

California University
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Princeton Review: Cal U Among Best

For the 14th year in a row, The Princeton Review is recognizing California University of Pennsylvania as one of the best universities in the northeastern United States.

The nationally known education services company profiles Cal U in its "2019 Best Regional Colleges" listing at PrincetonReviews.com.

The 225 northeastern institutions profiled this year are "academically outstanding and well worth consideration" as part of a student's college search, the website says.

In its 2019 "Region by Region" guide, the Princeton Review recognized 657 colleges and universities in the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and West, along with international schools. These represent about 27 percent of the four-year, degree-granting institutions in the United States.

Schools are assessed for academic excellence based on data and information submitted by the school, as well as student surveys and other sources. Academics, admissions selectivity, financial aid, quality of life, teaching quality and faculty "accessibility outside the classroom" are all part of "The Princeton Review's assessment."

Cal U "has a beautiful campus set on the Monongahela [River], with brick buildings and well-maintained landscaping; it's hard not to fall in love with it," one student said in response to a Princeton Review survey.

Another noted that "it's in a small town so it feels



Academic excellence is among the reasons Cal U has been named as one of the "best in the Northeast" by The Princeton Review for the 14th consecutive year.

safe, but it's only 45 minutes from the airport and downtown Pittsburgh." The "on-campus free movie theater, billiards room, and tons of clubs and sponsored activities" also made an impression.

For more than 25 years, Princeton Review has been

recognized as a leader in tutoring, test prep and college admission services.

Its website allows students to register and explore information about colleges and universities nationwide.

University Expands Biology Options

Three new programs in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences will give students at Cal U more career-focused options, whether they are interested in fish and wildlife, plant science, or molecular biology.

The **Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology** prepares students to enter graduate school or begin careers in private and public sector positions ranging from wildlife and fisheries biologists to wildlife research technicians. Ideal for environmentally-conscious students who enjoy time outdoors, the on-campus program provides opportunities to observe species in their natural habitats and to develop hands-on skills under the guidance of faculty who are nationally recognized fish and wildlife management professionals.

Cal U has offered fisheries and wildlife biology as a concentration within the biology degree program for more than 20 years, utilizing its location along the Monongahela River and its proximity to state parks and game lands as unique teaching and research sites. Students now can select fisheries and wildlife biology as their major, raising the popular program's profile among employers and making it easier for students to market their skills upon graduation.

No other State System university offers a similar program; classes begin this fall. The curriculum for the fisheries and wildlife biology major at Cal U follows guidelines for professional certification established by the Wildlife



Cal U has added three programs in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

Society and the American Fisheries Society. Program graduates will be eligible to apply for certification from either of these professional organizations.

• **The B.S. in Biology: Plant Biology** focuses on plant science and the role of plants in the environment. This new biology concentration prepares students for jobs in the laboratory or in the field; graduates may find employment in botanical gardens and nurseries, or with horticultural or agricultural companies, biotechnology labs, or environmental protection agencies.

Cal U students have opportunities to develop skills and conduct research in natural settings such as the SAI Farm, on the University's upper campus, where the University's Interdisciplinary Center for Environmental Studies maintains a food garden and a fruit orchard, as well

as a natural area for students to study and gain hands-on experience. The concentration in plant biology is available this fall.

• Beginning in fall 2019, Cal U will offer a **B.S. in Molecular Biology**. The only degree program in molecular biology offered in southwestern Pennsylvania, it has been developed in response to the high demand for skilled professionals in this growing field.

Students in Cal U's on-campus program will learn to perform laboratory tests, run biological assays, and analyze and interpret data relevant to a wide variety of industries, including biotechnology, drug discovery and clinical diagnostics. In addition to hands-on training, students will have opportunities to design and execute research projects and to present their results at conferences.

Cal U Joins With Ohio Valley Hospital

Cal U has formed an educational alliance with the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing in Kennedy Township, Pa.

Under the new agreement, Cal U will provide top-quality online coursework for nursing students who represent the future of healthcare in the region.

The new alliance echoes an existing partnership with the Washington Health System School of Nursing in Washington, Pa. Since its inception in 2015, that partnership has helped more than 170 students prepare to enter the WHSSN nursing program or earn the Diploma in Nursing required to become a registered nurse.

At Ohio Valley Hospital, Cal U will offer students seeking a nursing diploma as many as 30 credits of non-degree coursework, entirely online. Nursing students will complete their science and general education requirements through Cal U's online learning management

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Work-Study Equals Job Training

Work-study positions at Cal U are important ways for students to make college affordable.

They also can help students develop skills that employers find valuable, according to Rhonda Gifford, director of the Career and Professional Development Center.

To emphasize the potential career benefits of a work-study position, the CPDC has implemented a Reflections in Student Employment program. RISE began at Cal U during the 2017-2018 academic year through a pilot group of supervisors who helped their work-study students get "career-ready."

The program is modeled after one at the University of Iowa, called Iowa GROW®, which uses brief, structured conversations between student employees and their supervisors to help students connect the skills and knowledge they are gaining in the classroom with the work they are doing.

"Along with the academic classroom, learning takes place in a lot of places on campus including these positions," said Gifford, who prefers "student employment" to "work-study."

"These student positions are important not just in terms of them earning money, but also in the professionalism and skills they learn such as problem-solving, team work, dedication and communications."

"It's so important for the students to be able to articulate the skills they have gained through academics, student employment, and co-curricular activities and to connect those to what they will be doing in the job that employers will hire them for," Gifford said.



Rhonda Gifford, director of the Career and Professional Development Center, speaks to work-study supervisors in a review of the RISE initiative.

Bridget Nobili, assistant director of the CPDC and career coach for the College of Education and Human Services, discussed RISE on Aug. 9, during a meeting of supervisors who participated in the pilot program — Don Eichelberger and Carrie Schubert (Academic Success), Diane Hasbrock (Student Affairs), Carol Jones (Mandero Library), and Debra Custer (Students with Disabilities). The meeting was open to all work-study supervisors.

"We can help Cal U students be career ready by making student employment a high-impact activity through experiential education and professional development," Nobili said. "This allows students to make connections, reflect, apply and integrate

their learning into real-life employment opportunities."

Eichelberger, the director of Peer Mentoring, said many of the 21 student workers in her office are criminal justice or education majors who developed skills by assisting with programs such as First-Year Seminar.

"It's a great program because it helps the students think about their future and use skills right now that they would do later in an internship," she said. "This has fit really well in our office because we already have weekly meetings and were naturally able to incorporate the RISE program."

Hasbrock, director for the Center for Volunteer Program and Service Learning, said she tries to match a student's major

with relevant aspects of event planning.

English major Lindsey Rush did a summer internship with Philadelphia-based AmeriHealth Caritas focusing on editorial services and internal communications.

"The RISE program created that connection for me between school and work," said Rush, who will graduate this December. "Diane was able to tailor my job description in a way that focuses more on the written side of the office job. RISE has helped create a work-study position that, in return, helped me land an internship with potential for a full time position after graduation."

Hasbrock said RISE produces positive results.

"Students speak more about their transferable skills, which makes them more comfortable and confident when they apply and interview for jobs or internships," she said. "You see it."

Gifford urged the supervisors to post work-study jobs on Handshake, a comprehensive online career and internship resource offering powerful search tools and alerts.

Handshake allows students to build their personal profile so employers can find them and access job recommendations based on their major and interests.

"We need to catch the students where they are, and that is where supervisors come into play," she said.

"When the student workers are on that stage in front of employers and are career-ready, they will succeed."

"That shows us RISE is working." Supervisors interested in joining the RISE program can email gifford@calu.edu or nobili@calu.edu

Seminars Address Legal Topics

The Institute for Law and Public Policy will present four seminars designed for legal, law enforcement and real estate professionals at Cal U's Southpointe corporate campus. Approved for Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education credits, they will address:

- "Oil and Gas Leases for Landowners," from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Aug. 30.
- "Oil and Gas Right-of-Way Agreements," from 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Aug. 30.
- "What Does Medical Marijuana Mean for Pennsylvania Employers and Employees," from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Aug. 31.
- "Employee Gone Rogue: Protecting Confidential Information Throughout Employment and Conducting Ethical Investigations into Workplace Matters," from 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Aug. 31.

For costs and registration, visit www.calu.edu/llpp.

Cal U Revamps Outdoor Recreation Activities

Beginning this fall, it will be easier than ever for students to experience the outdoors while attending Cal U.

"We want to make good use of what we have available to us right here, whether it's SAI Farm, at Roadman Park, on the river, on campus or in town," said Jamison Roth, director of Recreational Services.

As the new academic year begins, students, faculty and staff will have even more outdoor opportunities.

A "Backyard Bash" in early fall at SAI Farm will feature disc golf, volleyball and fitness-course competitions for clubs and organizations.

A trip to the Skydive Pennsylvania skydiving center at Grove City, Pa., is being planned for September.

Biking at Washington's Landing Marina is planned for Oct. 6, and hiking at Emerald View Park for Oct. 20. Both activities begin at 10 a.m., with transportation provided to both Pittsburgh locations.

A kayak trip on Pittsburgh's rivers begins at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 8 on the city's North Shore.

"These events will be a good start in seeing the interest level of our students," Roth said. "We are looking to have outdoor activities year-round."

Students and the campus community may visit the SAI Farm, on the upper campus, and try their hand at disc golf or the Fitness Challenge Course, which



Cal U provides many opportunities for students to experience the outdoors during free time.

features 13 exercise stations along a 1.25-mile trail.

Discs are available at no cost at the Herron Recreation and Fitness Center.

Through the efforts of Terry Carnathan, coordinator of informal recreation and wellness, Cal U is teaming with Venture Outdoors, a local nonprofit organization that provides the gear, guidance and inspiration to make outdoor recreation part of people's lives.

Fall outdoor intramural sports, which are open to all students, faculty and staff, include flag football and a street

basketball tournament.

Winter snow tubing and ski trips to Snowshoe Mountain ski resort, in West Virginia, are being planned for winter.

"By simply making the best use of our natural landscape and what's already here, we can show our students there's so much to do here if you just get outside of your residence hall or apartment," Roth said.

For more information as outdoor activities are finalized, email roth@calu.edu. For intramural sports information, email Tom.Hasbrock@calu.edu.

Print Stations Fit Students' Pace

Cal U has introduced a new printing service that is tailored to students' fast-paced, on-the-go lifestyles.

University Technology Services has partnered with Wepa, a provider of cloud-based printing services, to allow students and guests to print from any device — computer, smart phone, tablet or USB "flash drive." Students will no longer need to visit a campus computer lab only to print documents.

Print kiosks are integrated with Desire2Learn, Cal U's learning management system, and also with cloud storage such as OneDrive, Google Docs and Dropbox.

"The convenience of the new printing service is the main advantage," said Brian Kraus, associate vice president for University Technology. "Being able to print without going to a computer lab will benefit our students, who are accustomed to using their mobile devices and cloud-based services."

Print jobs can be sent to kiosks at any of these locations: Eberly Hall, first floor; Keystone Hall, second floor; Mandarino Library, first floor; Natchal Student Center, second floor; Noss Hall, first floor and second floor; Vulcan Village, clubhouse.

Documents do not print until



payment is made at the kiosk. They will stay in the queue for up to six days.

Printing costs are affordable — for example, a one-page, 8.5-by-11-inch, black-and-white document costs 9 cents to print; color costs 35 cents per page. Students enrolled for the fall semester receive a \$5 credit for the academic year.

Payments can be made by CalCard, by credit or debit card (for an additional fee), or via an online account with Wepa.

The company reports the print kiosks result in as much as 86 percent less paper-product waste. Print stations are PrintRecycle certified, which offsets the environmental costs of printing by planting one tree for every 8,333 pages printed — or the amount of paper harvested from one tree. All toner cartridges are recycled.

To learn more about the new cloud-based printing options at Cal U, visit calu.edu/inside/utech/printing.

Award-winning Author to Speak

Acclaimed novelist and short story writer T.C. Boyle will speak at 7 p.m. Sept. 11 in the arena of the Cal U Convocation Center.

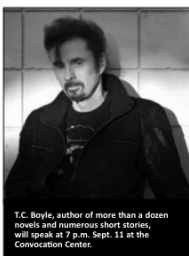
Boyle will be responding to his recent work and addressing audience questions. Admission is free.

A reception with the author will be held from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 11 in the south wing of the Convocation Center. Cost is \$50 and includes drinks and hors d'oeuvres. To register, contact event organizer Dr. Kim Vanderlaan, from the Department of English, at vanderlaan@calu.edu.

Free parking for the event will be available in Lot 4 (River Lot).

Thomas Coraghessan (T.C.) Boyle has written more than a dozen novels and numerous short stories, including *The Road to Wellville*, *The Inner Circle*, *The Human Fly*, *Talk Talk*, *The Women*, *The Harder They Come* and *The Terranauts*.

Boyle has received numerous awards and honors, highlighted by the PEN/



T.C. Boyle, author of more than a dozen novels and numerous short stories, will speak at 7 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Convocation Center.

Faulkner Prize for best novel of the year (*World's End*), the PEN/Malamud Prize for short stories (*T.C. Boyle Stories*), and the Prix Médicis Étranger for best foreign novel in France (*The Tortilla Curtain*).

His short stories have appeared in major American literary magazines including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Playboy*, *The Paris Review*, *GQ* and *Granta*. His fiction has been translated into dozens of foreign languages and has inspired multiple film adaptations.

"The Cal U community is honored and delighted to have the remarkable good fortune to bring an author of Mr. Boyle's stature and talent to campus," Vanderlaan said. "We are very much looking forward to hosting him and to hearing him read from his recent fiction."

Originally from upstate New York, Boyle earned degrees from the State University of New York at Potsdam and the University of Iowa. He is a Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Southern California, where he began teaching in 1978.

He lives with his wife near Santa Barbara, Calif.

Auditions Sept. 8 for 'Elf'

The Department of Music and Theatre will audition performers for roles in California University's holiday production of *The Happy Elf*.

Based on Grammy Award winner Harry Connick Jr.'s original song, this jazzy and whimsical show features dancers and "triple threats" — performers who can act, sing and dance — ages 5 and older.

Auditions will be held Sept. 8 in Steele Hall.

The Happy Elf will be performed at 7 p.m. Dec. 6-8, with matinees at 2 p.m. Dec. 8-9. All shows are in Cal U's Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Performances are open to the public.

Male and female performers of all ages and abilities will be considered for acting, singing and dancing roles.

Auditions should dress appropriately, bring their own shoes and report 30 minutes before their scheduled audition times to the Blaney Theatre lobby entrance at the rear of Steele Hall.

Performers auditioning for actor/singer/dancer roles should prepare a musical theater selection between 16 and 32 bars in length and arrive ready to dance.

Audition schedule
10 a.m. to noon. — Children ages 5-12 (under 5 feet tall). Bring sheet music (no cappella singing or recorded accompaniment). Bring clothing and shoes for the dance portion. In addition to an active chorus of children, we'll be looking to fill the role of the youngest pole leader Norbert's "mini-me."

12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. — **Teens only, ages 5 to adult.** Come dressed to move and bring all shoes needed. No singing or acting is required.

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. — **Teens and adults (ensemble).** Bring sheet music (no a cappella singing or recorded accompaniment). Bring clothing and shoes for the dance portion. Roles include Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves and residents of Blueville.

More information: 724-938-4220.

CUTV Gears for Busy Fall Sports Season

The fall sports season is right around the corner, and California University Television has the action covered.

CUTV will provide live coverage of Vulcans football, volleyball and soccer games, as well as a featured high school football game each week, at calvulcans.com and on the CUTVSports1 YouTube channel at YouTube.com.

Rebroadcasts of all games produced by CUTV are available on the YouTube channel. Complete schedules for Vulcans athletics are available at calvulcans.com.

"We are excited about the fall athletic season and just hope to improve with each event broadcast," said Gary Smith, CUTV's director of operations. "The live-streaming has been well received, and we even see many fans at the game sites looking at their phones."

Cal U football

Every game of CUTV's 33rd year of Vulcans football coverage can be seen live online. Home

games can be accessed on the PSAC Network at calvulcans.com. Away games can be seen on the CUTVSports1 YouTube channel.

Football rebroadcasts will air at 6 p.m. the Monday after the game, and at 4 p.m. the following Tuesday, on the Armstrong (channel 61, 30.1 on campus) and Atlantic Broadband (channel 17) cable systems. Cal U opens the 2018 football season at Ohio Dominican on Aug. 30.

Cal U volleyball and soccer

When the Vulcans play at home, women's volleyball fans can watch PSAC matches live on the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Network through calvulcans.com. The team's PSAC home opener vs. Lock Haven is at 6 p.m. Sept. 14.

Men's soccer home games against Findlay on Sept. 1 and Pitt-Johnston on Oct. 17 will be shown live on the CUTVSports1 YouTube channel and at calvulcans.com beginning at 5 p.m.

Women's soccer games against Pitt-Johnston on Sept. 5 and Gannon on Oct. 24 will be broadcast live on YouTube and calvulcans.com beginning at 6 p.m.

High school football

Featured high school football games will be shown live on the CUTVSports1 YouTube channel with starting times at 7 or 7:30 p.m. Fridays. Rebroadcasts on Armstrong and Atlantic Broadband stations air at 8:30 p.m. Sundays and 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

CUTV's nine-game scholastic slate opened with Benworth at Brownsville on Aug. 24, followed by Millersburg at Upper Dauphin on Sept. 7.

The remaining games are Frazier at Charleroi (Sept. 14), Washington at California (Sept. 21), Greensburg-Salem at Belle Vernon Area (Sept. 28), Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic at Elizabeth-Forward (Oct. 5), Union at Carmichaels (Oct. 12), West Mifflin at Ringgold (Oct. 19), and Frazier at Bethlehem Center (Oct. 26).



Cal U featured twirler Olivia Ebersole has overcome health issues to shine at national baton competitions.

Cal U Twirler Excels

Cal U's featured twirler Olivia Ebersole bubbles with excitement when she talks about performing during Vulcan football games for her third season this fall.

A junior from Granville, Ohio, who expects to graduate in December 2019, Ebersole is among the nation's best baton twirlers — and her trophy case keeps filling.

After winning the Miss Majorette of Pennsylvania competition in May by taking first place in both the strut and three-baton events, Ebersole qualified for a second-consecutive year for the America's Youth On Parade (AYOP) national baton twirling championships at Notre Dame.

She placed 16th in the 2018 Collegiate Miss Majorette of America competition and also placed among the top five in three other open events, earning fourth-place finishes in two-baton and three-baton, and fifth in strut.

"I was very happy," said Ebersole, who is studying public relations with a minor in event planning. "There was strong competition from many schools, and I was so proud to wear my Cal U costume."

In 2017 she finished 26th and 22nd in two open events just two months after going through open-heart surgery for infective endocarditis, an infection of the lining of the heart. Earlier this year, she overcame undifferentiated connective tissue disease, broadly known as Raynaud's phenomenon, in which the

body mistakenly attacks its own tissues.

Ebersole made remarkably fast recoveries — and even amplified her optimism.

"It's been a long road, but it also makes me realize there are many people out there with health issues who are just as strong in their fight." She appreciates twirling even more, she said, and is determined to "up the ante in school and everything I do with even more of a positive outlook."

Although she has won baton competitions for many years, Ebersole prefers performing at a football stadium or basketball court in front of judges.

"Football has a very special place in my heart, and the fans' reactions are awesome," she said. "In competitions, there are certain things you have to have to get the scores, and there's more pressure, but it helps me be a better twirler on the field."

"At games you can be more creative with your moves. It's just fun. It's what I love to do, and I really care about being my best out there to show the people what twirling is all about."

Ebersole, who also played soccer and volleyball in high school, practices six days a week. Her mother, Kelly, was an award-winning majorette and works with her in Ohio.

The younger Ebersole praised Cal U featured twirler consultant Donna Wassilchak-Semon '99, '05, but she also does considerable additional training on her own at the Convocation Center.

"Olivia is such a talented, kind-

hearted student with an indescribable work ethic," said Gloria Stone, director of facilities presentation for Cal U Conference Services.

"She is here (at the Convocation Center) practicing early in the morning or late at night, and her dedication shows when she performs."

"Olivia always makes sure to say hello to the campus community even in the middle of practicing a routine."

As she competes and trains this summer, Ebersole is also a social media and marketing intern at Strait & Lamp Lumber Co. in Hebron, Ohio. She plans to continue with twirling competitions for at least another year but wants to work in the fashion industry.

Ebersole found out about Cal U when she took part in state competitions at the Convocation Center. She immediately liked the campus, and when she learned that Cal U offered her major, and a football team, making her college decision was easy.

"I love Cal U, living in Smith Hall and how the professors know you by name," she said. "To me, it's a close-knit family. And the people, especially the entire staff at the Convocation Center, are just super-nice."

Ebersole just finished her third band camp at Cal U.

"As a freshman in 2016, I was nervous, but coming to band camp was a huge help as I learned about campus, made friends and really became comfortable right away," she said.

"I'm so excited for the new season."

Cal U Joins With Ohio Valley Hospital

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system, while continuing their hands-on training in practical nursing skills at the hospital.

Both nursing school partnerships ensure that students who become registered nurses can transition seamlessly into Cal U's 100% online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program.

"California University has coordinated the presentation of content in their courses to align with our nursing content, they have scheduled courses to coincide with our semesters as we needed, and they have opened their library resources — both brick-and-mortar and online — to all the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing students," says Valerie Gaidosh, OVHSON director.

"We are so excited with the opportunities this affiliation with Cal U offers us."

Careers, convenience and caring

Online nursing programs at Cal U empower healthcare professionals to address the complexities of nursing care today.

As hospitals nationwide attempt to meet the Institute of Medicine's recommendation that 80% of nursing staff hold a BSN by the year 2020, Cal U's online RN-to-BSN program makes it convenient for registered nurses to earn a bachelor's degree while continuing to work full time.

Cal U also offers 100% online master's degrees in nursing and nurse education, as well as a dual MBA-MSN degree. Post-master's certificates are available as well. At all levels, Cal U staff work closely with students to assure a high-quality educational experience.

"Cal U has decades of experience in educating nurses throughout their careers," says Dr. Robin Weaver, an assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of the university's online BSN program.

"We are delighted to partner with Ohio Valley Hospital, which has a long history of excellence in educating nurses. We welcome the opportunity to help future nurses prepare to enter this vital profession and reach their full potential."

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