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# Hood still near top of list

## *College ranks 6th in North in annual ratings guide*

Hood College is still one of the top colleges in the nation, according to rankings in the 1994 college guide, "America's Best Colleges," published by U.S. News and World Report.

The college is rated sixth in its category, Regional Colleges and Universities in the North, in the newsmagazine, which will be available on newsstands Monday.

In the 1992 and 1993 editions, Hood was ranked 10th in the same category, which includes 168 colleges and universities. This year the college "leap-frogged over some other top-notch institutions," according to Hood President Martha E. Church. Hood, she said, made the most significant upward move of the previously ranked colleges or universities in its category.

Hood has been ranked "one of America's best" since the newsmagazine began its surveys in 1983, even though the categories and ranking criteria have changed through the years. For example, in 1985 Hood was rated number one among 74 smaller comprehensive institutions in the East. Only one of those institutions, Alfred University in New York, is ranked in the much larger category in which Hood is now listed.

"This is a nice present in our Second Century which we started celebrating just a few weeks ago," Dr.

Church said. "It acknowledges all of the hard work put in by our faculty, staff and students. It is nice to get a pat on the back for a job well done. Staying in rankings such as this lets us know that we are continuing to do our jobs well."

The scores given the colleges and universities by the magazines were based on a survey ranking reputation, as well as statistics on student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, and graduation rates. Student selectivity, faculty resources and reputation accounted for 75 percent of the score. This is the first year that a graduation rate was factored into the ratings. Student satisfaction was dropped as a ranking criterion.

The information was gathered by College Counsel of Natick, Mass. Other information was provided by the American Association of University Professors and the Council for Aid to Education. A survey of college presidents, deans and admissions officers provided data used in rating academic reputation.

Other institutional categories include national colleges and universities, national liberal arts colleges and regional liberal arts colleges. Hood is considered a comprehensive institution since it awards more than half of its degrees in professional fields and because it offers a significant number of graduate programs.