



BOSTON COLLEGE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS RISE IN US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT'S ANNUAL RANKINGS

CHESTNUT HILL, MA – Led by the Graduate School of Social Work's climb to the 14th best program in the country, four of Boston College's graduate schools improved their standings among the elite US universities in *US News & World Report's* 2009 America's Best Graduate Schools rankings.

In addition to the Graduate School of Social Work, the Lynch School of Education, Carroll School of Management and Boston College Law School all improved in the annual rankings of the best graduate programs in the nation.

The Graduate School of Social Work saw its ranking climb from 24th to 14th, the Carroll School moves up five places from 2008 to rank 34th, the Lynch School moved up four places to 18th, and the Law School ranking improved two spots to 26th. Nursing schools were not reviewed this year, so the Connell School of Nursing maintained its place at 26.

BC Provost Cutberto Garza praised the leadership, faculties, students and staffs of the graduate programs and professional schools.

"The University is justifiably proud of its standing among the top national institutions of higher education; nonetheless it is always satisfying to have external confirmation and recognition," Garza said. "These most recent accomplishments reflect the superb leadership of the deans; the unqualified excellence and commitment of our faculty; the intellectual strength and ambitions of our graduate and professional students; the unstinting dedication and hard work of staff; and the philanthropic support that enables innovation and program enhancement in each of the schools."

He also noted that the university's programs would not be in ascendancy today were it not for prior generations of faculty, staff and students. "I would be remiss if I also did not acknowledge the important role played by those who laid the foundations for today's success. Thus a heartfelt thank you to our faculty *emeriti*, alumni, and retired staff."

The 10-place improvement by the Graduate School of Social Work affixes the school at the top of Catholic universities with social work programs and sixth among private universities, said Dean Alberto Godenzi.

"During the past few years we have been competing for students, faculty, and staff with the top schools at Michigan, Washington University, Columbia, and Chicago," Godenzi said. "This is the result of the great work of our school community. Today, I am grateful to the leadership of Boston College and to our fellow deans and faculty

across the nation that their trust in us translated into the highest ranking increase of any major social work program."

Ascending to 34th marks the highest ranking ever for the Carroll School's full-time MBA program and lands the school in the top eight percent of all accredited full-time MBA programs, achievements Carroll School Dean Andrew Boynton attributed to Associate Dean for Graduate Programs Jeff Ringuest and his leadership team.

"The Carroll School takes pride in this accomplishment and the effort we have put into a very real strengthening of the program," Boynton said. "This is a result of everyone's hard work and a string of important innovations over the past few years including the introduction of a highly personalized and professionalized curriculum, a revitalized focus on ethics and core values, a transformed Career Strategies office, and leveraging excellent faculty who are totally committed to our students, both inside and outside the classroom."

At the Lynch School, undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students for a range of professional roles - as teachers, administrators, human service providers, psychologists, and researchers.

"The Lynch School enjoys its excellent reputation because of the hard work and expertise of our faculty and staff," Dean Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, said. "As we move the school forward, we will continue our upward trajectory. External rankings and recognition are important, but our goal is to accomplish our mission to prepare educators and psychologists who empower communities to enhance the lives of children and families."

At the law school, Dean John Garvey welcomed the recognition that comes with improved rankings, but said that the focus of the school is one of consistent improvement in the teaching and learning of law.

"I'm very happy about our move up in the rankings this year," Law School Dean John Garvey said. "This is due to the overall strength of our students, faculty, and staff, and to the initial effects of a number of measures we have taken to improve the School. Our strategic plan is designed with one thought in mind – to make Boston College Law a better law school. If we focus on that goal, continued improvement in both US News and other rankings systems will surely follow."

Highlights of the graduate school rankings are scheduled for publication in the April 7-14 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* magazine, available for newsstand purchase as of Monday, March 31, and the *America's Best Graduate Schools* guidebook, which goes on sale Tuesday, April 1.

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