TRUTH IN ADVERTISING. The Doyle, Dane, Bernbach agency in New York (DDB Worldwide) developed the ad campaign for AVIS, “We’re #2. We Try Harder.” They also came up with Volkswagen’s award-winning “Think Small” promotion which we love.*

Our unique program has been singled out by our peers as one of the world’s leading academic options. Surveys of university faculty teaching international relations (see Foreign Policy, March/April 2009 and The Christian Science Monitor, October 20, 2011) have consistently placed the Patterson School among the top 25 masters degree programs worldwide.

Where does the Patterson School truly rank? The question is not easy to answer. For personal attention and value, we think we may be #1. We have the smallest student cohort and the lowest tuition cost of all ranked US programs. For focusing on diplomacy and international commerce, and combining classroom with experiential learning, we think we may also be at the top. For volume of research, size of faculty and student body, number of graduates, types of degrees ... that’s not what we are about.

Truth be told there is no formal accreditation of international affairs programs and the rankings that do exist often raise as many questions as they answer -- their surveys only query IR professors (not future employers) and favor large programs, in particular those that produce PhDs (who become IR professors). The size of our intimate program may not be sufficient to propel us to a single digit ranking, but it does help propel our graduates into their professional careers. That’s what we are about.

You alone can decide where the Patterson School ranks in matching your personal needs and ambition. Please explore our website or contact our faculty. We believe you will discover why “Small is Beautiful.” You’ll also see that like AVIS, at the Patterson School -- We Try Harder.

*Truth be told, we are not that small. The Guinness World Records Book says the most people crammed into a VW Beetle is 20 (set in Lexington in 2010). Our entering cohort would require two.