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[1]. 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.

Charts in Chapter 12

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[1] 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[1], 2021-2025.**

University	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 All	2025 Public
Princeton University	1	1	1	1	1	-
MIT	4	2	2	2	2	-
Harvard University	2	2	3	3	3	-
Stanford University	6	6	3	3	4	-
Yale University	4	5	3	5	5	-
Duke University	12	9	10	7	6	-
Johns Hopkins University	9	9	7	9	6	-
Northwestern University	9	9	10	9	6	-
University of Pennsylvania	8	8	7	6	10	-
Cornell University	18	17	17	12	11	-
University of Chicago	6	6	6	12	11	-
Columbia University	3	2	18	12	13	-
University of California-Los Angeles	20	20	20	15	15	1
University of California-Berkeley	22	22	20	15	17	2
MICHIGAN	24	23	25	21	21	3
Emory University	21	21	22	24	24	-
University of Virginia	26	25	25	24	24	4
University of North Carolina	28	28	29	22	27	5
University of Southern California	24	27	25	28	27	-
University of Texas	42	38	38	32	30	7
University of Illinois	47	47	41	35	33	9
University of Wisconsin	42	42	38	35	39	13
Ohio State University	53	49	49	43	41	15
University of Washington	58	59	55	40	46	18

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue. [1] Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Colleges (2021-2025 Editions)

The *U.S. News & World Report* (*USN&WR*) system for creating an ordered list of 434 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: six-year graduation rates and performance (26%); opinions of administrators at peer institutions (20%); Pell grant graduation rates and performance (11%); average spending per student on instruction, research and student services (8%); faculty resources and salaries (8%); first-year retention rates (5%); borrower debt (5%); college graduates earning more than a high school graduate (5%); standardized test scores (5%); citations of university publications (4%);

and student-faculty ratio (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 *USN&WR* methodology. Michigan receives high marks for retention of first-year undergraduates, graduation rate, the percentage of college graduates earning more than a high school graduate, and its academic reputation.

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

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

Best Business Schools	12
Accounting	**4**
Business Analytics	19
Entrepreneurship	**6**
Executive MBA	**9**
Finance	**9**
Information Systems	13
International	**9**
Management	**2**
Marketing	**3**
Nonprofit	**5**
Part-time MBA	**6**
Production/Operations	**3**
Project Management	**3**
Real Estate	18
Supply Chain/Logistics	**10**

Best Education Schools	3
Curriculum/Instruction	**3**
Education Policy	**5**
Educational Administration	**9**
Educational Psychology	**2**
Elem. Teacher Education	**3**
Higher Education Admin.	**2**
Secondary Teacher Education	**2**

Best Social Work Schools	1

Best Fine Arts Programs	8

Best Public Affairs Schools	4
Environ. Policy & Mgmt.	**5**
Health Policy & Management	**2**
International/Global Policy and Admin	12
Local Government and Management	24
Nonprofit Management	27
Public Finance & Budgeting	27
Public Management & Leadership	26
Public Policy Analysis	**2**
Social Policy	**1**
Urban Policy	12

Best Engineering Schools	8
Aerospace Engineering	**9**
Biomedical Engineering	**10**
Chemical Engineering	**7**
Civil Engineering	**5**
Computer Engineering	**6**
Electrical Engineering	**7**
Environmental Engineering	**2**
Industrial Engineering	**2**
Materials Engineering	**8**
Mechanical Engineering	**6**
Nuclear Engineering	**1**

Library & Information Studies Schools	6
Archives & Preservation	**4**
Digital Librarianship	**8**
Health Librarianship	**2**
Information Systems	**3**

Best Pharmacy Schools	2

Best Nursing Schools-Master's	7
Best Nursing Schools-Dr. Nursing Practice	**8**
DNP Nurse Practitioner - Family	**6**
DNP Nurse Prac Adult/Ger Acute Care	**8**
DNP Nurse Prac Adult/Ger Primary Care	**3**
Master's Nurse Prac Adult/Ger Acute Care	**7**
Master's Nurse Prac Adult/Ger Primary Care	**8**
Master's Nurse Practitioner - Family	**6**
Nursing Midwifery	**6**

Best Public Health Schools	5
Biostatistics	**4**
Environmental Health Sciences	**6**
Epidemiology	**5**
Healthcare Management	**3**
Health Policy and Management	**3**
Social and Behavioral Sciences	**6**

Best Social Work Schools	1

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

Social Sciences	
Economics	12
Development Economics	12
Econometrics	17
Industrial Organization	15
International Economics	**9**
Labor Economics	**7**
Macroeconomics	14
Microeconomics	14
Public Finance	**7**
Political Science	**4**
American Politics	**1**
Comparative Politics	**7**
International Politics	**6**
Political Methodology	**4**
Sociology	**2**
Economic Sociology	**5**
Historical Sociology	**1**
Sex & Gender	**5**
Social Stratification	**3**
Sociology of Culture	14
Sociology of Population	**5**

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

Humanities	
English	**8**
18th Through 20th Century British Lit.	21
Gender and Literature	**7**
Literary Criticism and Theory	18
History	**2**
African History	**5**
African American History	**9**
Asian History	**8**
Cultural History	**10**
European History	**7**
Latin American History	**4**
Modern U.S. History	**7**
U.S. Colonial History	11
Women's History	**4**

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

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[2], 2020-2024.

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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	5
University of Washington	10	8	7	6	7
Columbia University	7	6	6	7	9
Yale University	12	11	12	11	10
University of California--Los Angeles	14	13	14	14	11
Johns Hopkins University	11	10	9	10	13
University of Pennsylvania	16	14	13	15	14
University of California--San Francisco	15	15	11	16	15
Princeton University	8	11	16	16	18
University of Michigan--Ann Arbor	17	17	19	19	19
Cornell University	23	22	22	21	19
Northwestern University	24	24	24	24	24
University of Chicago	13	15	15	22	25
Duke University	22	23	23	25	26
University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill	33	36	39	41	47
University of Texas--Austin	34	38	43	43	56
Ohio State University--Columbus	45	45	52	55	61
Emory University	71	71	74	72	63
University of Wisconsin--Madison	37	41	52	63	74
University of Southern California	69	70	70	80	79
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	59	60	72	74	100
University of Virginia	107	109	110	119	125

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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020-24 Editions

Eight years ago, *U.S. News & World Report* added a global university comparison to its stable of rankings. The current list of 2,250 institutions concentrates on schools' academic research and reputation overall as well as location, campus culture, strength of particular programs, and cost, according to the publisher.

For the global ranking, U.S. News starts with data from the Clarivate global reputation survey, 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%).

[2] 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[3], 2020-2024.

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Stanford University	5	5	5	3	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	2	2	4	3
Harvard University	9	7	7	6	4
Princeton University	2	4	3	2	6
University of California-Berkeley	13	8	8	9	8
Yale University	7	9	9	10	10
University of Chicago	8	10	13	13	14
Johns Hopkins University	12	13	14	16	14
University of Pennsylvania	10	13	15	15	16
Columbia University	15	11	11	17	18
University of California-Los Angeles	17	20	21	18	18
Cornell University	19	22	20	20	20
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	22	24	23	23	22
University of Washington-Seattle	29	29	26	25	25
Duke University	20	23	25	26	27
Northwestern University	24	24	26	28	31
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	48	48	48	42	46
University of Texas at Austin	44	47	50	52	50
University of Wisconsin-Madison	49	58	81	63	56
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	56	52	69	72	70
University of Southern California	53	63	63	74	72
Ohio State University	85	82	82	106	98
Emory University	80	85	112	99	116
University of Virginia	117	127	156	166	163

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 2,700 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 18 performance indicators in five groups: Teaching (worth 29.5% of the overall ranking score), research environment (29%), research quality (30%), international outlook (7.5%), and industry income (4%).

[3] 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[4], 2019-2023.

University	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	3	3	4	3	3
University of California, Berkeley	6	6	6	6	6
Princeton University	7	7	7	7	7
Yale University	8	8	8	8	9
University of California, Los Angeles	9	9	9	16	15
Columbia University	13	14	12	15	16
University of Chicago	10	12	11	17	17
University of Michigan	15	15	16	18	18
Johns Hopkins University	16	19	20	20	20
Cornell University	22	25	22	23	22
University of Pennsylvania	20	20	19	22	23
University of Washington	28	29	28	24	26
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	34	32	37	30	32
Duke University	28	28	28	34	32
University of Texas at Austin	31	30	31	38	38
University of Wisconsin	36	33	35	71-80	39
Northwestern University	33	34	32	42	44
University of California, San Francisco	42	50	51-60	45	47
Emory University	--	126-150	91-100	151-175	151-175
University of Virginia	--	126-150	126-150	176-200	176-200
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	50	48	44	71-80	61-70
Ohio State University	61-70	71-80	71-80	81-90	91-100
University of Southern California	61-70	61-70	61-70	81-90	91-100

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 39,000 academics from around the world for the 2023 edition, distributed to reflect the demographics of world scholarship.

The survey asks each respondent to name no more than 15 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.

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[4] 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[5], 2020-2024.

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	1	1	1	1
Harvard University	3	5	5	4	4
Stanford University	2	3	3	5	6
University of Pennsylvania	16	13	13	12	11
University of California-Berkeley	30	32	27	10	12
Cornell University	18	21	20	13	16
University of Chicago	9	10	10	11	21
Princeton University	12	20	16	17	22
Yale University	17	14	18	16	23
Johns Hopkins University	25	25	24	28	32
Columbia University	19	19	22	23	34
University of California-Los Angeles	36	40	44	29	42
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	21	23	25	33	44
Northwestern University	29	30	32	47	50
Duke University	42	52	50	57	61
University of Texas at Austin	71	67	72	58	66
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	82	82	85	64	69
University of Washington-Seattle	72	85	80	63	76
University of Wisconsin-Madison	65	75	83	102	116
University of Southern California	121	112	134	116	125
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	95	100	102	132	155
Emory University	158	160	155	199	196
Ohio State University	108	120	140	151	208
University of Virginia-Main Campus	217	226	253	260	297

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

SOURCE: QS Intelligence Unit

The 2024 QS World University Rankings evaluated 5,663 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.

The components and the weight for the 2024 ranking score are: academic reputation (30%); citations per faculty (20%); employer reputation (15%); employment outcomes (5%); faculty student ratio (10%); international faculty (5%); international research work (5%); international students (5%); and sustainability (5%).

[5] 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[6], 2020-2024.

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	4	3	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	5	5	5	5	5
Princeton University	6	6	6	6	7
Columbia University	7	8	8	8	8
University of Chicago	10	10	10	10	10
Yale University	11	11	11	11	11
Cornell University	12	12	12	12	12
University of Pennsylvania	19	15	15	14	14
University of California-Los Angeles	13	14	13	13	15
Johns Hopkins University	15	16	14	16	17
University of Washington-Seattle	16	19	17	18	18
University of California-San Francisco	21	20	19	21	20
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	22	26	28	26	30
Northwestern University	30	34	30	30	33
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	30	29	29	31	35
University of Wisconsin-Madison	32	31	33	35	36
Duke University	27	32	31	34	39
University of Texas at Austin	41	41	37	43	45
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	45	55	49	52	55
University of Southern California	61	61	53	58	62
Ohio State University	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150	82
Emory University	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150	101-150
University of Virginia-Main Campus	151-200	151-200	201-300	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 broad subject categories according to Clarivate (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 2,500 institutions and publishes the best 1,000.

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] 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[7], 2020-2024.**

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	2	3	3	1
Stanford University	1	1	1	2	2
University of Pennsylvania	7	6	2	4	3
Harvard University	2	5	6	1	4
Princeton University	5	17	4	5	5
Columbia University	14	43	25	7	6
Duke University	6	3	5	6	7
Cornell University	25	15	8	10	8
Yale University	4	18	7	8	11
University of Wisconsin-Madison	21	4	16	11	12
University of California-Berkeley	17	10	9	9	13
Johns Hopkins University	54	7	23	13	14
University of Washington-Seattle	16	11	19	14	17
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	29	16	26	23	18
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	19	9	24	17	19
University of California-Los Angeles	11	22	21	16	20
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	18	8	17	24	27
Northwestern University	30	24	30	31	34
University of Chicago	24	25	41	32	35
University of Virginia	28	28	31	42	37
Emory University	63	69	55	50	42
University of Southern California	53	95	52	47	46
Ohio State University	98	41	95	68	92
University of Texas at Austin	77	40	88	87	98

Data for public universities are shaded in yellow; private university data are shaded in blue. [7] Peer lists are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: *Washington Monthly*

Washington Monthly lists schools (1,444 national institutions in 2024) 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 in 2023 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 Enagement, and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, and for graduating a relatively higher number of students with degrees in health, education. and social work.

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[1], 2019-2024.

University	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Princeton University	5	3	4	1	1
Stanford University	2	4	2	3	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	6	1	4	3
Yale University	3	2	8	2	4
University of California-Berkeley	13	1	3	5	5
Columbia University	14	5	5	6	6
University of Pennsylvania	6	9	10	8	7
Harvard University	1	7	15	9	8
Cornell University	11	13	16	12	10
Northwestern University	17	10	11	18	11
Johns Hopkins University	22	37	18	13	12
University of California-Los Angeles	38	8	6	7	13
University of Chicago	16	23	20	28	14
Duke University	9	12	9	17	20
University of Southern California	30	17	21	14	28
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	20	22	25	23	29
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	45	28	28	32	31
Emory University	55	35	31	-	33
University of Virginia	33	30	29	29	34
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	68	31	34	30	40
University of Washington-Seattle	64	27	33	26	44
University of Texas-Austin	76	45	43	31	46
University of Wisconsin-Madison	69	59	49	39	50
Ohio State University	121	105	--	-	86

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 2024) 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 attempts to look at the kind of students educated and whether a school is "accessible to those who can't afford high sticker prices."

The major categories that affect rankings 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%).

[1] 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[9], 2020-2024.

University	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	3	3	3	3	3
Princeton University	7	6	6	6	6
Columbia University	6	7	8	8	7
University of Pennsylvania	8	9	9	9	8
Yale University	10	10	11	10	9
University of Chicago	9	8	7	7	11
University of California-Berkeley	12	12	12	12	12
Cornell University	13	14	14	14	14
Northwestern University	17	17	17	15	15
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	16	15	15	16	16
University of California-Los Angeles	18	18	18	18	17
Johns Hopkins University	15	16	16	17	18
Duke University	20	20	20	20	21
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	22	22	22	22	22
University of Washington-Seattle Campus	23	23	25	25	25
University of Wisconsin-Madison	26	25	27	28	28
University of Texas-Austin	33	33	33	34	35
University of California-San Francisco	37	38	35	36	37
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	40	39	39	37	39
University of Southern California	51	51	50	53	53
Ohio State University	58	56	59	60	59
University of Virginia-Main Campus	64	69	71	71	69
Emory University	121	124	129	131	128

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 2024 list ranked nearly 21,000 institutions and reported the top-ranked 2,000 schools.

The education quality measure is based on the academic success of a university's alumni, measured relative to 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 (10%).

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

[9] 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[10] Universities, 2024.

Public Universities		Private Universities	
University of California Berkeley	★★★★★	Columbia University	★★★★★
University of California Los Angeles	★★★★★	Cornell University	★★★★★
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	★★★★★	Duke University	★★★★★
University of Michigan	★★★★★	Harvard University	★★★★★
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	★★★★★	MIT	★★★★★
University of Virginia	★★★★★	Northwestern University	★★★★★
University of Washington Seattle	★★★★★	Princeton University	★★★★★
University of Wisconsin Madison	★★★★★	Stanford University	★★★★★
University of Texas-Austin	★★★★⯪	University of Chicago	★★★★★
Ohio State University	★★★★	University of Pennsylvania	★★★★★
		Yale University	★★★★★
		Johns Hopkins University	★★★★★
		Emory 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 745 colleges evaluated, 54 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 25 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.

[10] Peer lists are provided in Appendix A