

Dominican named a College of Distinction for 2016-17 academic year

Dominican University of California was selected as a College of Distinction for the 2016-2017 academic year in recognition of outstanding student engagement, quality teaching, a vibrant campus community, and the success of its graduates.

[*Colleges of Distinction*](#) is a college guidebook focused on colleges where students can best learn, grow, and succeed. Colleges and universities are nominated for participation in *Colleges of Distinction* by high school college counselors, college administrative members, and the *Colleges of Distinction* selection team. The selection team uses a range of quantitative data such as graduation rates, classroom size, and other key stats that speak to the four distinctions of engagement, teaching, community, and outcomes.

According to *Colleges of Distinction* editors, colleges and universities selected must emphasize core competencies such as critical thinking, writing, oral communication, research, and global perspectives. They must also offer dynamic, out-of-classroom learning, intensive study abroad programs, and other experiential learning opportunities.

Community engagement is one of the four central themes of [The Dominican Experience](#), the University's new curricular approach.

Dominican has received numerous awards and recognition in recent years.

Last spring, Dominican was named one of only five institutions in the country to receive [The Washington Center 2015 New York Life Civic Engagement Award](#) for innovation and leadership in forging partnerships beyond the campus to define and address issues of public concern locally, regionally, and internationally.

Dominican has been recognized for its civic engagement in the [President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) every year since 2007. The University also has twice been awarded the Community Engaged Classification from the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#) – most recently in 2015.

The University has been ranked as one of the top universities in the West for the past seven years by U.S. News & World Report.

In addition, Dominican from 2010-15 received the [PacWest Academic Achievement Award](#) for an unprecedented six consecutive seasons for earning the highest cumulative student-athlete grade-point average in the Pacific West Conference.

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