

SPECIAL EDITION TRUMAN



T O D A Y

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Truman No. 1 for Eighth Year!

For the eighth consecutive year, Truman has been recognized as the No. 1 Public University in the Midwest Region-Master's Category by *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2005." Truman also was ranked No. 9 overall in the Midwest region among both private and public institutions. The Midwest region category includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

U.S. News & World Report based its rankings on graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and peer assessments among those institutions whose focus is mainly undergraduate and master's-level programs.

Truman Ninth on Kiplinger's 100 Best Public Colleges List

The November 2003 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine listed Truman as ninth on its exclusive survey list of public colleges and universities that combine great academics with reasonable costs. The magazine also ranked Truman as the second best educational value for out-of-state students. Other Midwestern campuses in the top 15 included the University of Illinois (No. 8) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (No. 13).

Kiplinger's Personal Finance based its rankings on several different factors including academic quality; admission rates; student-faculty ratios; the percentage of faculty with the highest degrees in their field; how much each school spends on its library facilities; four- and six-year graduation rates; and cost and average debt at graduation. In addition to doing its own reporting, the magazine used data provided by more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities.

Consumers Digest Lists Truman as a Top Educational Value

Truman was ranked No. 8 in the May/June 2004 *Consumers Digest* magazine on its list of top educational values in the nation. The ranking assessed academic excellence of first-time freshmen and the institution's educational quality with the estimated cost of attending.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the students, faculty, and staff of Truman State University! This special edition of *Truman Today* has been developed to inform you about a few of the many achievements of the Truman community in support of our mission and in service to the citizens of Missouri. In the context of Missouri's strong, diverse system of higher education, Truman plays a vital, specialized role that provides Missouri's citizens with financial access to a unique set of educational experiences.

As Missouri's only highly selective, public liberal arts university, Truman is responsible for nurturing and challenging some of Missouri's best academic talent to become our next generation of future leaders, teachers, scientists, and business persons. More than 40 percent of Truman's graduates begin post-graduate study immediately while most of the rest are employed full-time. Truman is proud of its record for being accountable to the public for the nationally competitive outcomes attained by its students.

Truman works very hard to be a good steward of the resources entrusted to it and to be as efficient as possible. The University is a member of several partnerships with other institutions to improve educational services. Truman is also engaged in several efforts to foster economic development in its region of the state.

Missouri's cultural and economic future resides in a well-educated citizenry that can compete successfully not only nationally, but internationally. Truman pledges its best efforts to continue to address this need in an outstanding fashion.

Sincerely,
Barbara Dixon, President



Truman Continues Its Commitment to Accountability Through Assessment

Higher education must continuously evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of students and the public. At Truman, we understand the importance of assessing the education we are providing and making changes that benefit our students.

Truman has changed greatly during the past two decades, making the transition from a regional university to Missouri's statewide liberal arts and sciences university.

It has modified its curriculum, expanded activities and events and provided new resources to students based on assessment results. With students' input, Truman is able to monitor the quality of the campus learning environment. For example, seniors take a national test in their majors and submit a portfolio. Students at all academic levels are asked to participate in surveys or interview sessions to gather student opinions about the University.

The Assessment Program provides information about what students have been able to learn in their majors, how their writing skills have developed and the quality of Truman's programs. The comparisons between the academic programs to those at other schools help ensure that Truman is providing a top quality educational experience for its students.

Graduate School Placement Equals Strong Economic Future

A record number of Truman graduates, more than 44 percent of the graduating class, are enjoying the benefit of high acceptance rates in prestigious graduate school programs across the nation. Truman students are attending professional and law schools at Chicago, Harvard, Notre Dame, Duke, Virginia, Northwestern and George Washington. Medical students are attending Dartmouth, Georgetown, Washington University and Loyola. Another 55 percent of graduates obtain full-time jobs, 60 percent of those in Missouri.

Truman's Institutional Values:

Centered on Students and Student Learning—A clear emphasis on students and their academic development.

Academic Excellence and Intellectual Challenge in a Nurturing, Diverse Environment—A challenging and supportive environment that prepares students for their next step in life.

Affordability—Financial access to an exceptional liberal arts education comparable to leading private sector colleges, but at a public sector price.

Commitment to Assessment—A self-reflective culture which seeks and promotes continuous improvement and accountability.

Benchmarks for Quality Improvement

Fiscal Years (Fall Census)	1985/86	2004/05
Number of Programs Offered		
Undergraduate	140	45
Graduate	38	6
Total Enrollment	6,515	5,862
Enrollment in Foreign Language Classes	427	2,319
Geographic Origin of the Student Body		
<i>Missouri Counties Represented</i>	80	107
Number of States Represented	35	39
International Students	195	256
Foreign Countries Represented	39	48
Undergraduates Involved in Research with Faculty		
	96	1,200*
Total Full-time Faculty	265	347
Student/Faculty Ratio (FTE)	21:1	15:1
Average ACT Scores/First-time Freshmen	22.2	27.3
High School Rank in Top 40%	79%	96%
Enrollment of Multicultural Students	209	445
Degrees Granted		
Undergraduate	1,092	1,114 ¹
Graduate	312	162 ¹
Graduation Rate** (6 year cohort)	44%	76%
Graduate School Placement Rate	13%	44% ²
Freshman Bright Flight Scholars	67	359
Number of Students Studying Abroad	--	544 ¹

* Estimated

** Includes students who successfully transferred to other Missouri public institutions.

¹ = FY2004 ² = FY2003

Athletic Accolades

Volleyball Team Second in Nation in NCAA Division II



The team also won its fourth MIAA volleyball title. They were 37-1 for the season.

Women's Soccer Clinches Sixth Straight MIAA Crown

The women's soccer team continued its reign over the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association by winning its sixth-straight title. Truman is the only conference school that has won the MIAA women's soccer title.

Women's Swimming Wins Fourth Consecutive NCAA Division II National Title in 2004 Season

Truman's women's swimming team claimed its fourth-straight national title this past spring.



Short Clips

Merrick Meyer, junior business administration major from St. Charles, Mo., became the second ever Truman national champion wrestler when he took the NCAA Division II title at 141 pounds this past spring.

Truman finished third in the final NCAA Division II standings of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Director's Cup for the 2003-04 season.

This special issue of the *Truman Today* newsletter is published by Truman State University, 101 McClain Hall, 100 E. Normal, Kirksville, MO 63501-4221; (660) 785-4016; (660) 785-4019 fax; www.truman.edu.

What Makes Truman Amazing

Unique Mission: The Missouri legislature gave Truman a statewide liberal arts and sciences mission in 1985. Truman provides an outstanding undergraduate education, at an affordable cost, to academically talented students from across the state of Missouri.

Graduation Rate: Truman has the highest graduation rate among all the public universities in Missouri. Truman athletes rank 9th in the nation in Division II graduation rates.

Graduate Success: Within six months of graduation, 44 percent of Truman graduates go on to graduate/professional schools while another 55 percent are employed full-time.

Bright Flight: 30 percent of Truman's 2004 freshmen from Missouri were awarded Missouri Bright Flight Scholarships. These scholarships help keep Missouri's best and brightest students in the state.

Working on Campus: Nearly 33 percent of Truman's undergraduate students are employed in on-campus jobs. This provides valuable experience for students as well as administrative efficiencies.

Undergraduate Research: Approximately 1,200 students are involved in research with faculty, a unique opportunity usually reserved for graduate students.

Cooperation and Efficiency: Truman has several transfer and articulation agreements with community colleges which allows students greater ease in transitioning from their community college to Truman.

Economic Development: Truman fosters economic development statewide and regionally through its efforts to prepare exceptional students for graduate and professional school and to assist business and industry directly through targeted programs.

