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# Houston suburb leads South's quality-of-life standings

The Business Journals by G. Scott Thomas

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It's clear that education is highly valued in West University Place, Texas.

Many streets in the Houston suburb are named after colleges, authors or poets. [Rice University](#) is located nearby. And 85 percent of West University Place's adults hold bachelor's degrees, the highest percentage in any Southern community.

This strong educational background is a key reason why West University Place ranks No. 1 in On Numbers' quality-of-life standings for the Southern United States.

The new rankings encompass 1,146 cities, towns, villages and other municipalities in 13 Southern states. [Click here for the study's methodology](#), including a step-by-step explanation of the 20-part rating formula.

All of the communities atop the list have strong economic bases, impressive housing stocks and effective educational systems.

Joining West University Place in the regional top five are Wolf Trap, Va.; Southlake, Texas; Mountain Brook, Ala.; and McLean, Va.

Top-to-bottom rankings for the South can be accessed in the database below. Use the tab to isolate a single state, or hit Search to see the full standings. Follow the

appropriate Details link to get a complete statistical breakdown for the community of your choice.

On Numbers yesterday released [quality-of-life rankings for the East](#). Yet to come this week: the Midwest, West and overall ratings for the entire country.

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