




## 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 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 have an influence on some policymakers, prospective students, and donors. The U-M, however, avoids using these lists to guide decision-making about academic programs or spending priorities. Even so, the institution does monitor its placement on these lists, keeps an eye on the methodologies applied, and provides accurate data to the list keepers.

In this chapter you will find many of the best-known rankings, with U-M's position alongside those of schools the U-M considers its peers. In the end, however, the U-M believes that what matters most in choosing a school is finding a match between a student's particular interests, abilities, and ambitions with the specific programs, approaches and opportunities offered by a particular school.

 *Chart updated since the September 2019 edition.*

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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>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
					All	Public
Harvard University	2	2	2	2	2	--
Columbia University	4	5	5	3	3	--
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	7	7	5	3	3	--
Yale University	3	3	3	3	3	--
Stanford University	4	5	5	7	6	--
University of Chicago	4	3	3	3	6	--
University of Pennsylvania	9	8	8	8	6	--
Northwestern University	12	12	11	10	9	--
Johns Hopkins University	10	10	11	10	10	--
Cornell University	15	15	14	16	17	--
University of California-Los Angeles	23	24	21	19	20	1
University of California-Berkeley	20	20	21	22	22	2
University of Southern California	23	23	21	22	22	--
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>
University of Virginia	26	24	25	25	28	4
New York University	32	36	30	30	29	--
University of North Carolina	30	30	30	30	29	5
University of Wisconsin	41	44	46	49	46	13
University of Illinois	41	44	52	46	48	14
University of Texas	52	56	56	49	48	14
Ohio State University	52	54	54	56	55	17
University of Washington	52	54	56	59	62	22
University of Maryland	57	60	61	63	64	24

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 (2016-2020 Editions)

The *U.S. News & World Report (USN&WR)* system for creating an ordered list of 399 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 (20%); first-year retention rates (4.4%); six-year graduation rates (17.6%); factors that influence student social mobility (13%); faculty resources (20%); average spending per student on instruction, research and student services

(10%); student excellence (10%); and the rate at which living alumni donate to the institution (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.

<sup>1</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

Of 111 U-M graduate programs scored by *U.S. News & World Report*, 102 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, 2018.**

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS			
<b>Business</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Medicine</b>	
Accounting	4	Primary Care	7
Entrepreneurship	7	Anesthesiology	6
Executive M.B.A.	6	Internal Medicine	7
Finance	10	Obstetrics-Gynecology	4
International	5	Radiology	9
Management	3	Surgery	6
Marketing	4	Public Health	4
Nonprofit	5	Healthcare Management	1
Part-time M.B.A.	6	Social Work	1
Production/Operations	3	Pharmacy	3
Supply Chain/Logistics	6		
		<b>Law</b>	<b>8</b>
		Clinical Training	7
		International Law	6
		Tax Law	10
		<b>Nursing</b>	
		Master's	8
		Nurse Practitioner–Family	10
		Nurse Practitioner–Adult/ Gerontology, Primary Care	8
		Nursing Service Admin.	8
		Nursing Informatics	8
		Nursing Midwifery	1

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in Engineering, Sciences, Education, Information			
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sciences</b>	
Aerospace Engineering	5	Algebra/Number Theory	7
Biomedical Engineering	9	Analytical Chemistry	4
Civil Engineering	9	Artificial Intelligence	9
Computer Engineering	6	Computer Science-Systems	9
Electrical Engineering	7	Discr. Math/Combinations	4
Environmental Engineering	9	Earth Sciences	10
Industrial Engineering	2	Ecology/Evol. Biology	6
Materials Engineering	9	Elem. Part./Fields/String Th.	10
Mechanical Engineering	5	Geochemistry	8
Nuclear Engineering	1	Geology	5
		Organic Chemistry	10
		Paleontology	4
		<b>Education</b>	
		Curriculum & Instruction	6
		Education Policy	7
		Educational Psychology	2
		Elem. Teacher Education	2
		Higher Education Admin.	1
		Secondary Teacher Education	2
		Library & Info. Studies	5
		Archives & Preservation	1
		Digital Librarianship	8
		Health Librarianship	4
		Information Systems	1

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Grad Schools (2019 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 2018, *USN&WR* updated public affairs, the sciences and mathematics, and social work. All other programs listed on this and the following page were ranked prior to 2018 and republished here and on the next page.

**12.1.2 U.S. News & World Report Rankings of U-M Top-Ten Graduate Programs, 2018 (continued).**

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Public Policy		
<b>Economics</b>		
International Economics	8	
Labor Economics	6	
Econometrics	9	
Industrial Organization	9	
Public Finance	4	
Political Science	4	
American Politics	5	
Comparative Politics	6	
International Politics	5	
Political Methodology	5	
Political Theory	7	
		<b>Sociology</b>
		Economic Sociology
		Historical Sociology
		Sex & Gender
		Social Stratification
		Sociology of Population
		History
		Asian History
		European History
		Latin American History
		Modern U.S. History
		English
		Medieval/Renaissance Lit.
		<b>Psychology</b>
		Behavioral Neuroscience
		Cognitive Psychology
		Developmental Psychology
		Experimental Psychology
		Social Psychology
		Public Policy
		Environ. Policy & Mgmt.
		Health Policy & Management
		Public Policy Analysis
		Social Policy
		Urban Policy

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report, America's Best Grad Schools (2019 Edition)*

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>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	4	3	3	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	3	4	4	4	4
Columbia University	9	9	8	8	7
University of Washington	11	11	10	10	10
Johns Hopkins University	12	11	10	11	11
Yale University	14	14	10	12	12
University of Chicago	10	13	14	14	13
University of California-Los Angeles	8	10	13	13	14
University of Pennsylvania	14	17	19	16	16
University of Michigan	17	17	17	18	17
Cornell University	21	22	23	23	23
Northwestern University	25	25	24	24	24
New York University	34	27	28	28	28
University of North Carolina	27	32	34	32	33
University of Texas	30	30	32	36	34
University of Wisconsin	26	29	31	35	37
Ohio State University	34	43	46	46	45
University of Maryland	41	40	50	51	51
University of Illinois	43	47	51	54	59
University of Southern California	44	53	62	62	69
University of Virginia	94	99	107	111	107

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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, 2015-2019 Editions

Five years ago, *U.S. News & World Report* added a global university comparison to its stable of rankings. This list of 1,500 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 counts of citations of published materials (50%); and counts of international collaborations (10%).

<sup>2</sup> A list of 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 Peers<sup>3</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Stanford University	3	3	3	3	4
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	5	5	5	4	5
Harvard University	6	6	6	6	7
Yale University	12	12	12	8	8
University of Chicago	10	10	9	10	9
University of Pennsylvania	17	13	10	12	11
Johns Hopkins University	11	17	13	12	12
University of California-Berkeley	13	10	18	15	13
Columbia University	15	16	14	16	16
University of California-Los Angeles	16	14	15	17	17
Cornell University	18	19	19	19	19
University of Michigan	21	21	21	20	21
Northwestern University	25	20	20	25	22
University of Washington	32	25	25	28	26
New York University	30	32	27	27	29
University of Texas	46	50	49	39	38
University of Illinois	36	36	37	50	48
University of Wisconsin	50	45	43	43	51
University of North Carolina	63	56	56	56	54
University of Southern California	68	60	66	66	62
Ohio State University	90	72	70	71	70
University of Maryland	117	67	69	82	91
University of Virginia	147	121	113	107	107

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

The U-M is listed 15th 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 Peers<sup>4</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	5	3	3	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	6	6	6	6	6
Yale University	8	8	8	8	8
University of California-Los Angeles	13	13	13	9	9
University of Chicago	11	11	12	9	10
Columbia University	10	9	12	12	13
University of Michigan	19	14	15	15	15
Johns Hopkins University	18	22	21	21	16
University of Pennsylvania	23	16	19	16	20
Cornell University	20	17	23	18	22
New York University	20	25	25	26	26
University of Washington	33	29	34	28	28
University of Texas	46	34	32	36	31
Northwestern University	47	30	31	37	33
University of Illinois	30	30	36	32	34
University of Wisconsin	--	--	32	33	36
University of North Carolina	61-70	51-60	50	51-60	50
Ohio State University	81-90	51-60	61-70	61-70	61-70
University of Southern California	61-70	61-70	71-80	61-70	61-70
University of Maryland	91-100	51-60	71-80	71-80	61-70
University of Virginia	--	--	--	--	--

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 more than 11,000 academics from around the world for the 2019 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> A list of 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 Peers<sup>5</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	3	2	2	2	2
Harvard University	2	3	3	3	3
University of Chicago	10	10	9	9	9
Cornell University	17	16	14	14	14
University of Pennsylvania	18	18	19	19	15
Yale University	15	15	16	15	17
Columbia University	22	20	18	16	18
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Johns Hopkins University	16	17	17	21	24
University of California-Berkeley	26	28	27	27	28
Northwestern University	32	26	28	34	31
University of California-Los Angeles	27	31	33	32	35
New York University	53	46	52	43	39
University of Wisconsin	54	54	55	53	56
University of Texas	77	67	67	63	65
University of Washington	65	59	61	66	68
University of Illinois	59	66	69	71	75
University of North Carolina	79	78	80	83	90
Ohio State University	99	88	86	89	101
University of Southern California	130	136	132	115	129
University of Maryland	126	131	129	126	136
University of Virginia	172	172	173	192	192

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

SOURCE: QS Intelligence Unit

The QS World University Rankings evaluates more than 1,000 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.

<sup>5</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

The U-M consistently appears among the top universities worldwide and in the top 25 of U.S. universities according to the ordered list published by ShanghaiRanking.

#### 12.4 Academic Ranking of World Universities, U-M and Peers<sup>6</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	5	4	4	4
University of California-Berkeley	4	3	5	5	5
Columbia University	8	9	8	8	8
University of Chicago	9	10	10	10	10
University of California-Los Angeles	14	12	12	11	11
Yale University	11	11	11	12	11
Cornell University	13	13	14	12	13
University of Washington	15	15	13	14	14
Johns Hopkins University	16	16	18	18	16
University of Pennsylvania	17	18	17	16	17
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>
University of Wisconsin	24	28	28	28	27
Northwestern University	27	26	22	25	29
New York University	27	29	29	32	30
University of North Carolina	39	35	33	30	33
University of Illinois	29	30	37	41	38
University of Texas	37	44	51	40	45
University of Maryland	43	52	53	51	46
University of Southern California	49	49	54	60	55
Ohio State University	67	79	80	94	100
University of Virginia	101-150	151-200	151-200	151-200	151-200

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): 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. 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.

<sup>6</sup> A list of 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 Graduate Program Assessment, U-M and Selected Peers, 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%
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92%</b>
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%
Northwestern University	31	97%	84%	97%	90%

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

SOURCE: National Research Council

The National Research Council (NRC) 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 2005-06. 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.

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.

✦ 12.6 *Washington Monthly* National University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>7</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Stanford University	5	1	1	2	1
Harvard University	8	2	2	1	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	15	2	3	3	3
Yale University	44	13	10	5	4
University of Pennsylvania	37	5	7	13	6
University of California-Los Angeles	6	8	15	9	12
Columbia University	49	23	16	14	13
University of Illinois	27	33	35	32	17
University of Washington	7	14	8	15	19
University of California-Berkeley	4	7	14	18	20
University of North Carolina	11	20	23	16	22
University of Wisconsin	19	28	26	22	23
Cornell University	36	27	32	31	25
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Northwestern University	106	99	59	33	32
University of Chicago	55	92	51	38	37
University of Maryland	60	56	70	49	45
University of Virginia	63	54	36	40	52
Johns Hopkins University	48	47	56	62	56
University of Texas	24	70	51	75	61
University of Southern California	65	46	63	60	64
Ohio State University	18	69	119	105	95
New York University	97	174	168	147	107

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

SOURCE: *Washington Monthly*

*Washington Monthly* lists schools (395 institutions in 2019) 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.

<sup>7</sup> A list of 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.

12.7 America’s Top Colleges (*Forbes*), U-M and Peers<sup>8</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	6	4	1	1	1
Stanford University	3	1	2	3	2
Yale University	5	6	5	2	3
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	10	5	5	4	4
University of Pennsylvania	12	11	7	7	6
Cornell University	25	29	15	13	11
University of California-Berkeley	35	40	29	14	13
Columbia University	15	16	14	15	14
University of Chicago	20	20	16	18	16
Northwestern University	16	15	28	20	17
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>
Johns Hopkins University	62	66	30	25	22
University of Southern California	71	65	44	30	30
University of Virginia	36	36	40	34	33
New York University	77	77	52	48	35
University of California-Los Angeles	45	46	48	46	38
University of North Carolina	49	47	68	47	45
University of Maryland	93	82	72	61	63
University of Washington	76	75	79	72	64
University of Illinois	68	72	69	56	68
University of Wisconsin	69	69	87	75	69
University of Texas	82	93	91	74	76
Ohio State University	155	160	131	122	121

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

SOURCE: *Forbes*

America’s Top Colleges is a ranking of 650 colleges and universities (in 2019) 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 2018 rankings, which includes alumni salary (20%), student debt (20%), the student experience (20%), *Forbes’ American Leaders* list (15%), graduation rates (12.5%), and academic success (12.5%).

<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.

### 12.8 Center for World University Rankings, U-M and Peers<sup>9</sup>, 2015-2019.

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	3	3	2
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	3
Columbia University	6	6	6	8	6
University of California-Berkeley	7	7	7	6	8
University of Pennsylvania	14	14	14	13	9
University of Chicago	8	8	8	10	10
Yale University	11	10	10	11	12
Cornell University	10	12	12	14	14
Northwestern University	22	21	17	23	15
University of California-Los Angeles	15	15	15	15	16
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>
Johns Hopkins University	16	16	16	16	18
University of Washington	31	27	25	19	19
University of Illinois	33	34	36	32	20
University of Wisconsin	25	25	26	27	25
New York University	18	22	19	25	26
University of Texas	30	32	30	31	31
University of North Carolina	40	38	38	33	36
University of Southern California	51	44	45	51	44
University of Virginia	41	40	40	79	53
Ohio State University	49	46	48	40	54
University of Maryland	72	68	80	47	99

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 2019 list ranked 2000 institutions.

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 major, if less well-known, international awards (e.g. Draper Prize, Kyoto Prize, Fields Medal).

Other factors that go into 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.

<sup>9</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

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

12.9 *Kiplinger's Best Value Public Colleges (In-State Students), U-M, Public Peer<sup>10</sup> and Public Big Ten Universities, 2015-2019.*

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
University of North Carolina †	1	1	1	1	1
University of California-Berkeley †	4	4	3	5	3
University of Virginia †	2	3	2	3	4
University of Washington †	11	9	12	7	5
<b>MICHIGAN *</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
University of California-Los Angeles †	5	6	6	6	7
University of Texas †	14	13	13	8	8
University of Maryland †*	9	11	8	10	10
University of Wisconsin †*	8	8	11	13	11
Purdue University *	27	19	34	15	13
Indiana University *	40	44	55	33	24
University of Illinois †*	36	26	16	30	26
University of Minnesota *	32	25	20	23	28
Ohio State University †*	15	17	22	25	29
Pennsylvania State University *	56	49	44	51	36
University of Iowa *	86	57	79	55	42
Rutgers University *	43	47	33	34	50
Michigan State University *	50	40	38	40	53
University of Nebraska *	68	75	81	83	88

† indicates a U-M peer university; \* indicates a Big Ten university.

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 400 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.

<sup>10</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

**MONEY's** latest ordered list places the U-M fifth among U.S. public universities and colleges, and eighth overall.

**12.10 MONEY's Best Colleges, U-M and Peer<sup>11</sup> Universities, 2015-2019.**

University	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
University of California-Los Angeles	26	20	5	4	4
Stanford University	1	10	5	5	6
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	11	8	6	7
University of Michigan	18	2	3	9	8
University of Virginia	17	9	11	10	10
University of California-Berkeley	9	5	4	7	11
Harvard University	6	3	10	16	14
Yale University	21	12	14	15	17
University of Illinois	75	22	22	25	20
University of Washington	56	30	13	19	22
University of Texas	82	50	31	27	28
University of Pennsylvania	12	26	27	14	32
University of Maryland	54	19	20	28	43
University of Wisconsin	116	63	45	48	46
University of North Carolina	46	45	60	58	52
Northwestern University	89	70	103	86	62
University of Chicago	127	83	54	37	77
Columbia University	28	52	21	56	81
Cornell University	34	64	59	92	91
Johns Hopkins University	85	81	131	105	125
University of Southern California	n/a	155	116	113	131
Ohio State University	134	130	102	120	152
New York University	n/a	306	210	198	206

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

SOURCE: MONEY

MONEY Magazine's methodology evaluated 744 schools for the 2019 list on 17 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).

<sup>11</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.



**U-M ranks second among public universities in a ranking of U.S. universities launched four years ago.**

**12.11 *Wall Street Journal* - Times Higher Education U.S. College Rankings, U-M and Peer<sup>12</sup> Universities, 2016-2019.**

University	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harvard University	2	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	2	2
Yale University	6	6	3	3
University of Pennsylvania	4	8	10	4
Stanford University	1	3	6	7
Cornell University	8	10	11	9
Northwestern University	10	15	13	11
Johns Hopkins University	13	17	21	12
University of Chicago	14	11	14	14
Columbia University	5	2	4	15
University of Southern California	17	15	17	18
University of California-Los Angeles	28	25	25	25
University of Michigan	22	27	28	27
New York University	26	29	27	31
University of North Carolina	30	33	37	33
University of California-Berkeley	35	40	33	34
University of Washington	75	89	60	42
University of Illinois	45	48	47	47
University of Virginia	50	56	51	50
University of Texas	52	56	62	61
University of Wisconsin	63	71	66	67
University of Maryland	96	82	81	75
Ohio State University	68	69	94	86

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

SOURCE: *Wall Street Journal*

Data used for creating this ordered list (of 801 schools for 2019) comes from two surveys conducted by Times Higher Education – one of students and one of academic leaders and professors. Other inputs come from U.S. Department of Education datasets, the federal College Scorecard, Bureau of Economic Analysis data, and academic citations data provided by Elsevier.

A school's placement on the list is weighted according to the following factors: Budget resources per student (11%), the number of faculty per student (11%), the count of research articles published per student (8%), interpretations of student responses to survey questions about engagement, interactions

with teachers and students, and other topics (20%), graduation rates (11%), the school's academic reputation (10%), a mystery calculation related to salary after graduation and loan repayment success (19%), and campus demographics (10%).

<sup>12</sup> A list of peers used for comparison on this page is found in Appendix A.

