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Recommended Citation

College of Education, Georgia Southern University, "College of Education News" (2015). *College of Education News (2011-2023)*. 40.

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Georgia Southern University College of Education Earns Top 75 Ranking in U.S. News & World Report Online Graduate Report

January 8, 2015

Georgia Southern University College of Education earned a top 75 ranking out of 252 schools offering online graduate education programs in the 2015 *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Online Graduate Education Programs" released January 7. "We're pleased to be in the top 100 tier, said COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., Ph.D. "The College of Education continues its commitment to offer high-quality online graduate programs which provide students with the cutting-edge skills they need to increase their employment options," he said.

"Our online classes meet high standards for excellence," Koballa continued. "We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students from across the region and state know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings," he said.

This is the fourth year that *U.S. News* has ranked online graduate education schools. The College of Education scored particularly well in student services, an area that looks at diverse online learning technologies that "allow greater flexibility for students to take classes from a distance." The category also includes "strong support structures" which provide learning assistance, career guidance and financial aid resources "commensurate with quality campus-based programs." COE's graduate programs are supported by a freestanding advisement center, the Graduate Academic Services Center, a dedicated center for graduate student advising and support. "As far as I know, we're the only education school within our region with a dedicated center for graduate students," commented Lydia Cross, the center's director. "We're particularly attuned to the needs of our online students and are available to them at any time through many platforms we've created," she continued.

The rankings take into account such other factors as student engagement, which includes retention and graduation rates; admissions selectivity; peer reputation; and faculty credentials and training. Program ratings by peer institutions were also included in the rankings.

"The rankings are a good place to start your search for an online graduate education program," Koballa continued "but we also encourage students to contact our Graduate Academic Services Center where they can speak with trained advisors, faculty and peers about our online programs."

[Click here for more information on the rankings.](#)

<https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/education/rankings>