



Chapter 12 Academic & Reputational Lists

The publication of university and college rankings has grown increasingly popular since *U.S. News & World Report* released the results of its first reputational survey of U.S. universities in 1983. While some rankings today remain a compilation of opinions, most rankings (*USN&WR* included) now blend survey results and quantitative data. The sponsor of each ranking sorts and organizes the data by its chosen methodology and creates an ordered list of institutions that reflects the aspects of universities and academic programs it considers most important.

In this chapter, we provide results from several well-known rankings, some of which have been published for many years. Unfortunately, rankings are not trustworthy indicators of whether a particular school is right for any given student. Also, the arbitrary way that the rankings are calculated prevents using them for meaningful comparisons of schools on the list.

Due to the way rankings are compiled, a slight change in one or more of the numerous variables in the “formula” can affect rankings from one year to the next, even when the universities themselves have not changed greatly.

There is no such thing as a single “No. 1” school for everyone, no matter what a student chooses to study. What matters most in choosing a school is the match between the particular interests, abilities, and ambitions of each student with the specific programs, approaches and opportunities offered by a particular school. The underlying information that is often included with the publication of each ordered list probably has more value than the list itself because it permits the reader to examine specific characteristics of each institution.

★ *Chart updated since the August 2016 edition.*

Charts in Chapter 12

- ★ 12.1.1 *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings of National Undergraduate Universities, U-M and Peers, 2012-16.
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The U-M is one of the nation's leading public universities, according to the *U.S. News & World Report* ordered list methodology.

★ 12.1.1 *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings of National Undergraduate Universities, U-M and Peers¹, 2012-16.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
					All	Public
Princeton University	1	1	1	1	1	--
Harvard University	1	2	2	2	2	--
Yale University	3	3	3	3	3	--
University of Chicago	4	5	4	4	3	--
Columbia University	4	4	4	4	5	--
Stanford University	6	5	4	4	5	--
University of Pennsylvania	8	7	8	9	8	--
Northwestern University	12	12	13	12	12	--
Cornell University	15	16	15	15	15	--
University of California-Berkeley	21	20	20	20	20	1
University of California-Los Angeles	24	23	23	23	24	2
University of Virginia	24	23	23	26	24	2
MICHIGAN	29	28	29	29	27	4
University of North Carolina	30	30	30	30	30	5
University of Illinois	46	41	42	41	44	9
University of Wisconsin	41	41	47	41	44	9
University of Washington	46	52	48	52	54	15
University of Minnesota	68	69	71	69	71	22
Indiana University	83	75	76	75	86	31

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Colleges (2013-2017 Editions).

The *U.S. News & World Report* (*USN&WR*) system for creating an ordered list of national universities (that is, universities that offer a full range of undergraduate majors, as well as master's and Ph.D. programs, and emphasize faculty research) is based on indicators chosen by *USN&WR* to reflect the academic quality of each institution.

The current indicators (and their contribution to the overall ranking) include: a survey of administrators at peer institutions (15%); a survey of counselors from top public high schools and colleges (7.5%); retention of students (22.5%); faculty resources (20%), comprised of class size, student-faculty ratio, average faculty pay, proportion of faculty who are full-time and hold the highest degree in their field; student selectivity (12.5%), based on SAT and ACT scores of enrolled students, rank in high school graduating classes, and the university's acceptance rate; average spending per student on instruction, research and student

services (10%); graduation rate performance (7.5%), which compares a predicted graduation rate to the actual rate; and alumni giving rate (5%). Additional detail on how these items are used to calculate the rankings can be found on the *USN&WR* web site or the annual rankings publication.

The U-M consistently appears in the top five of public universities according *USN&WR* methodology. Michigan receives high marks for freshman retention, graduation rate, the percentage of freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, and its academic reputation.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

¹ A list of the "official" peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

Of more than 130 U-M graduate programs scored by *U.S. News & World Report*, 103 are listed in the top ten. Only UC-Berkeley and Stanford have more top-ten listed graduate programs.

12.1.2 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of U-M Top Ten Graduate Programs, 2016.

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS			
Business		Medicine	Law 8
Accounting	5	Primary Care	4
Entrepreneurship	9	Family Medicine	8
Executive M.B.A.	6	Geriatrics	4
Finance	9	Internal Medicine	6
International	7	Women's Health	6
Management	5	Public Health	4
Marketing	6	Healthcare Management	1
Nonprofit	8	Social Work	1
Part-time M.B.A.	5	Pharmacy	3
Production/Operations	4		
Supply Chain/Logistics	5		
			Law 8
			International Law 6
			Tax Law 9
			Nursing
			Doctor of Nursing Practice 10
			Master's 7
			Nursing Service Admin. 6
			Nursing Informatics 10
			Nursing-Midwifery 1
			Nurse Practitioner – Gerontology, Primary Care 9

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in Science, Engineering, Information, Education, Public Policy			
Engineering	6	Science	Education
Aerospace Engineering	4	Analytical Chemistry	7
Biomedical Engineering	9	Organic Chemistry	9
Civil Engineering	8	Earth Sciences	8
Computer Engineering	7	Geochemistry	5
Electrical Engineering	6	Geology	2
Environmental Engineering	5	Paleontology	3
Industrial Engineering	2	Mathematics	9
Materials Engineering	9	Algebra/Number Theory	8
Mechanical Engineering	4	Analysis	10
Nuclear Engineering	1	Applied Mathematics	10
Library & Info. Studies	4	Discr. Math/Combinations	5
Archives & Preservation	1	Atomic Physics	10
Digital Librarianship	4	Computer Science-Systems	10
Health Librarianship	4		
Information Systems	1		
			Curriculum & Instruction 5
			Education Policy 6
			Educational Psychology 2
			Elem. Teacher Education 3
			Higher Education Admin. 1
			Secondary Teacher Education 2
			Public Policy 8
			Environ. Policy & Mgmt. 5
			Health Policy & Management 5
			Information & Tech. Mgmt. 9
			Public Finance & Budgeting 10
			Public Policy Analysis 3
			Social Policy 1

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Grad Schools (2017 Edition).

U.S. News & World Report publishes rankings of more than 1,200 graduate programs offered by U.S. universities. Programs in business, education, engineering, law, and medicine are evaluated and scored each year based on surveys of administrators, academics and professionals as well as data that reflect the quality of a program's faculty, students and research.

Rankings of programs in the sciences, social sciences, other health fields, the humanities and the arts are conducted periodically; in 2016, *USN&WR* updated public affairs and health rankings, as well as adding the Doctor of Nursing Practice ranking. All other programs listed on this and the following page were ranked prior to 2016 and republished here and on the next page.

12.1.2 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of U-M Top-Ten Graduate Programs, 2016 (continued).

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in the Social Sciences and Humanities		
Economics		
International Economics	6	
Labor Economics	6	
Public Finance	5	
Political Science	4	
American Politics	3	
Comparative Politics	7	
International Politics	6	
Political Methodology	3	
Psychology	4	
Behavioral Neuroscience	3	
Cognitive Psychology	5	
Developmental Psychology	2	
Social Psychology	1	
	Sociology	4
	Economic Sociology	7
	Historical Sociology	3
	Sex & Gender	5
	Social Stratification	3
	Sociology of Population	1
	English	
	American Lit. After 1865	10
	American Lit. Before 1865	10
	Gender & Literature	3
	Medieval/Renaissance Lit.	10
	History	7
	African History	2
	African-American History	3
	Asian History	9
	Cultural History	2
	European History	3
	Latin American History	6
	Modern U.S. History	6
	U.S. Colonial History	7
	Women's History	3

SOURCE: U.S. News & World Report, America's Best Grad Schools (2017 Edition).

The University is a top-20 institution globally according to a relatively new ordered list of global universities published by *U.S. News & World Report*. The U-M's position on this global list is consistently higher than where it appears on the USN&WR list limited to U.S. universities.

★ 12.1.3 *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings of Best Global Universities, U-M and Peers¹, 2014-16.

University	2014	2015	2016
Harvard University	1	1	1
Stanford University	4	4	3
University of California Berkeley	3	3	4
Princeton University	13	13	8
Columbia University	10	9	9
University of California Los Angeles	8	8	10
University of Washington	14	11	11
University of Chicago	9	10	13
Yale University	17	14	14
University of Michigan	14	17	17
University of Pennsylvania	19	14	17
Cornell University	23	21	22
Northwestern University	25	25	25
University of Wisconsin	27	26	29
University of North Carolina	32	27	32
University of Minnesota	29	29	38
University of Illinois	35	43	47
University of Virginia	102	94	99
Indiana University	114	109	113

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, 2016 report.

U.S. News & World Report recently added a global university comparison to its stable of rankings. The new list concentrates “specifically on schools' academic research and reputation overall and not on their separate undergraduate or graduate programs,” according to the publisher.

For the global ranking, U.S. News starts with data from the Thomson Reuters InCites™ database, such as reputation survey results, which represent 25% of a school's ranking score. Other items in the formula include adjusted counts of published scholarly papers, books and conference proceedings (15%); several different counts of citations of published materials (50%); and counts of international collaborations (10%).

Note that the list order above differs from from the order of USN&WR “Best Universities,” as shown in Figure 12.1.1. Why this order makes sense for a global list even as it contradicts other USN&WR lists is not explained by the publisher.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

³ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The University is a top-25 institution globally according to the Times Higher Education ordered list.

✦ 12.2.1 Times Higher Education (London) World University Rankings, U-M and Peers³, 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Stanford University	2	4	4	3	3
Harvard University	4	2	2	6	6
Princeton University	6	6	7	7	7
University of Chicago	10	9	11	10	10
University of California Berkeley	9	8	8	13	10
Yale University	11	11	9	12	12
University of Pennsylvania	15	16	16	17	13
University of California Los Angeles	13	12	12	16	14
Columbia University	14	13	14	15	16
Cornell University	18	19	19	18	19
Northwestern University	19	22	21	25	20
University of Michigan	20	18	17	21	21
University of Washington	24	25	26	32	25
University of Illinois	33	29	29	36	36
University of Wisconsin	31	30	29	50	45
University of Minnesota	47	46	46	65	53
University of North Carolina	42	47	46	63	56
University of Virginia	118	112	130	147	121
Indiana University	134	132	150	201-250	150

SOURCE: Times Higher Education.

Times Higher Education publishes two separate ordered lists based on two different methodologies. The World University Rankings (above) judges institutions on their research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international activity. The World Reputation Rankings (see chart 12.2.2) is based on the results of an international, invitation-only survey sent to tens of thousands of experienced academics from around the world.

The World University Rankings shown on this page employ 13 performance indicators in five groups: Teaching (worth 30% of the overall ranking score); Research (30%); Citations (30%); Industry income (2.5%); and International outlook (7.5%).

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

³ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M is listed 14th in the world according to the most recent Times Higher Education list based on academic reputation.

12.2.2 Times Higher Education (London) World Reputation Rankings, U-M and Peers⁴, 2012-16.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	4	6	3	5	3
University of California Berkeley	5	5	6	6	6
Princeton University	7	7	7	7	7
Yale University	10	10	8	8	8
Columbia University	15	13	12	10	9
University of Chicago	14	14	14	11	11
University of California Los Angeles	9	8	10	13	13
University of Michigan	12	12	15	19	14
University of Pennsylvania	19	18	22	23	16
Cornell University	16	17	17	20	17
University of Washington	28	27	31	33	29
University of Illinois	23	24	23	30	30
Northwestern University	35	37	37	47	30
University of Wisconsin	27	30	28	38	35
University of Minnesota	47	51-60	51-60	71-80	49
University of North Carolina	46	51-60	61-70	61-70	51-60
Indiana University	--	--	71-80	--	81-90
University of Virginia	--	--	--	--	--

SOURCE: Times Higher Education.

The World Reputation Rankings (above) are based on subjective judgments collected from an invitation-only survey returned by more than 10,000 academics from around the world for the 2016 edition, distributed to reflect the demographics of world scholarship.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

The survey asks each respondent to name no more than 10 universities that he or she considers to be the “best.” The rankings are assembled based on the frequency that each institution is included on the respondent’s lists of best institutions in their fields.

⁴ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

Michigan regularly scores highly based on the QS methodology, which attributes 80 percent of the score to academic reputation, citation frequency of faculty publications, and the student-faculty ratio.

★12.3 QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings, U-M and Peers⁵, 2012-16.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stanford University	15	7	7	3	2
Harvard University	3	2	4	2	3
University of Chicago	8	9	11	10	10
Princeton University	9	10	9	11	11
Yale University	7	8	10	15	15
Cornell University	14	15	19	17	16
University of Pennsylvania	12	13	13	18	18
Columbia University	11	14	14	22	20
MICHIGAN	17	22	23	30	23
Northwestern University	27	29	34	32	26
University of California-Berkeley	22	25	27	26	28
University of California-Los Angeles	31	40	37	27	31
University of Wisconsin	38	37	41	54	54
University of Washington	59	59	65	65	59
University of Illinois	56	56	63	59	66
University of North Carolina	57	54	62	79	78
University of Minnesota	104	102	119	123	137
University of Virginia	123	132	141	172	172
Indiana University	210	240	272	263	291

SOURCE: QS Intelligence Unit.

The QS World University Rankings® (also now published by *U.S. News & World Report*) evaluates more than 800 universities in the world, ranking the top 400. A school's rank is based on an amalgamation of six indicators obtained through a global survey and data collected about each institution. The six components and the weight provided to the overall score are: Academic reputation based on the survey (40% of score); Employer reputation based on the survey (10%); Citations per faculty member according to the SciVerse Scopus database (20%); Student-Faculty ratio (20%); Proportion of international students (5%); and Proportion of international scholars and scientists on the faculty. U-M is the highest ranked U.S. public university, according to QS.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

⁵ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M consistently scores in the top 25 of universities worldwide and in the top 20 of U.S. universities according to the ordered list published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

12.4 Academic Ranking of World Universities, U-M and Peers⁶, 2012-16.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
University of California-Berkeley	4	4	4	4	3
Princeton University	7	7	6	6	6
Columbia University	8	8	8	8	9
University of Chicago	9	9	9	9	10
Yale University	11	11	11	11	11
University of California-Los Angeles	12	12	12	14	12
Cornell University	13	12	13	13	13
University of Washington	16	16	15	15	15
University of Pennsylvania	14	15	16	17	18
MICHIGAN	22	23	22	22	23
Northwestern University	30	30	28	27	26
University of Wisconsin	19	19	24	24	28
University of Illinois	25	25	28	29	30
University of Minnesota	29	29	30	30	33
University of North Carolina	41	43	36	39	35
Indiana University	84	85	101-150	101-150	101-150
University of Virginia	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150	151-200

SOURCE: Center for World-Class Universities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is based on six numerical elements (listed with the percent weight of the element in parentheses): the number of alumni winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (10%), number of faculty winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (20%), number of highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories according to Thomson Scientific (20%), number of articles published in journals of *Nature* and *Science* over the most recent five-year period (20%), number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index (20%), and per capita academic

performance of an institution (10%), determined by adding the weighted scores of all of the other indicators and dividing the sum by the number of full-time equivalent academic staff. More than 1,000 universities are ranked by ARWU every year and the best 500 are published on the web.

The University of Michigan ranking in particular reflects high scores on the elements that measure citations of articles by U-M faculty across all disciplines.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

⁶ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

A large proportion of University of Michigan graduate programs received high marks from the National Research Council assessment.

12.5 National Research Council (NRC) Graduate Program Assessment, U-M and Peers⁷, 2005-06.

University	Number of Programs Ranked	Percent of Programs where best S (survey) Ranking was in		Percent of Programs where best R (Direct) Ranking was in	
		Top half	Top quartile	Top half	Top quartile
University of Wisconsin	78	90%	77%	95%	74%
University of Minnesota	69	77%	51%	80%	55%
MICHIGAN	65	98%	82%	100%	92%
Cornell University	61	90%	69%	95%	80%
University of California-Los Angeles	59	93%	76%	93%	85%
University of Washington	59	93%	76%	95%	75%
University of Illinois	58	91%	62%	91%	79%
Harvard University	52	100%	100%	100%	100%
University of California-Berkeley	52	100%	94%	100%	98%
University of North Carolina	51	86%	67%	100%	76%
Yale University	49	100%	80%	100%	82%
Columbia University	47	94%	81%	96%	74%
Stanford University	47	100%	94%	100%	91%
Indiana University	44	80%	48%	91%	57%
Average of All AAU Institutions	42	86%	61%	89%	64%
University of Pennsylvania	41	100%	90%	100%	85%
University of Virginia	38	76%	42%	95%	55%
University of Chicago	37	95%	78%	95%	86%
Princeton University	35	100%	91%	97%	94%
Northwestern University	31	97%	84%	97%	90%

SOURCE: National Research Council.

The National Research Council's Assessment of U.S. Research-Doctorate Programs was undertaken to provide universities with benchmarking data that they could use to improve program quality, and to provide prospective students and the public with information about the nation's doctoral programs.

The data used for the assessment was collected from 5,004 doctoral programs at 212 universities for the academic year 2005-2006. The data include characteristics of the faculty, such as their publications, citations, grants, and diversity; characteristics of the students, such as their GRE scores, financial support, publications, and diversity; and characteristics of the programs, such as number of Ph.D. degrees granted over five years, time to degree completion, percentage of students who complete graduate programs, and placement of students after graduation.

The methodology to arrive at a program's rank is complex and elicited criticism from the higher education community when first made public. Following revisions to the original 2010 report, a final version was released in 2011.

The S-ranking is based on a national survey of faculty members who were asked to weigh programs on measures such as number of faculty, number of publications, citations, and other quantifiable measures.

Using another approach, the R-ranking is based on asking randomly selected faculty members in each discipline to rate programs from a sample provided. A regression analysis of these ratings provided different program rankings.

All of the programs at each school were counted as "in" or "out" of the top half or the top quartile of the rankings. The percent of each school's programs to satisfy these two indicators is reported in the table. Furthermore, when the percentage of programs was at least one standard deviation better than the average of all AAU institutions, the percentage is displayed in a green rectangle.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

⁷ A list of the "official" peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The scope of U-M's research program and high number of Ph.D. degree recipients contribute most to the University's position in the *Washington Monthly* ordered list, which focuses on universities' contributions to society.

✦ 12.6 *Washington Monthly* National University Rankings, U-M and Peers⁸, 2016-2016.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stanford University	3	6	6	5	1
Harvard University	11	8	10	8	2
University of Pennsylvania	27	21	41	37	5
University of California-Berkeley	5	5	3	4	7
University of California-Los Angeles	6	10	5	6	8
Yale University	41	54	57	44	13
University of Washington	8	13	7	7	14
Princeton University	20	31	27	26	15
University of North Carolina	4	14	12	11	20
MICHIGAN	13	12	13	13	21
Columbia University	36	32	51	49	23
Cornell University	19	43	39	36	27
University of Wisconsin	18	15	17	19	28
University of Illinois	22	19	26	27	33
University of Minnesota	28	56	35	29	53
University of Virginia	48	51	60	63	54
Indiana University	84	127	124	107	77
University of Chicago	29	46	53	55	92
Northwestern University	75	58	101	106	99

SOURCE: *Washington Monthly*.

Washington Monthly lists schools based on their contributions to the public good in three broad categories: Social Mobility, Research, and Service, each providing one-third of a school's score.

The Social Mobility component attempts to measure an institution's success at recruiting and graduating low-income students. It looks at the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants and predicts the likelihood that these students will graduate based on SAT scores and graduation rates of past Pell Grant recipients.

The Research component attempts to measure the eventual contribution of a school's graduates to cutting-edge scholarship by combining a school's total research expenditures with the number of bachelor's degree recipients who continue their education and earn Ph.D degrees.

The Service component weighs a school's success at encouraging its students to give something back to the country. Service is based on factors such as the rate by which students and alumni serve in the Peace Corps, ROTC, and work study-funded community service projects, the rate of staff members involved in community service and the number of academic courses that incorporate a service feature.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

⁸ A list of the "official" peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

Michigan was held in high regard by corporate recruiters contacted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

12.7 Top Recruiter Picks (*Wall Street Journal*), U-M and Peers⁹, 2010.

University	Rank or Range
University of Illinois	3
MICHIGAN	6
Cornell University	14
University of California-Berkeley	15
University of Wisconsin	16
University of California-Los Angeles	17
University of Virginia	19
University of North Carolina	25
Columbia University	27-45
Indiana University	27-45
Stanford University	27-45
University of Minnesota	27-45
University of Pennsylvania	27-45
Harvard University	46+
Northwestern University	46+
University of Chicago	46+
Princeton University	--
University of Washington	--
Yale University	--

SOURCE: *Wall Street Journal*.

The *Wall Street Journal* surveyed recruiters of major corporations in 2010, asking them to rate universities according to the quality of their graduates. In reporting the survey results, WSJ wrote: “State universities have become the favorite of companies recruiting new hires because their big student populations and focus on teaching practical skills gives the companies more bang for their recruiting buck.”

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

⁹ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

Michigan performs well according to the “return on investment” metrics that are the focus of *Forbes’ America’s Top Colleges* list.

12.8 America’s Top Colleges (*Forbes*), U-M and Peers¹⁰, 2012-2016.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stanford University	3	1	2	3	1
Princeton University	1	3	4	4	3
Harvard University	6	8	7	6	4
Yale University	5	4	6	5	6
University of Pennsylvania	17	11	12	12	11
Northwestern University	22	17	19	16	15
Columbia University	8	5	20	15	16
University of Chicago	4	14	24	20	20
Cornell University	51	19	31	25	29
University of Virginia	36	29	40	36	36
University of California-Berkeley	50	22	37	35	40
MICHIGAN	57	30	45	41	44
University of California-Los Angeles	45	34	44	45	46
University of North Carolina	47	38	50	49	47
University of Wisconsin	147	68	70	69	69
University of Illinois	86	53	68	68	72
University of Washington	87	55	73	76	75
Indiana University	144	97	107	112	115
University of Minnesota	258	109	108	130	119

SOURCE: *Forbes*.

America’s Top Colleges is a ranking of 660 colleges and universities (in 2016) that *Forbes* and the Washington, D.C.-based Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) have produced since 2008. The distinction that *Forbes* make about its list is the focus on how well colleges and universities succeed at yielding successful graduates. Put bluntly, America’s Top Colleges attempts to rank institutions by the return on investment of time and money to attend a school.

The components of the rankings can vary somewhat from year-to-year. The breakdown described here applies only to the 2016 rankings, which includes the satisfaction expressed by students about their educational experience (25% of the ranking score), the four-year graduation rate (7.5%), career success by the school’s graduates (32.5%), student debt accrued and loan default rates (25%), and academic success of students as indicated by counts of students who earn prestigious scholarships and fellowships (10%).

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

¹⁰ A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M appears in the top twenty of an international list of leading universities that is based on several measures of faculty and alumni achievements.

12.9 Center for World University Rankings, U-M and Peers¹¹, 2012-2016.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Columbia University	9	6	6	6	6
University of California-Berkeley	10	7	7	7	7
University of Chicago	11	9	8	8	8
Princeton University	6	8	9	9	9
Yale University	8	10	10	11	10
Cornell University	12	13	11	10	12
University of Pennsylvania	13	12	14	14	14
University of California-Los Angeles	19	16	15	15	15
MICHIGAN	34	32	21	19	19
Northwestern University	33	28	23	22	21
University of Wisconsin	25	23	25	25	25
University of Washington	39	31	32	31	27
University of Illinois	26	24	28	33	34
University of North Carolina	36	34	45	40	38
University of Virginia	84	71	41	41	40
University of Minnesota	49	44	49	48	45
Indiana University	-	85	113	106	123

SOURCE: Center for World University Rankings.

The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) uses a methodology that it believes is resistant to manipulation on the part of the universities being evaluated. CWUR foregoes any opinion surveys, relying on data about quality of education, alumni employment, faculty awards and publications, among other factors.

The education quality measure is based on a weighted measure of alumni who have won major international awards, prizes, and medals. Alumni employment is a weighted count of alumni who have held CEO positions at the world's top companies.

The faculty quality factor is based on a weighted count of prestigious awards received by an institution's faculty

members, from Nobel Prizes to the many other less well-known, but still significant international awards (e.g. Draper Prize, Kyoto Prize, Fields Medal).

Other factors that go into the ranking calculation include a count of research publication in major journals, the frequency that papers are cited by others, and a count of international patent filings.

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue.

¹¹ A list of the "official" peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M is listed fifth among U.S. public universities and colleges as a good value for students.

★12.10 *Kiplinger's Best Value Public Colleges, U-M, Public Peer*¹² and Public Big Ten Universities, 2013-2017.

2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
University of North Carolina †	1	1	1	1	1
University of Virginia †	2	2	2	3	2
University of California-Berkeley †	8	9	4	4	3
MICHIGAN *	11	6	6	5	5
University of California-Los Angeles †	6	5	5	6	6
University of Maryland *	5	7	9	11	8
University of Wisconsin †*	13	8	8	8	11
University of Washington †	17	13	11	9	12
University of Illinois †*	43	38	36	26	16
Ohio State University *	37	26	15	17	22
University of Minnesota †*	45	44	32	25	20
Rutgers University *	50	47	43	47	33
Purdue University *	51	40	27	19	34
Michigan State University *	46	41	50	40	38
Pennsylvania State University *	48	53	56	49	44
Indiana University †*	39	37	40	44	55
University of Iowa *	49	56	86	57	79
University of Nebraska *	75	83	68	75	81

SOURCE: *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*.

The “best value” rankings published by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* starts with a pool of about 1,200 public and private four-year universities and colleges that it obtains from Peterson's, an educational data company and guide publisher. Criteria that indicate a school's “academic quality” and cost to students is used to rank schools, with 55 percent of the ranking on “quality criteria” and the remainder on “cost criteria.” In the end, *Kiplinger's* provides a list of the top 300 public and private schools, as well as three separate lists of the top 50 private universities, top 50 liberal arts colleges, and top 100 public universities.

Academic quality indicators include the admission rate (percentage of applicants offered admission) and “yield” (percentage of those admitted who enroll) for each school, SAT and ACT scores of enrolled students, four-year graduate rate, freshman retention rate, and student-to-faculty ratio.

Cost indicators include the total cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books), the amounts of need-based grants, non-need-based aid, the percentage of students who borrow to finance their educations, and the average student debt at graduation.

The public university rankings above, is based on *Kiplinger's* calculations for in-state students. *Kiplinger's* also publishes rankings for out-of-state students attending public universities (to offer a way to compare to private universities); those rankings are not included here.

† indicates a U-M peer university

* indicates a Big Ten university

¹² A list of the “official” peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

MONEY Magazine lists the U-M first among all U.S. public universities and colleges, and second overall.

12.11 MONEY's Best Colleges, U-M, Peer¹³ and Big Ten Universities, 2014-16.

	2014	2015	2016
Princeton University†	4	3	1
University of Michigan†*	22	18	2
Harvard University†	6	6	3
University of California-Berkeley†	13	9	5
University of Virginia†	16	17	9
Stanford University†	5	1	10
Yale University†	15	21	12
University of Maryland*	68	54	19
University of California-Los Angeles†	31	26	20
University of Illinois†*	76	75	22
University of Pennsylvania†	11	12	26
University of Washington†	47	56	30
University of North Carolina†	40	46	45
Purdue University*	76	101	51
Columbia University†	22	28	52
Michigan State University*	122	109	54
University of Minnesota†*	183	191	58
University of Wisconsin†*	99	116	63
Cornell University†	24	34	64
Northwestern University†*	129	89	70
Indiana University†*	169	157	77
University of Chicago†	101	127	83
Rutgers University*	86	105	105
Ohio State University*	144	134	130
University of Iowa*	156	318	198
Pennsylvania State University*	177	157	220
University of Nebraska*	223	318	364

SOURCE: MONEY Magazine.

MONEY Magazine made changes to its methodology for the 2016 list, which contributed to the large changes to the placement of many schools. It uses 24 factors across three categories: quality of education (such as graduation rate, academic preparation of the student body, and student-faculty ratio); affordability (such as net price of a degree, student and parent debt at graduation, risk of loan default, and net price to low-income families); and outcomes (such as PayScale.com earnings reports of alumni, career services offered and a "market" valuation of alumni skills).

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue. † indicates a U-M peer university; * indicates a Big Ten university.

¹³ A list of the "official" peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

