



## Chapter 12 Academic & Reputational Lists

### Overview

The publication of university and college rankings has grown increasingly popular since *U.S. News* released the results of its first reputational survey of U.S. universities in 1983.

While rankings today remain a compilation of opinions, most rankings (*US News* included) now blend opinion survey results and quantitative data. The ranking sponsors sort and organize the data and opinions by different methods and create ordered lists of institutions.

Ranking lists are now part of the public conversation about higher education, and they can influence policymakers, prospective students, and donors. University officials are pleased that U-M is continually recognized as an excellent institution, while also noting that what should matter most is to understand an institution's commitment to academic excellence and societal impact when selecting a school to attend.

Recently high-profile law schools and medical schools announced they will not submit data for the *US News* ranking process. Only time will tell what effect these actions will play on the system of university and college rankings. Ironically, rankings are based on publicly available data from federal or state government sources, data provided by the schools (that can usually be found on a school's website), and surveys of university and college presidents, provosts, and deans (whose opinions may serve as echo chambers of the *status quo*).

In this chapter you will find tables showing well-known rankings, with U-M's position alongside those of schools it considers as peers<sup>1</sup>. In the end, what matters most is choosing a school that matches a student's particular interests, abilities, and ambitions with the programs, approaches and opportunities offered by a particular school.

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<sup>1</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A

The U-M is one of the nation's leading public universities, according to the methodology used by *U.S. News & World Report* to produce its ordered list.

### 12.1.1 *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings of National Undergraduate Universities, U-M and Peers<sup>1</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
					All	Public
Princeton University	1	1	1	1	1	--
Columbia University	2	2	2	2	18	--
Harvard University	3	3	3	2	3	--
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	3	2	2	--
Yale University	3	3	3	5	3	--
Stanford University	7	6	6	6	3	--
University of Chicago	3	6	6	6	6	--
University of Pennsylvania	8	6	6	8	7	--
Duke University	8	10	12	9	10	--
Johns Hopkins University	10	10	9	9	7	--
Northwestern University	10	10	9	9	10	--
Cornell University	16	17	18	17	17	--
University of California-Los Angeles	19	20	20	20	20	1
Emory University	21	21	21	21	22	--
University of California-Berkeley	22	22	22	22	20	1
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>
University of Virginia	25	28	26	25	25	3
University of Southern California	22	22	24	27	25	--
University of North Carolina	30	29	28	28	29	5
University of Texas	49	48	42	38	38	10
University of Wisconsin	49	46	42	42	38	10
University of Illinois	46	48	47	47	41	13
Ohio State University	56	54	53	49	49	16
University of Washington	59	62	58	59	55	19

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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Colleges (2019-2023 Editions)

The *U.S. News & World Report* (*USN&WR*) system for creating an ordered list of 440 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: opinions of administrators at peer institutions (20%); rates that new first-year students return for a second year (4.4%); six-year graduation rates (17.6%); graduation rate performance (8%); factors that influence student social mobility (5%); faculty resources (20%); average spending per student on instruction, research and

student services (10%); student selectivity (7%); bachelor's graduates indebtedness (5%); and the rate at which living alumni donate to the institution (3%). 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 to *USN&WR* methodology. Michigan receives high marks for retention of first-year undergraduates, graduation rate, the percentage of first-year undergraduates in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, and its academic reputation.

<sup>1</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

101 U-M graduate schools and programs are listed in the top ten in their fields (in bold) by *U.S. News & World Report*. Programs in italics are outside the top ten in their fields.

### 12.1.2 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of U-M Graduate Schools and Programs, 2023.

Best Business Schools	
<b>Accounting</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Business Analytics</i>	13
<b>Entrepreneurship</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Executive MBA</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Information Systems</i>	13
<b>International</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Nonprofit</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part-time MBA</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Production/Operations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Project Management</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Real Estate</i>	18
<i>Supply Chain/Logistics</i>	12

Best Education Schools	
<b>Curriculum/Instruction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Education Policy</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Educational Administration</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Educational Psychology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Elem. Teacher Education</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Higher Education Admin.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Secondary Teacher Education</b>	<b>4</b>

Best Social Work Schools	
	<b>1</b>

Best Public Affairs Schools	
<b>Environ. Policy &amp; Mgmt.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Health Policy &amp; Management</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Nonprofit Management</i>	24
<i>Public Finance &amp; Budgeting</i>	35
<b>Public Policy Analysis</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Urban Policy</i>	22

Best Engineering Schools	
<b>Aerospace Engineering</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Biomedical Engineering</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chemical Engineering</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Civil Engineering</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Computer Engineering</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Electrical Engineering</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Environmental Engineering</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Industrial Engineering</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Materials Engineering</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nuclear Engineering</b>	<b>1</b>

Library & Information Studies Schools	
<b>Archives &amp; Preservation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Digital Librarianship</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Health Librarianship</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Information Systems</b>	<b>3</b>

Best Pharmacy Schools	
	<b>3</b>

Best Nursing Schools-Master's	
<b>Best Nursing Schools-Dr. Nursing Practice</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DNP Nurse Practitioner-Family</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DNP Nurse Pract. Adult/Ger., Acute Care</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Master's Nurse Pract. Adult/Ger., Acute Care</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Master's Nurse Practitioner Family</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Nursing Midwifery</b>	<b>2</b>

Best Public Health Schools	
<b>Biostatistics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Environmental Health Sciences</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Healthcare Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Health Policy and Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>	<b>5</b>

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Grad Schools (2024 Edition)

U.S. News & World Report publishes rankings of graduate programs offered by U.S. universities based on surveys of administrators, academics, and professionals as well as data that reflect the quality of a program's faculty, students, and research. Business, Education, Engineering Law, Medicine, and Nursing programs are evaluated each

year, while others are evaluated and ranked less frequently.

The U-M Law School and Medical School do not participate in the U.S. News Graduate Program Rankings.

### 12.1.2 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of U-M Graduate Schools and Programs, 2023 (continued).

Social Sciences	
<i>Economics</i>	12
<b>International Economics</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Labor Economics</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Public Finance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>American Politics</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Comparative Politics</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>International Politics</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Political Methodology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Economic Sociology</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Historical Sociology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sex &amp; Gender</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Social Stratification</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sociology of Population</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Best Social Work Schools</b>	<b>1</b>
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Humanities	
<b>English</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Through 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Lit.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Gender and Literature</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Literary Criticism and Theory</i>	18
<b>History</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>African History</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>African American History</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Asian History</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cultural History</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>European History</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Latin American History</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Modern U.S. History</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>U.S. Colonial History</i>	11
<b>Women's History</b>	<b>4</b>

Life and Physical Sciences	
<i>Biological Sciences</i>	23
<i>Cell Biology</i>	18
<b>Ecology/Evolutionary Biology</b>	<b>9</b>
Biostatistics	<b>4</b>
<i>Chemistry</i>	14
Analytical Chemistry	<b>6</b>
<i>Biochemistry</i>	12
<i>Organic Chemistry</i>	11
<i>Physical Chemistry</i>	19
<i>Computer Science</i>	11
<i>Artificial Intelligence</i>	10
<b>Programming Language</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Systems</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Theory</i>	15
<b>Earth Sciences</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Geochemistry</i>	11
<b>Geology</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Paleontology</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Mathematics</i>	11
<b>Algebra/Number Theory/Algebraic Geometry</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Analysis</i>	12
<i>Applied Math</i>	13
<b>Discrete Mathematics &amp; Combinatorics</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Geometry</i>	11
<b>Topology</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Physics</i>	13
<i>Condensed Matter</i>	16
<i>Elem. Part./Fields/String Th.</i>	12
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Behavioral Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Cognitive Psychology</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Developmental Psychology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Social Psychology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Statistics</b>	<b>7</b>

SOURCE: U.S. News & World Report, America's Best Grad Schools (2024 Edition)

U.S. News & World Report publishes rankings of graduate programs offered by U.S. universities based on surveys of administrators, academics, and professionals as well as data that reflect the quality of a program's faculty, students, and research. Business, Education, Engineering Law, Medicine,

and Nursing programs are evaluated each year, while others are evaluated and ranked less frequently.

The U-M Law School and Medical School do not participate in the U.S. News Graduate Program Rankings.

The University is a top-20 institution globally according to list of global universities published by *U.S. News & World Report*. The U-M's position on this global list is consistently higher than 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 Peers<sup>2</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	3	3	3	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	4	4	4	4	4
University of Washington	10	10	8	7	6
Columbia University	8	7	6	6	7
Johns Hopkins University	11	11	10	9	10
Yale University	12	12	11	12	11
University of California-Los Angeles	13	14	13	14	14
University of Pennsylvania	16	16	14	13	15
University of California-San Francisco	15	15	15	11	16
Princeton University	9	8	11	16	16
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
Cornell University	23	23	22	22	21
University of Chicago	14	13	15	15	22
Northwestern University	24	24	24	24	24
Duke University	22	22	23	23	25
University of North Carolina	32	33	36	39	41
University of Texas	36	34	38	43	43
Ohio State University	46	45	45	52	55
University of Wisconsin	35	37	41	52	63
Emory University	73	71	71	74	72
University of Illinois	54	59	60	72	74
University of Southern California	62	69	70	70	80
University of Virginia	111	107	109	110	119

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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, 2017-2021 Editions

Eight years ago, *U.S. News & World Report* added a global university comparison to its stable of rankings. The current list of 2,000 institutions 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 categories based on citations of published materials (50%); and counts of international collaborations (10%).

<sup>2</sup> Peer lists are provided 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 World University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>3</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Harvard University	6	7	3	2	6
Stanford University	3	4	2	4	3
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	5	5	5	5
Princeton University	7	6	9	7	7
University of California-Berkeley	15	13	7	8	18
Yale University	8	8	8	9	12
University of Chicago	10	9	10	10	9
Columbia University	16	16	17	11	14
Johns Hopkins University	12	12	12	13	13
University of Pennsylvania	12	11	13	13	10
University of California-Los Angeles	17	17	15	20	15
Cornell University	19	19	19	22	19
Duke University	18	20	20	23	17
Northwestern University	25	22	24	24	20
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>
University of Washington	28	26	29	29	25
University of Texas	39	38	44	47	49
University of Illinois	50	48	48	48	37
University of North Carolina	56	54	56	52	56
University of Wisconsin	43	51	49	58	43
University of Southern California	66	62	53	63	66
Emory University	84	80	85	82	98
Ohio State University	71	70	80	85	70
University of Virginia	107	107	117	127	113

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

SOURCE: *Times Higher Education*

Times Higher Education publishes two separate ordered lists based on two different methodologies. The World University Rankings (above) judges nearly 1,400 institutions on their teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and knowledge transfer. 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%), International outlook (7.5%), and Industry income (2.5%).

<sup>3</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

The U-M is listed 18th in the world according to the most recent *Times Higher Education* list based on academic reputation.

### 12.2.2 Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>4</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	3	3	3	4	3
University of California-Berkeley	6	6	6	6	6
Princeton University	7	7	7	7	7
Yale University	8	8	8	8	8
Columbia University	12	13	14	12	15
University of California-Los Angeles	9	9	9	9	16
University of Chicago	9	10	12	11	17
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
Johns Hopkins University	21	16	19	20	20
University of Pennsylvania	16	20	20	19	22
Cornell University	18	22	25	22	23
University of Washington	28	28	29	28	24
University of Illinois	32	34	32	27	30
Duke University	29	28	28	28	34
University of Texas	36	31	30	31	38
Northwestern University	37	33	34	32	42
University of California, San Francisco	44	42	50	51-60	45
University of North Carolina	51-60	50	48	44	71-80
University of Wisconsin	33	36	33	35	71-80
Ohio State University	61-70	61-70	71-80	71-80	81-90
University of Southern California	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	81-90
Emory University	--	--	126-150	91-100	151-175
University of Virginia	--	--	126-150	126-150	176-200

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

SOURCE: *Times Higher Education*

The World Reputation Rankings (above) are based on subjective judgments collected from an invitation-only survey returned by nearly 30,000 academics from around the world for the 2022 edition, distributed to reflect the demographics of world scholarship.

The survey asks each respondent to name no more than 10 universities that he or she considers to be the “best.” The top 100 schools in the list are assembled based on the frequency that each institution is included on the respondent’s lists of best institutions in their fields.

<sup>4</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.



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

### 12.3 QS World University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>5</sup>, 2019-2023.

University	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	1	1	1	1
Harvard University	3	3	5	5	4
Stanford University	2	2	3	3	5
University of California-Berkeley	28	30	32	27	10
University of Chicago	9	9	10	10	11
University of Pennsylvania	15	16	13	13	12
Cornell University	14	18	21	20	13
Yale University	17	17	14	18	16
Princeton University	13	12	20	16	17
Columbia University	18	19	19	22	23
Johns Hopkins University	24	25	25	24	28
University of California-Los Angeles	35	36	40	44	29
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>
Northwestern University	31	29	30	32	47
Duke University	25	42	52	50	57
University of Texas	65	71	67	72	58
University of Washington	68	72	85	80	63
University of Illinois	75	82	82	85	64
University of Wisconsin	56	65	75	83	102
University of Southern California	129	121	112	134	116
University of North Carolina	90	95	100	102	132
Ohio State University	101	108	120	140	151
Emory University	156	158	160	155	199
University of Virginia	192	217	226	253	260

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

SOURCE: QS Intelligence Unit

The 2023 QS World University Rankings evaluated 1,400 universities from across the world. A school's rank is based on an amalgamation of indicators obtained through a global survey and data collected about each institution. Starting with the 2023 list, the number of indicators went to nine from six, and the weight attributed to the categories changed.

The components and the weight for the 2023 ranking score are: reputation based on a survey of university leaders (30%

of score); reputation based on a survey of employers (10%); citations per faculty member according an analysis of citation databases (20%); student-to-faculty ratio (10%); proportion of international students in the student body (5%); and proportion of international scholars and scientists on the faculty.

<sup>5</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

The U-M consistently appears among the top universities worldwide and in the top 10 of U.S. public universities in the ordered list published by ShanghaiRanking.

12.4 Academic Ranking of World Universities, U-M and Peers<sup>6</sup>, 2019-2023.

University	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	4	4	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	5	5	5	5	5
Princeton University	6	6	6	6	6
Columbia University	8	7	8	8	8
University of Chicago	10	10	10	10	10
Yale University	11	11	11	11	11
Cornell University	13	12	12	12	12
University of California-Los Angeles	11	13	14	13	13
University of Pennsylvania	17	19	15	15	14
Johns Hopkins University	16	15	16	14	16
University of Washington	14	16	19	17	18
University of California-San Francisco	20	21	20	19	21
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	20	22	26	28	26
Northwestern University	29	30	34	30	30
University of North Carolina	33	30	29	29	31
Duke University	28	27	32	31	34
University of Wisconsin	27	32	31	33	35
University of Texas	45	41	41	37	43
University of Illinois	38	45	55	49	52
University of Southern California	55	61	61	53	58
Emory University	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150
Ohio State University	100	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150
University of Virginia	151-200	151-200	151-200	201-300	201-300

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

SOURCE: ShanghaiRanking Consultancy

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is based on six numerical elements (listed with the percent weight of the element in parentheses): school alumni who have won Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (10%), school faculty who have won 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. The most recent list ranks 1,000 institutions.

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.

<sup>6</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

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

### 12.5 *Washington Monthly* National University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>7</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Stanford University	2	1	1	1	1
University of Pennsylvania	13	6	7	6	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	3	2	3
Princeton University	4	8	7	17	4
Duke University	6	5	8	3	5
Harvard University	1	2	2	5	6
Yale University	5	4	4	18	7
Cornell University	31	25	25	15	8
University of California-Berkeley	18	20	17	10	9
University of Wisconsin	22	23	21	4	16
University of Illinois	32	17	18	8	17
University of Washington	15	19	16	11	19
University of California-Los Angeles	9	12	11	22	21
Johns Hopkins University	62	56	54	7	23
University of North Carolina	16	22	19	9	24
Columbia University	14	13	14	43	25
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>
Northwestern University	33	32	30	24	30
University of Virginia	40	52	28	28	31
University of Chicago	38	37	24	25	41
University of Southern California	60	64	53	95	52
Emory University	56	83	65	69	55
University of Texas	75	61	77	40	88
Ohio State University	105	95	98	41	95

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

SOURCE: *Washington Monthly*

*Washington Monthly* lists schools (442 national institutions in 2022) 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. However, *Washington Monthly* reported that “in the face of changing data availability,” it consulted a group of higher education experts for input on revising its ranking system.

The Social Mobility component underwent some change from previous years. It looked at graduate rates for all students, the graduation rate gap between students awarded Pell Grants compared to those not receiving such grants, while no longer considering first-generation student data because it was difficult to obtain for all schools.

The Research component examined “the total amount of an institution’s research spending; the number of science and engineering PhDs awarded by the university; the number of

undergraduate alumni who have gone on to receive a PhD in any subject, relative to the size of the college; the number of faculty receiving prestigious awards, relative to the number of full-time faculty; and the number of faculty in the National Academies, relative to the number of full-time faculty.”

The Service component was based on factors such as the rate by which students and alumni serve in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, ROTC participation, and work study-funded community service projects. Schools also ranked higher on this component for receiving the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, and for graduating a relatively higher number of students with degrees in health, education, and social work.

<sup>7</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

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

12.6 Forbes America’s Top Colleges, U-M and Peers<sup>9</sup>, 2017-2022.

University	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	5	4	4	6	1
Stanford University	2	3	2	4	2
University of California-Berkeley	29	14	13	1	3
Princeton University	4	5	5	3	4
Columbia University	14	15	14	5	5
University of California-Los Angeles	48	46	38	8	6
Yale University	5	2	3	2	8
Duke University	8	10	9	12	9
University of Pennsylvania	7	7	6	9	10
Northwestern University	28	20	17	10	11
Harvard University	1	1	1	7	15
Cornell University	15	13	11	13	16
Johns Hopkins University	30	25	22	37	18
University of Chicago	16	18	16	23	20
University of Southern California	44	30	30	17	21
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>
University of North Carolina	68	47	45	28	28
University of Virginia	40	34	33	30	29
Emory University	n/a	52	55	35	31
University of Washington	79	72	64	27	33
University of Illinois	69	56	68	31	34
University of Texas	91	74	76	45	43
University of Wisconsin	87	75	69	59	49
Ohio State University	131	122	121	105	--

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

SOURCE: Forbes.com

America’s Top Colleges is a ranking of 495 colleges and universities (in 2022) published by *Forbes*. Forbes skipped a 2020 list in order to reevaluate the method it uses to put institutions in a particular order. Its new methodology, in use for two years now, attempts to look at the kind of students educated and whether a school is “accessible to those who can’t afford high sticker prices.” Notably, the new set of criteria pushed Harvard out of the top ten for the first time.

Several new elements have gone into the rankings, which apply starting in 2021. The major categories are alumni salary (20%), student debt (15%), return on investment (15%), graduation rate (15%), Forbes’ American Leaders list (15%), retention rate (10%) and academic success (10%).

<sup>8</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M is listed among the top 20 universities according to an international list based on measures of faculty and alumni achievements.

### 12.7 Center for World University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>9</sup>, 2018-2022.

University	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	2	3	3	3	3
Princeton University	7	7	7	6	6
University of Chicago	10	10	9	8	7
Columbia University	8	6	6	7	8
University of Pennsylvania	13	9	8	9	9
Yale University	11	12	10	10	11
University of California-Berkeley	6	8	12	12	12
Cornell University	14	14	13	14	14
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Johns Hopkins University	16	18	15	16	16
Northwestern University	23	15	17	17	17
University of California-Los Angeles	15	16	18	18	18
Duke University	24	23	20	20	20
University of Illinois	32	20	22	22	22
University of Washington	19	19	23	23	25
University of Wisconsin	27	25	26	25	27
University of Texas	31	31	33	33	33
University of California-San Francisco	22	34	37	38	35
University of North Carolina	33	36	40	39	39
University of Southern California	51	44	51	51	50
Ohio State University	40	54	58	56	59
University of Virginia	79	53	64	69	71
Emory University	80	90	121	124	129

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

SOURCE: Center for World University Rankings

The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) foregoes any opinion surveys, relying on data about quality of education, alumni employment, faculty awards and publications, among other factors. The 2021 list ranked nearly 20,000 institutions and reported the top-ranked 2000 schools.

The education quality measure is based on a weighted measure of alumni who have won major international awards, prizes, and medals normalized for the university's size (25% of score). Alumni employment is a weighted count of alumni who have held CEO positions at the world's top companies (25%).

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 major, if less well-known, international awards, such as the Draper Prize, Kyoto Prize, and Fields Medal (25%).

Other factors in the ranking calculation include a count of research publications in major journals, the frequency that papers are cited by others, and a count of international patent filings (40%).

<sup>9</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

Money launched a new rating system in 2023 that groups schools of similar quality rather than in an ordered list. U-M is included in the most highly rated group of five stars, along with most of its peers.

### 12.8 Money Best Colleges, U-M and Peer<sup>10</sup> Universities, 2023.

Public Universities	Private Universities
<b>5 stars</b>	<b>5 stars</b>
University of California-Berkeley	Columbia University
University of California-Los Angeles	Cornell University
University of Illinois	Duke University
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</b>	Harvard University
University of North Carolina	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Virginia	Northwestern University
University of Washington	Princeton University
University of Wisconsin	Stanford University
	University of Chicago
	University of Pennsylvania
	Yale University
<b>4.5 stars</b>	<b>4.5 stars</b>
Ohio State University	Emory University
University of Texas	Johns Hopkins University
	University of Southern California

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

SOURCE: MONEY

Money’s methodology changed in 2023, moving to a system that grouped schools into one of six “star” categories. Of the 736 colleges evaluated, 34 placed in the 5-star group, including the U-M. Money’s new method differs from other rankings that put schools into an ordered list, highlighting that there is no one college that is better than all the others.

The new system acknowledges that schools of similar quality may be suited to prospective students according to everyone’s “characteristics, priorities, and goals” for a college education.

The formula for placing universities in a star ranking group used 26 factors across three broad categories of educational quality, affordability, and outcomes of graduates.

Quality examined graduation rates of all undergraduates and of those who received Pell grants, a comparison of the standardized test scores and grade point averages of incoming first-year undergraduates, and financial stability of each institution, among others.

Affordability factors included the typical cost of attending each school (considering the typical amount of grant and scholarship aid provided by a school), the typical debt incurred by graduates and their ability to pay off the debt in the future, as well as looking at typical costs according to family income levels.

Student outcomes looked at the earning of graduates ten years after entering college. It also compared eventual earnings to the cost of attending a school.

<sup>10</sup> Peer lists are provided in Appendix A

