

USFSP News

USF St. Petersburg's Online MBA Ranked #15 in Nation, #2 in Florida

U.S. News & World Report ranked the Online MBA Program at USF St. Petersburg (USFSP) among the nation's top 10-percent in its 2016 survey of [Best Online MBA Programs](#). Of 167 universities, USFSP is ranked #15 in the nation and #2 in Florida behind the University of Florida. The rankings were based on five general categories: Student Engagement, Admissions Selectivity, Peer Reputation, Faculty Credentials and Training, and Student Services and Technology. USFSP's program scored especially well in Faculty Credentials and Training, in which it tied at #3 nationally.

"This latest ranking is again a tribute to the dedication and quality of the faculty and staff at the Kate Tiedemann College of Business," said USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "Much of this program's success is rooted in its flexibility and convenience, particularly for working professionals. It is grounded in a tradition of quality, with online courses that are taught by the same highly-credentialed faculty who teach our face-to-face graduate courses."

USFSP's Kate Tiedemann College of Business is accredited by AACSB International in both Business and Accounting, a distinction held by only 1-percent of business schools globally. The Online MBA Program has risen consistently in the rankings over the last few years, moving from #32 in 2015.

"We work hard to maintain the feel of the traditional classroom setting in our online courses," said Gary Patterson, interim dean of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. "Much like our traditional MBA students do in the classroom, online students continue to engage in rigorous group projects and case discussions. We keep our online class sizes small so that our students have easy and direct access to their instructors."

USFSP's Online MBA students have the option of taking some classes on campus. Courses are offered in eight-week sessions, allowing students to complete the program at a part-time pace. Additionally, USFSP offers a suite of MBA Essentials modules, which provides a fast-tracked alternative to non-business students who may be missing prerequisite courses.

Approximately 85-percent of USFSP's recent MBA graduates are employed, with many landing at Florida's top corporations, including Raymond James, Franklin Templeton, Wells Fargo, Nielsen, and Jabil. The average starting salary for recent MBA recipients is \$63,000.

In 2015, *U.S. News & World Report* created a stand-alone ranking of online MBA programs to help students research and compare online programs. The magazine reports that about 5.4 million students, or one in four, took at least one distance education course during the fall of 2012, according to data released by the National Center for Education Statistics.

