

SUNY New Paltz ranks high in U.S. News annual college guide

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NEW PALTZ — It's not quite — and not yet — Harvard-on-the-Hudson, but SUNY New Paltz continued to get impressive grades in the U.S. News and World Report's 2012 America's Best Colleges guide.

Both New Paltz's bachelor's and master's degree programs ranked sixth best among the magazine's “best public regional universities in the North” category. Those programs were ranked seventh last year.

The college also increased its ranking — from 33 to 30 — among public and private regional universities in the North with bachelor's and master's degree programs.

According to a SUNY New Paltz spokeswoman, the college showed improvement in important categories used by the magazine. New Paltz's six-year graduation rate is 68 percent, up from last year's 64 percent.

“Graduation rates are among the top indicators of institutional success,” according to L. David Eaton, vice president of enrollment management. “Our high and increasing graduation rates, which well exceed national averages, reflect the caliber of our students and the effectiveness of our educational programs and student services.”

The college also made a strong showing in several other categories, including freshman retention rate (86), percentage of freshmen in the top 25 percent of their high school class (66) and SAT/ACT scores of 1050-1220.

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