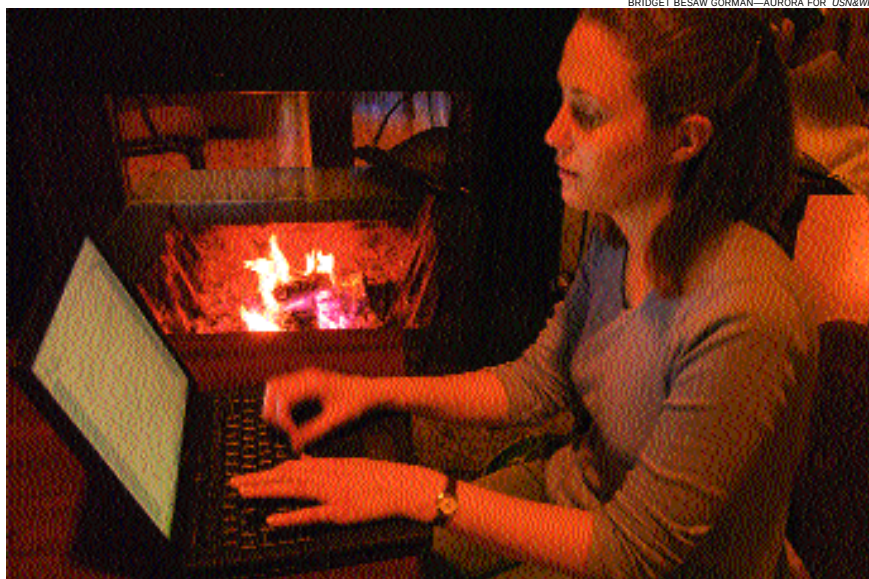


PROGRAMS TO LOOK FOR

This is the fourth 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.

BRIDGET BESAW GORMAN—AURORA FOR USN&WR


At Amherst College, **WRITING AND RESEARCH** programs earn high marks.

(*Public)

INTERNSHIPS / CO-OPS

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)
 Cal Poly—San Luis Obispo*
 Drexel University (PA)
 Elon University (NC)
 Georgia Institute of Technology*
 Kettering University (MI)
 Northeastern University (MA)
 Portland State University (OR)*
 Rochester Inst. of Technology (NY)
 University of Cincinnati*

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.

Allegheny College (PA)
 Alverno College (WI)
 Carleton College (MN)
 College of Wooster (OH)
 Duke University (NC)
 Elon University (NC)
 Harvard University (MA)
 Massachusetts Inst. of Technology
 Portland State University (OR)*
 Princeton University (NJ)
 Reed College (OR)
 Southern Illinois U.—Edwardsville*
 Swarthmore College (PA)
 Truman State University (MO)*
 University of Chicago

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)
 Ball State University (IN)*
 Beloit College (WI)
 Bowling Green State University (OH)*
 Brevard College (NC)
 California State U.—Long Beach*
 College of the Holy Cross (MA)
 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*
 James Madison University (VA)*
 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*
 United States Military Academy (NY)*
 Univ. of Maryland—College Park*
 University of Michigan—Ann Arbor*
 Univ. of Minnesota—Twin Cities*
 U. of North Carolina—Asheville*
 U. of North Carolina—Chapel Hill*
 University of Notre Dame (IN)
 University of Puget Sound (WA)
 Univ. of South Carolina—Columbia*
 University of Washington*
 Valparaiso University (IN)
 Wagner College (NY)
 Willamette University (OR)
 William Jewell College (MO)

(*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.

Amherst College (MA)
Brown University (RI)
California Institute of Technology
Calvin College (MI)
Carleton College (MN)
Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
College of Wooster (OH)
Davidson College (NC)
Duke University (NC)
Elon University (NC)
Furman University (SC)
Grinnell College (IA)

Harvard University (MA)
Harvey Mudd College (CA)
Hope College (MI)
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*
University of California–Irvine*
Univ. of California–Los Angeles*
University of Delaware*
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor*
U. of North Carolina–Asheville*
U. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill*
University of Washington*
Univ. of Wisconsin–Eau Claire*
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison*
Williams College (MA)
Yale University (CT)

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)*
Elon University (NC)
Evergreen State College (WA)*
Georgia State University*
Indiana University–Bloomington*
Indiana U.–Purdue U.–Indianapolis*
Iowa State University*
Kennesaw State University (GA)*
Miami University–Oxford (OH)*
Michigan State University*
Portland State University (OR)*
Santa Clara University (CA)
St. John's College (MD)
St. John's College (NM)
Syracuse University (NY)
Temple University (PA)*
Univ. of Maryland–College Park*
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor*
Univ. of Missouri–Columbia*
University of Texas–Austin*
University of Washington*
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison*
Wagner College (NY)

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)
Beloit College (WI)
Butler University (IN)
Carleton College (MN)
Central College (IA)
Dartmouth College (NH)
Dickinson College (PA)
Duke University (NC)
Earlham College (IN)
Elon University (NC)
Georgetown University (DC)
Goshen College (IN)
Kalamazoo College (MI)
Macalester College (MN)
Michigan State University*
Middlebury College (VT)
New York University
Stanford University (CA)
St. Olaf College (MN)
Syracuse University (NY)
Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities*
University of Notre Dame (IN)

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)
Berea College (KY)
Brown University (RI)
California State University–Monterey Bay*
Calvin College (MI)
DePaul University (IL)
Earlham College (IN)
Elon University (NC)
Indiana U.–Purdue U.–Indianapolis*
Marquette University (WI)
Portland State University (OR)*
Stanford University (CA)
Trinity College (CT)
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor*
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Pennsylvania
University of Utah*
Vanderbilt University (TN)
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)
Duke University (NC)
George Mason University (VA)*

Harvard University (MA)
Indiana University–Bloomington*
Middlebury College (VT)
Millsaps College (MS)
Princeton University (NJ)
Sarah Lawrence College (NY)

University of Chicago
University of Iowa*
Univ. of Missouri–Columbia*
University of Notre Dame (IN)
Washington State University*

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