47 private colleges.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The Princeton Review has rated Winthrop University as one of the nation's best value undergraduate institutions in its 2007 edition of "America's Best Value Colleges."

It is the third national publication to count Winthrop as a national "best value" university, joining Consumers Digest, which includes Winthrop among America's top 50 public "best value" institutions, and Barron's Best Buys, which cites Winthrop as a university "where the dollar goes further."

The guide, which goes on sale March 28, profiled 103 public and 47 private colleges with excellent academics, generous financial aid packages and relatively low costs. The Princeton Review, a New York-based education services company, chose the colleges based on data the company obtained from administrators at 646 colleges and its surveys of students attending them.

"We recommend the 150 schools in this book as America's best college education deals for 2006," according to Robert Franek, vice president for publishing of The Princeton Review. His company considered more than 30 factors to rate the colleges in four categories: academics, tuition GPA (the sticker price minus average amount students receive in scholarships and grants), financial aid (how well colleges meet students' financial need) and student borrowing.

Winthrop was applauded for having a generous institutional scholarship program, combined with state merit and need-based programs, to make it an affordable option for students. In 2004-05, nearly 60 percent of all freshmen received need-based gift aid. In addition to merit-based, community service and athletic scholarships, the university allows students to use their aid to study abroad or at another institution. Its out-of-state cost for students who live on campus is \$25,162, which is nearly \$3,000 less than the average cost per year of four other South Carolina public universities, according to The Princeton Review.

U.S. News & World Report has rated Winthrop as one of its top 10 public universities in the South for more than a decade.

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