

New index ranks 3 Arizona State University doctoral programs in top 10

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ASU's geosciences was ranked fifth in the new Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, produced by Academic Analytics. The university's marketing department was ranked No. 6, as was kinestiology and exercise science.
The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index recently was released as a new quantitative method for ranking doctoral programs at U.S. research universities based on a set of statistical algorithms. The index measures the annual productivity of faculty based on a number of factors, including publications (books and journal articles), citations of journal publications, doctoral research funding, and awards and honors.
The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on the new assessment in its Jan. 12 edition. One of the headlines read: "A controversial new index offers another way to rank doctoral programs." Some college officials were quoted praising the new index with the hope that it would become an annual assessment tool, while others complained that "the data are flawed."
According to Academic Analytics, the 2007 index is based on data gathered from nearly 200,000 faculty members at 154 institutions, representing 118 academic disciplines in nearly 7,500 doctoral programs. Data was information from Scopus, a product of academic publisher Elsevier, which is marketed as the largest abstract and citation database of research literature and quality Web sources.
"Especially hard to view this assessment as an alternative, but not necessarily more accurate, approach to the old and difficult problem of quantifying the quality of doctoral programs," says Kip Hodges, director of ASU's new School of Earth and Space Exploration. "It's gratifying that the great impact of research being done by earth and planetary science faculty at ASU has been captured in efforts by Acad
That once we establish our high ranking, we are confident that the statistics that informed this analysis were collected before the new School of Earth and Space Exploration was created. With strong support from the ASU administration and other academic units, we are building a revolutionary program in earth and space science and engineering. A top
-five ranking in geosciences is only the beginning."
Lawrence Markarian, chair of kinestiology and director of ASU's Center for Molecular Biology, says of the No. 9 ranking for kinestiology and exercise science: "We're gratified to learn that the faculty of the department of kinestiology have been recognized as having a Ph.D. program that is ranked in the top 10 in the United States. This ranking is based on the high research productivity of our faculty, and is a not
" We believe this ranking will help us recruit some of the top Ph.D. students in the world and is an important validation of the transition of kinestiology to a discipline within biomedical sciences."
" Our culture in the department of marketing in the W. P. Carey School of Business focuses on achieving and sustaining excellence in both teaching and scholarship," says Michael Mikewa, chair of the department and academic director for MBA Sports Business. "We believe they go hand in hand. We have consistently hired and rewarded faculty who are dedicated teachers and truly exceptional researchers.
" Our doctoral students work closely with the faculty, and often our work is supported by business partners. Unquestionably, we emphasize research that challenges and leads both thought and practice in our field and is always at the cutting edge of the social and behavioral sciences. It does not surprise me to see this ranking."
Academic Analytics is a collaboration between faculty and researchers at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Educational Discoveries Unlimited.

