

New College of Florida on the Rise Across Three National Rankings

SARASOTA, FL, UNITED STATES, September 22, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Washington Monthly, The Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report each place the public honors college of Florida among the nation's strongest public liberal arts colleges, with gains concentrated in the categories that decide student futures and the value of a degree.

[New College of Florida](#) rose across three national college rankings published this cycle. Each places the college among the top public liberal arts colleges in the country. Each shows gains in the measures that forecast what happens to students after they graduate.

Together, these three different ranking systems carry more weight than any single system alone. The three publications measure different things by different methods and share no common data set. Washington Monthly rates colleges on what they contribute to the public good, weighing social mobility, graduation outcomes and public service. The Princeton Review builds its rankings entirely from surveys of enrolled students. U.S. News & World Report weighs class size, faculty composition and academic resources per student. New College improved in all three.

"Last year I said we were determined to earn top rankings across multiple national publications," said Richard Corcoran, President of New College of Florida. "These metrics prove the positive outcomes New College is creating. It also comes at a moment when families are asking a fair question about whether a degree is still worth the investment. Our answer is that the content of the four years matters. A student who writes a thesis, who is known by name by full-time faculty, and who has taken responsibility for their own education under an academic contract is not interchangeable with their transcript. Three independent rankings now say we are building that."

What the three rankings show

Washington Monthly

Washington Monthly rates institutions on what they do for the country rather than on wealth, selectivity or prestige, weighing social mobility, graduation outcomes and public service. New College was named:

- No. 1 among public liberal arts colleges in the United States.

- No. 1 among liberal arts colleges in Florida.
- No. 6 among all liberal arts colleges in the United States.
- 44th overall among 1,583 ranked institutions..

The Princeton Review

The Princeton Review is the only one of the three built on what students say. Its rankings come from surveys of enrolled students, not from institutional data. In the Best Colleges 2027 edition, announced in August, New College earned its strongest recognition to date from the publication:

- Named one of the 50 Colleges That Create Futures
- No. 2 nationally among Top Public Schools for Financial Aid
- No. 24 among Best Public College Values
- A rating of 97 for how interesting students find their professors, and 95 for how accessible those professors are, on a scale that tops out at 99
- Named to the Best 392 Colleges and the Best in the South

Those faculty ratings are among the highest marks the survey awards, and they come from students rather than from the college. New College also received ratings of 92 for financial aid, 88 for academics and 87 for admissions selectivity.

U.S. News & World Report

In the 2027 Best Colleges edition, New College improved by double digits in three metrics. Each draws on data since 2023, illustrating the college's current academic model rather than earlier years. In that time, New College of Florida has made substantial strides in:

- Financial resources, or academic resources per student, where the college ranks 14th nationally among liberal arts colleges and has shown a 64% score increase.
- Academic profile of the entering class as measured by standardized test scores, where it ranks 37th, a 60% score increase.
- Share of faculty who are full-time, where it ranks 88th, a 27% score increase.

The measures that moved for New College describe the kind of education that is hardest to automate. Small classes. A faculty that is overwhelmingly full-time. Academic resources concentrated on a few hundred students.

"Our response to a shifting economy is to lean into the rigorous, hands-on research that defines this institution," said Provost David Rohrbacher. "Whether they are working in our [Data Science master's program](#) or researching marine life in Sarasota Bay, our students are actively addressing real-world problems. They leave here with a combination of practical skills and intellectual grounding that AI cannot replicate, which is why their futures are so secure."

The college credits three features of its academic model. An academic contract under which each student takes documented responsibility for their own course of study. A senior thesis or capstone required of every graduate. Close work with full-time faculty across disciplines. New College leads all public colleges in the country in the share of graduates who go on to earn doctorates.

New College invites families, educators and neighbors across the region to visit the campus on Sarasota Bay, sit in on a class and see the work.

About New College of Florida

Founded in 1960, New College of Florida is the state's designated public honors college. Recognized nationally for its academic excellence, rigorous inquiry, and commitment to free expression, New College offers more than 50 undergraduate majors, graduate programs in Applied Data Science, [Marine Mammal Science](#), and a new Master's program in Educational Leadership, and a growing NAIA athletics program on a 151-acre campus on Sarasota Bay.

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