

September 16, 2002

Engineering Leapfrogs to 27th from 32nd In U.S. News and World Report's Undergraduate Education Rankings

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Santa Barbara, Calif. --The University of California at Santa Barbara's College of Engineering undergraduate education program climbed to 27th best in the nation in 2003 rankings by U.S. News and World Report. The previous year Engineering was ranked 32nd best.

The publication "America's Best Colleges" is available at newsstands Sept. 16 and at USNews.com. It groups undergraduate engineering programs into two categories: those with and those without doctoral programs. Of institutions with doctoral programs, Santa Barbara tied with three others for its 27th place ranking.

The rankings of undergraduate engineering programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology are based on judgments by deans and senior administrators asked to rate programs with which they are familiar on a scale from 1 (marginal) to 5 (distinguished). Santa Barbara received a grade of 3.6 in comparison to top-ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 4.8. Fifty-five percent of those surveyed returned rankings for the engineering undergraduate programs at institutions conferring doctoral degrees.

Santa Barbara's Dean of Engineering Matthew Tirrell said, "I am pleased that the quality of our undergraduate program is becoming more apparent to other deans and administrators. What is being assessed in these rankings is our reputation. It takes time for reputation to catch up with reality. We are trying both to do well by our undergraduate majors, but also to get the word out at how good we are."

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