

**UMBC FEATURED IN 2007 EDITION OF THE PRINCETON REVIEW  
ANNUAL COLLEGE GUIDE - "THE BEST 361 COLLEGES"**

UMBC offers students an outstanding undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review. The New York-based education services company features the college in the new 2007 edition of its annual book, "The Best 361 Colleges" (Random House / Princeton Review, August 22, 2006, \$21.95). Only about 15% of the four-year colleges in America and two Canadian colleges are in the book. It has two-page profiles of the schools and student survey-based ranking lists of top 20 colleges in more than 60 categories. The Princeton Review also posts the book's annual ranking lists on its website [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com) where it has FAQs about the book, rankings and survey.

Says Robert Franek, Princeton Review's V.P., Publishing, "We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics. We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them, and our visits to schools over the years. We also consider the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents we hear from and survey year-long. Finally, we work to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character."

In its profile on UMBC, The Princeton Review describes the school as "a college primarily known as a great science and engineering school with superb research opportunities – but this justly earned reputation tells only part of the story. Many here report that the humanities are wonderful." The profile also quotes extensively from UMBC students The Princeton Review surveyed for the book. Among their candid comments on the college: "UMBC's career services office facilitates great placement opportunities. The methods of getting your resume around in your field of interest are easy and very effective."

The ranking lists in the 2007 edition of "The Best 361 Colleges" are based on The Princeton Review's survey of 115,000 students (about 300 per campus on average) attending the 361 colleges in the book. A college's appearance on these lists is attributable to a high consensus among its surveyed students about the subject. The 80-question survey asked students to rate their schools on several topics and report on their campus experiences at them. Ranking lists report the top 20 schools in categories that range from best professors, administration and campus food to lists based on student body political leanings, interest in sports and other aspects of campus life. The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in the book 1 to 361 in any single category.

UMBC is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> for Diverse Student Population in the 2007 edition of the book.

In a "Survey Says. . ." sidebar in the book's profile on UMBC, The Princeton Review lists topics that UMBC students it surveyed for the book were in most agreement about. The list includes: "great computer facilities," "great library," and "diverse student types on campus."

"The Best 361 Colleges" is one of more than 200 Princeton Review books published by Random House. The line also includes "The Best Northeastern Colleges: 222 Select Schools to Consider" and "The Complete Book of Colleges," both of which are also now out in 2007 editions. The Princeton Review, known for its education, admission and test-prep services, is not affiliated with Princeton University or ETS.

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