

USI graduate nursing program earns top marks from U.S. News and World Report

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According to new data released by *U. S. News and World Report* on March 10, the University of Southern Indiana's Master of Science in Nursing Program has been ranked 78th in the country, climbing 48 spots from the previous year's ranking. In January, USI's online MSN program also was ranked 36th in the nation by *US News*.

The MSN program, offered by USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions, strives to prepare nurses at an advanced practice level, who demonstrate professional leadership and foster a research climate in the practice of nursing.

"We're excited to see the rankings for our graduate nursing program continue to climb," said Dr. Ann White, dean of USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions. "Rankings like this give us national visibility and are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and students."

Each year, *U.S. News* ranks professional school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. Rankings are based on two types of data: expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students. The data come from statistical surveys sent to administrators at nearly 1,900 graduate programs and from reputation surveys sent to more than 13,700 academics and professionals in the disciplines. The surveys were conducted during the fall of 2014 and in early 2015.

USI's MSN degree offers specialty areas for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Nursing Education (NE), Nursing Management and Leadership (NML), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP).

The College of Nursing and Health Professions also offers online courses toward a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with two areas of study concentration: advanced practice and systems and organizational leadership. The practice- focused doctorate prepares experts in advanced nursing with emphasis placed on innovative, evidence-based practice that reflects the application of credible research findings.

Both programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).