Clemson rated among best public universities for value

Staff report

Clemson University has been named one of the nation's 75 best values among public colleges and universities by the Princeton Review, officials said Tuesday.

In the 2014 edition of its annual book, "The Best Value Colleges: The 150 Best-Buy Schools and What it take to Get in," the Princeton Review chose 75 public and 75 private schools as their "Best Value Colleges for 2014" primarily based "on surveys we conducted in 2012-13 of 2,000 undergraduate institutions concerning their academics, cost and financial aid.

"We also analyzed student survey data we collected over the past three academic years," said Robert Franek, senior vice president and publisher with The Princeton Review.

According to the Princeton Review, the schools that made its "Best Value Colleges for 2014 list" are exceptional because they provide stellar academics at an affordable cost — either via a comparatively low sticker price or generous financial aid. "Students who attend these schools don't have to mortgage their futures to pay for their degrees," the Review noted.

They chose Clemson among Best Value Colleges for 2014 based on data collected from fall 2012 through fall 2013 via institutional and student surveys, university officials said.

The publication weighed more than 30 data points, covering academics, costs and financial aid. It also considered the percentage of graduating seniors who borrowed from any loan program and the average debt those students had at graduation.

"It is no secret that the education a student receives at Clemson University is an amazing value," said Chuck Knepfle, Clemson University's financial aid director. "It is an honor to continue to be recognized for high-quality educational experiences and offerings that are provided at a great value to students and parents."

Clemson's average in-state tuition and fees are $13,154, and out-of-state are $30,588.

In its profile of Clemson University on its website, Princeton Review editors said that "Clemson University provides a diverse yet comprehensive educational experience at an affordable cost. One satisfied student shares, 'I wanted to be a part of the Clemson family and the price was right. I received full scholarship and stipend and thus Clemson became the best value for an education.'"