

University of Memphis undergraduate business program ranks in top 100 for first time

- By James Dowd
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The undergraduate business program at the University of Memphis has been named among the nation's top 100 business programs by U.S. News & World Report.

It is the first time U of M has broken into the top ranks, coming in at 97 out of 382 undergraduate business programs, said Dr. Rajiv Grover, dean of the university's Fogelman College of Business and Economics.

"Not only are we ranked in about the top 25 percent of business schools in the country, but we came out ahead of some other programs at schools with very deep pockets and much larger budgets," Grover said.

"U.S. News and World Report is the most credible source for ranking college programs, and we take this very seriously. If this doesn't arouse positive emotions for our program within the community, then I don't know what will."

The undergraduate business college has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years, as Grover has sought to revitalize a program that a decade ago was in jeopardy of losing its accreditation.

Innovations Grover has introduced as part of a holistic approach to business education are a social etiquette program, an initiative aimed at boosting wellness and a revitalized honors program that has gone from zero participants just three years ago to more than 170 business students enrolled today.

"We're carving out a niche of excellence for our very best students and we're doing all we can to make them glad to be at the University of Memphis," said Irvin Tankersley, director of the FCBE honors program. "We've established an elite cadre within the business college that is elevating the reputation of the entire school."

The ranking is particularly meaningful because it is based on surveys and nominations submitted by deans and faculty at other business schools, but without the benefit of a major marketing campaign touting FCBE programs, Grover said.

Such peer rankings show that FCBE's innovative programming is being noticed and appreciated and studied by other institutions of higher learning.

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