

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Named “Best Value College” By *The Princeton Review*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary is the only school in the Kansas City metropolitan area and the only private university in Kansas to be included in *The Princeton Review’s* “America’s Best Value Colleges” guidebook for 2007.

“America’s Best Value Colleges” recommends 150 colleges nationwide that offer excellent academics, generous financial aid packages and relatively low costs. *The Princeton Review* surveyed students and administrators from more than 600 colleges nationwide using 30 factors to create its 150 “Best Value Colleges.”

With college costs going through the roof, and some parents mortgaging the house to pay for them, many families are shopping for schools that are bargains. Discovering which schools are quality and affordable is a difficult task. That’s why *The Princeton Review* created the annual guidebook in 2004.

The Princeton Review surveyed students and administrators from 646 colleges, and then narrowed that number down to 150 based on 30 specific factors. According to *Princeton Review* Vice President for Publishing Robert Franek, the selection process was very specific. “We use over 30 factors to rate the colleges in four categories: academics, tuition GPA (sticker price minus average amount students receive in gift aid scholarships and grants), financial aid (how well colleges meet students’ financial need), and student borrowing,” he said. “The 150 schools that met our criteria for this edition include 103 public and 47 private colleges in 40 states. They range from large state universities to small, liberal arts colleges, and include little-known gems, specialty schools, and some colleges that are tuition-free.”

Included in the 2007 edition of “America’s Best Value Colleges” are three-page profiles on each college, advice on getting into the schools and getting financial aid from them, and ranking lists naming the book’s “Top 10 Best Value Public Colleges” and “Top 10 Best Value Private Colleges.”

The three-page college profiles in “America’s Best Value Colleges” cover:

- **“About (the College)”** – an overview on the school’s distinctive characteristics, location, campus scene, and student body & faculty demographics
- **“Getting In”** – details about admission requirements, plus *The Princeton Review’s* inside word on what its admission officers look for
- **“Bang for Your Buck”** – information on the school’s financial aid and scholarship awarding programs, policies, and record
- **“What do Graduates Do?”** – a review of career and employment patterns among the school’s graduates, information about its Career Center, and (when provided) companies that recruit on campus

- **“The Bottom Line”** – a report on the average out-of-pocket costs students (or their parents) pay for the degree, plus stats on the average debt load of graduating seniors
- **“Students Say”** – first-hand comments from students The Princeton Review surveyed at the school
- **“Fun Facts”** – interesting extras: the school’s motto, most popular majors, unique traditions, student events, or on-campus attractions, such as a museum

The Princeton Review is a New York City-based company known for its test-prep courses, books and education services. It is not affiliated with Princeton University or ETS.

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