



Summer 7-14-1993

## Illinois Wesleyan in Newest "Peterson's Competitive Colleges"

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Aaron, Bob, "Illinois Wesleyan in Newest "Peterson's Competitive Colleges"" (1993). *News and Events*. 7194.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/7194>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

July 14, 1993

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## **Illinois Wesleyan in Newest "Peterson's Competitive Colleges"**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University is one of only 359 colleges and universities nationally selected for inclusion in "Competitive Colleges 1993-94," just released by Peterson's, the Princeton, N.J.-based education and career information publisher.

IWU Dean of Admissions James Ruoti said, "Illinois Wesleyan is proud to be included in 'Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1993-94,' which has been the case for many years. 'Competitive Colleges' is an authoritative, widely used, and well-respected college guide. The fact that IWU is one of just 359 campuses--out of more than 3,000 in the United States--listed in Peterson's is a recognition of the high quality of students and academic programs offered at Illinois Wesleyan."

Illinois Wesleyan University is included in several other college guides: "Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education," "Barron's Profiles of American Colleges," "Comparative Guide to American Colleges," "Fiske Guide to Colleges," and "U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges."

"Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1993-94" is the only college guide that uses the quality of the student body as the defining factor for inclusion, identifying those campuses that consistently attract the most accomplished students.

Ruoti pointed to several "quality indicators" from 1992-93 that likely contributed to IWU's inclusion in "Peterson's Competitive Colleges":

- IWU received 3,344 applications, compared to 2,096 in 1988-89--an increase of more than 60 percent.
- Twenty-three freshmen were National Merit Scholars.
- IWU freshmen averaged 1,193 points on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) out of a possible 1,600 points and they tallied an average composite score of 27.2 points on the American College Test (ACT) out of a possible 36 points.
- More than half of IWU's freshman graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class.
- IWU accepted just 45.4 percent of all applicants.
- Eighty-four percent of IWU students graduate in four years, compared to a national graduation rate of 46 percent in six years.

- IWU's student retention rate was 94.4 percent.

In a formula devised a dozen years ago and now widely recognized, Peterson's uses data on the quality of the entering class, rather than reputation or other subjective criteria, as the basis for inclusion.

Yvonne Freccero, vice president for higher education services at Peterson's, said, "It has long been recognized that most students are more influenced by each other than by any other aspect of their college experience."

For the twelfth consecutive year, as part of a national program to equalize access to accurate college information, Peterson's and a consortium of the "Competitive Colleges," including Illinois Wesleyan, distributed more than 50,000 free copies of the guide to high-potential students, including thousands of top-performing minority students.

"Competitive Colleges 1993-94" includes a detailed full-page profile for each college, providing up-to-date, easy-to-compare information of special interest to competitive students, including:

- National Merit Scholarships in the entering class
- Application/acceptance rates
- Honors programs
- Most popular majors
- Graduate school attendance rates
- Fulbright, Marshal, and Rhodes Scholars

The guide features introductory articles by Richard H. Shaw Jr., dean of undergraduate admission and financial aid at Yale University, and Don Betterton, director of financial aid at Princeton University, and 12 topical directories that help students plan properly in the early stages of the admissions process. A separate section is devoted to competitive schools in the visual and performing arts.

"Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1993-94" is available at bookstores nationwide for \$15.95.