



NKU Academic Programs Rank Among Nation's Best by Rugg's Recommendations

A number of NKU undergraduate academic programs have been recognized as being in the top 14 percent in the United States by *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*.

Created by former guidance counselor Frederick E. Rugg, the book is a staple in guidance counselor offices across the nation, helping countless high school students decide the best place to pursue their dreams.

NKU's up-close-and-personal approach and student-centered faculty are a key reason it

shows up in *Rugg's*: the author seeks out departments that are "student oriented," where the professors aren't always in a different city "doing their own thing" with nary a student in sight.

Rugg's highlights 10 NKU programs.

Among the 16 public and private colleges and universities from Kentucky listed in the publication, three share NKU's size and selectivity. Among that group, NKU is the only one recommended

for business administration, chemistry, dance/drama/theater and English.

Northern is one of fewer than 90 institutions nationwide and the only one in Kentucky recognized for its entrepreneurship program, which has also been listed in the Top 25 Undergraduate Programs for Entrepreneurship by Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine.

NKU was also noted for its education, journalism/communication, mathematics and music programs and was one of only three Kentucky schools recognized for forensic sciences/technology.

The 2011 edition of *Rugg's* highlights 10 NKU undergraduate academic programs.

NKU Among Region's Healthiest Employers

NKU recently received the 2011 Healthiest Employers of Greater Cincinnati award in the 1,500-4,999 employee category.

NKU employees are provided access to a number of health and well-being supports, including on-site health coaching, weight management classes, diabetes education, tobacco cessation support, physical activity classes, community gardens, workstation ergonomics, yearly comprehensive health screenings and massage and pain management services.

"This award recognizes our efforts to create a culture of health, not just a series of programs," said NKU Wellness Coordinator Karen Campbell.

NKU Cyber Security Team Finishes Second at Regional Competition

An NKU cyber security team recently spent their Spring Break pulling out a second-place finish in its third trip to the annual Southeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (SECCDC).

The SECCDC is an intense three-day event that throws teams of eight students into a high-pressure "cyber attack" environment. Teams are given eight hours to harden a medium-sized corporate network against attack, then 12 hours to complete a set of business tasks in the face of hacking attacks, hardware failures and other deliberate disruptions.

Admission of a team is selective, open only to universities with established computer security programs.

NKU's team was comprised of computer information technology and computer science majors in the NKU College of Informatics.

"The competition really lets you experience the stress and excitement of maintaining a company's infrastructure while being attacked by hackers from the outside world," said Justin Shelton, a junior studying computer science. "Nothing you can learn in class or at

your co-op can prepare you for that intensity."

Computer security is one of the research strengths of the NKU's computer science department. The network/security track in the computer information technology major is NKU's most popular technical degree, with over 200 enrolled students.

The computer science and computer information technology majors combined enroll over 500 undergraduates, a figure that has increased 40 percent over the past two years.

NKU President James Votruba recently noted publicly that the digitarium located within NKU's state-of-the-art Griffin Hall informatics center will be an ideal environment for hosting such a cyber defense competition. Griffin Hall is set to open this summer.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average ACT score for incoming NKU freshmen (21.4) has rapidly increased since the adoption of admission standards just a few years ago and is now higher than the Kentucky and national averages.