

# Programs to Look For

This is the fifth year that *U.S. News* is publishing a list of schools with outstanding examples of academic programs that are believed to lead to student success. With the help of education experts, including staff members of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, we identified

eight such program types. We then invited college presidents, chief academic officers, and deans of admission to nominate up to 10 institutions with stellar examples of each kind of program. Colleges and universities that were mentioned most often are listed here, in alphabetical order.

SCOTT GOLDSMITH—AURORA FOR USN&WR



Testing a robotic reconnaissance vehicle at Drexel University

## FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES

Orientation can go only so far in making freshmen feel connected. Many schools now build into the curriculum first-year seminars or other academic programs that bring small groups of students together with faculty or staff on a regular basis.

Alverno College (WI)  
 Amherst College (MA)  
 Appalachian State University (NC)\*  
 Arizona State University\*  
 Augsburg College (MN)  
 Azusa Pacific University (CA)  
 Beloit College (WI)  
 Boston College  
 Brevard College (NC)  
 Dartmouth College (NH)  
 Drury University (MO)  
 Duke University (NC)  
 Eckerd College (FL)  
 Elon University (NC)  
 Evergreen State College (WA)\*  
 Grinnell College (IA)  
 Indiana University–Bloomington\*  
 Indiana U.–Purdue U.–Indianapolis\*  
 Kalamazoo College (MI)  
 Kennesaw State University (GA)\*  
 Lawrence University (WI)  
 North Carolina State U.–Raleigh\*  
 Ohio State University–Columbus\*  
 Portland State University (OR)\*  
 Princeton University (NJ)  
 Stanford University (CA)  
 Texas A&M Univ.–College Station\*  
 Univ. of California–Los Angeles\*  
 Univ. of Maryland–College Park\*  
 Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities\*  
 U. of North Carolina–Asheville\*  
 U. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill\*  
 University of Notre Dame (IN)  
 Univ. of South Carolina–Columbia\*  
 University of Washington\*  
 Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison\*  
 Wagner College (NY)  
 Williams College (MA)  
 Wright State University (OH)\*

(\*Public)

## INTERNSHIPS

Schools nominated in this category require or encourage students to apply what they're learning in the classroom to work in the real world—through closely supervised internships or practicums, or through cooperative education, in which one period of study typically alternates with one of work.

Alverno College (WI)  
 Antioch College (OH)  
 Berea College (KY)  
 Drexel University (PA)  
 Elon University (NC)  
 Georgia Institute of Technology\*  
 North Carolina State U.–Raleigh\*  
 Northeastern University (MA)  
 Portland State University (OR)\*  
 Purdue Univ.–West Lafayette (IN)\*  
 Rochester Inst. of Technology (NY)  
 University of Cincinnati\*  
 Virginia Tech\*

## SENIOR CAPSTONE

Whether they're called a senior capstone or go by some other name, these culminating experiences ask students nearing the end of their college years to create a project of some sort that integrates and synthesizes what they've learned. The project might be a thesis, a performance, or an exhibit of artwork.

Alverno College (WI)  
 Carleton College (MN)  
 College of Wooster (OH)  
 Duke University (NC)  
 Harvard University (MA)  
 Kalamazoo College (MI)  
 Massachusetts Inst. of Technology  
 Portland State University (OR)\*  
 Princeton University (NJ)  
 Reed College (OR)  
 Southern Illinois U.–Edwardsville\*  
 Stanford University (CA)  
 Swarthmore College (PA)  
 Truman State University (MO)\*  
 Yale University (CT)

Note: Survey conducted by Synovate.

More at [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

(\*Public)

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH / CREATIVE PROJECTS

Independently or in small teams, and mentored by a faculty member, students do intensive and self-directed research or creative work that results in an original scholarly paper or other product that can be formally presented on or off campus.

Allegheny College (PA)  
California Institute of Technology  
Cal Poly–San Luis Obispo\*  
Carleton College (MN)  
Carnegie Mellon University (PA)  
College of Wooster (OH)  
Cornell University (NY)  
Davidson College (NC)  
DePauw University (IN)  
Duke University (NC)  
Elon University (NC)  
Furman University (SC)

Georgia Institute of Technology\*  
Grinnell College (IA)  
Harvard University (MA)  
Harvey Mudd College (CA)  
Hope College (MI)  
James Madison University (VA)\*  
Johns Hopkins University (MD)  
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology  
Oberlin College (OH)  
Princeton University (NJ)  
Reed College (OR)  
Stanford University (CA)

SUNY–Stony Brook\*  
Swarthmore College (PA)  
Truman State University (MO)\*  
University of California–Berkeley\*  
Univ. of California–Los Angeles\*  
University of Delaware\*  
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor\*  
U. of North Carolina–Asheville\*  
University of Richmond (VA)  
University of Texas–Austin\*  
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison\*

## LEARNING COMMUNITIES

In learning communities, students typically take two or more linked courses as a group and get to know one another and their professors well. Some learning communities are also residential.

Alverno College (WI)  
Appalachian State University (NC)\*  
Bowling Green State University (OH)\*  
Colorado College  
Elon University (NC)  
Evergreen State College (WA)\*  
Georgia State University\*  
Indiana University–Bloomington\*  
Indiana U.–Purdue U.–Indianapolis\*  
Iowa State University\*  
Miami University–Oxford (OH)\*  
Michigan State University\*  
Portland State University (OR)\*  
St. John's College (NM)  
St. John's College (MD)  
Syracuse University (NY)  
Temple University (PA)\*  
Univ. of Maryland–College Park\*  
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor\*  
Univ. of Missouri–Columbia\*  
University of Washington\*  
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison\*  
Wagner College (NY)  
Yale University (CT)

## STUDY ABROAD

Programs at these schools involve substantial academic work for credit—a year, a semester, or an intensive experience equal to a course—and considerable interaction with the local culture.

Arcadia University (PA)  
Boston University  
Butler University (IN)  
Carleton College (MN)  
Central College (IA)  
Dartmouth College (NH)  
Dickinson College (PA)  
Earlham College (IN)  
Elon University (NC)  
Georgetown University (DC)  
Kalamazoo College (MI)  
Macalester College (MN)  
Michigan State University\*  
Middlebury College (VT)  
New York University  
St. Olaf College (MN)  
Syracuse University (NY)  
University of California–Berkeley\*  
Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities\*  
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison\*

## SERVICE LEARNING

In service-learning programs, required (or for-credit) volunteer work in the community is an instructional strategy. What's learned in the field bolsters what happens in class and vice versa.

Alverno College (WI)  
Augsburg College (MN)  
Bentley College (MA)  
Berea College (KY)  
Brown University (RI)  
California State University–Monterey Bay\*  
Defiance College (OH)  
DePaul University (IL)  
Earlham College (IN)  
Elon University (NC)  
Indiana U.–Purdue U.–Indianapolis\*  
Marquette University (WI)  
Portland State University (OR)\*  
Providence College (RI)  
Stanford University (CA)  
Trinity College (CT)  
University of California–Berkeley\*  
Univ. of Maryland–College Park\*  
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor\*  
University of Notre Dame (IN)  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Utah\*  
Vanderbilt University (TN)  
Wagner College (NY)  
Warren Wilson College (NC)

## WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES

These colleges typically make writing a priority at all levels of instruction and across the curriculum. Students are encouraged to produce and refine various forms of writing for a range of audiences in different disciplines.

Amherst College (MA)  
Carleton College (MN)  
Clemson University (SC)\*  
Cornell University (NY)  
Davidson College (NC)  
Duke University (NC)

George Mason University (VA)\*  
Grinnell College (IA)  
Harvard University (MA)  
Miami University–Oxford (OH)\*  
Middlebury College (VT)  
Stanford University (CA)

Swarthmore College (PA)  
University of Chicago  
University of Iowa\*  
Univ. of Missouri–Columbia\*