Chapter 12 Academic & Reputational Lists

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

This chapter provides results from several well-known rankings, some of which have been published for many years. But remember, rankings are not trustworthy indicators of whether a particular school is right for any given student.

There is no such thing as a "No. 1" school, no matter what a student chooses to study. 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. The underlying information often included with the publication of an ordered list probably has more value than the list itself because it permits the reader to examine specific characteristics of each institution.

> ✦ *Chart updated since the September 2017 edition.*

Charts in Chapter 12

✦**12.1.1** *U.S. News & World Report* **Rankings of National Undergraduate Universities, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

12.1.2 *U.S. News & World Report* **Rankings of U-M Top Ten Graduate Programs, 2017.**

✦**12.1.3** *U.S. News & World Report* **Rankings of Best Global Universities, U-M and Peers, 2014-17.**

✦**12.2.1** **Times Higher Education World University Rankings, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

12.2.2 **Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

12.3 **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

✦**12.4** **Academic Ranking of World Universities, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

12.5 **National Research Council Graduate Program Assessment Results, U-M and Selected Peers, 2005-06.**

12.6 *Washington Monthly* **National University Rankings, U-M and Peers, 2012-16.**

12.7 **America's Top Colleges (*Forbes*), U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

✦**12.8** **Center for World University Rankings, U-M and Peers, 2013-17.**

12.9 *Kiplinger's* **Best Value Public Colleges, U-M, Public Peer and Public Big Ten Universities, 2013-17.**

12.10 *MONEY's* **Best Colleges, U-M, Peer and Big Ten Universities, 2014-17.**

✦**12.11** *Wall Street Journal* **- Times Higher Education U.S. College Rankings, U-M and Peer Universities, 2017.**

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], 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 All	2017 Public
Harvard University	2	2	2	2	2	--
Yale University	3	3	3	3	3	--
University of Chicago	5	4	4	3	3	--
Columbia University	4	4	4	5	5	--
Stanford University	5	4	4	5	5	--
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	7	7	7	7	5	--
University of Pennsylvania	7	8	9	8	8	--
Johns Hopkins University	12	12	10	10	11	--
Northwestern University	12	13	12	12	11	--
Cornell University	16	15	15	15	14	--
University of California-Berkeley	20	20	20	20	21	1
University of Southern California	23	25	23	23	21	--
University of California-Los Angeles	23	23	23	24	21	1
University of Virginia	23	23	26	24	25	3
MICHIGAN	28	29	29	27	28	4
University of North Carolina	30	30	30	30	30	5
New York University	32	32	32	36	30	--
University of Wisconsin	41	47	41	44	46	12
University of Illinois	41	42	41	44	52	14
Ohio State University	52	54	52	54	54	16
University of Washington	52	48	52	54	56	18
University of Texas	52	53	52	56	56	18
University of Maryland	62	62	57	60	61	22

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 (2014-2018 Editions).

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

The current indicators (and their contribution to the overall ranking) include: a survey of administrators at peer institutions (15%); a survey of counselors from top public high schools and colleges (7.5%); retention of students (22.5%); faculty resources (20%), comprised of class size, student-faculty ratio, average faculty pay, proportion of faculty who are full-time and hold the highest degree in their field; student selectivity (12.5%), based on SAT and ACT scores of enrolled students, rank in high school graduating classes, and the university's acceptance rate; average spending per student on instruction, research and student services (10%); graduation rate performance (7.5%), which compares a predicted graduation rate to the actual rate; and alumni giving rate (5%). Additional detail on how these items are used to calculate the rankings can be found on the *USN&WR* web site or the annual rankings publication.

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

[1] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

Of 123 U-M graduate programs scored by *U.S. News & World Report*, 97 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, 2017.

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Business		Medicine		Law	8
Accounting	5	Primary Care	5	Clinical Training	9
Entrepreneurship	6	Research	9	International Law	6
Executive M.B.A.	6	Family Medicine	4	**Nursing**	
Finance	9	Geriatrics	8	Nursing Administration	5
International	7	Internal Medicine	6	Nursing Informatics	10
Management	5	Women's Health	6	Nursing-Midwifery	1
Marketing	5	**Public Health**	4	Nurse Practice – Adult/ Gerontology, Primary Care	10
Nonprofit	7	Healthcare Management	1		
Part-time M.B.A.	6	**Social Work**	1		
Production/Operations	3	**Pharmacy**	3		
Supply Chain/Logistics	4				

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in Science, Engineering, Information, Education, Public Policy

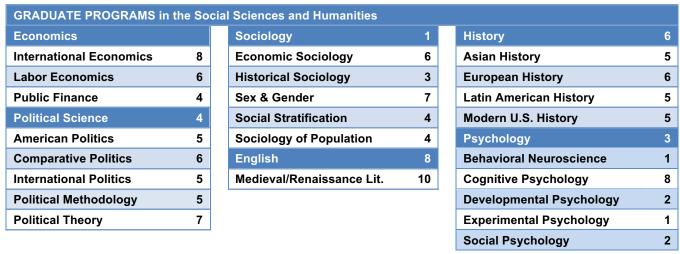| Engineering	5	Science		Education	
Aerospace Engineering	5	Analytical Chemistry	7	Curriculum & Instruction	6
Biomedical Engineering	10	Organic Chemistry	9	Education Policy	5
Civil Engineering	9	Earth Sciences	8	Educational Psychology	2
Computer Engineering	6	Geochemistry	5	Elem. Teacher Education	2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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Grad Schools (2018 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 2017, *USN&WR* updated public affairs and social science, humanities, and library and information studies. All other programs listed on this and the following page were ranked prior to 2017 and republished here and on the next page.

12.1.2 *U.S. News & World Report* **Rankings of U-M Top-Ten Graduate Programs, 2017 (continued).**

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in the Social Sciences and Humanities							
Economics		**Sociology**	**1**	**History**	**6**
International Economics	8	Economic Sociology	6	Asian History	5
Labor Economics	6	Historical Sociology	3	European History	6
Public Finance	4	Sex & Gender	7	Latin American History	5
Political Science	**4**	Social Stratification	4	Modern U.S. History	5
American Politics	5	Sociology of Population	4	**Psychology**	**3**
Comparative Politics	6	**English**	**8**	Behavioral Neuroscience	1
International Politics	5	Medieval/Renaissance Lit.	10	Cognitive Psychology	8
Political Methodology	5			Developmental Psychology	2
Political Theory	7			Experimental Psychology	1
				Social Psychology	2

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

The University is a top-20 institution globally according to a relatively new ordered list of global universities published by *U.S. News & World Report*. The U-M's position on this global list is consistently higher than 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[1], 2014-17.

University	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harvard University	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	2	2
Stanford University	4	4	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	3	3	4	4
Columbia University	10	9	9	8
University of Washington	14	11	11	10
Johns Hopkins University	11	12	11	10
Yale University	17	14	14	10
University of California-Los Angeles	8	8	10	13
University of Chicago	9	10	13	14
University of Michigan	14	17	17	17
University of Pennsylvania	19	14	17	19
Cornell University	23	21	22	23
Northwestern University	25	25	25	24
New York University	36	34	27	28
University of Wisconsin	27	26	29	31
University of Texas	30	30	30	32
University of North Carolina	32	27	32	34
Ohio State University	34	34	43	46
University of Maryland	51	41	40	50
University of Illinois	35	43	47	51
University of Southern California	50	44	53	62
University of Virginia	102	94	99	107

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

SOURCE: *U.S. News & World Report*, 2015-2018 Editions.

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

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

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

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[3] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published 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[3], 2013-17.**

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Stanford University	4	4	3	3	3
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	5	6	5	5	5
Harvard University	2	2	6	6	6
University of Chicago	9	11	10	10	9
University of Pennsylvania	16	16	17	13	10
Yale University	11	9	12	12	12
Johns Hopkins University	15	15	11	17	13
Columbia University	13	14	15	16	14
University of California-Los Angeles	12	12	16	14	15
University of California-Berkeley	8	8	13	10	18
Cornell University	19	19	18	19	19
Northwestern University	22	21	25	20	20
University of Michigan	18	17	21	21	21
University of Washington	25	26	32	25	25
New York University	40	38	30	32	27
University of Illinois	29	29	36	36	37
University of Wisconsin	30	29	50	45	43
University of Texas	27	28	46	50	49
University of North Carolina	47	46	63	56	56
University of Southern California	70	75	68	60	66
University of Maryland	108	132	117	67	69
Ohio State University	59	68	90	72	70
University of Virginia	112	130	147	121	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 institutions on their research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international activity. The World Reputation Rankings (see chart 12.2.2) is based on the results of an international, invitation-only survey sent to tens of thousands of experienced academics from around the world.

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

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[3] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

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

12.2.2   Times Higher Education (London) World Reputation Rankings, U-M and Peers[4], 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	4	2	2
Stanford University	6	3	5	3	3
University of California-Berkeley	5	6	6	6	6
Yale University	10	8	8	8	8
Columbia University	13	12	10	9	9
University of Chicago	14	14	11	11	12
University of California-Los Angeles	8	10	13	13	13
University of Michigan	12	15	19	14	15
University of Pennsylvania	18	22	23	16	19
Cornell University	17	17	20	17	21
Johns Hopkins University	19	18	18	22	23
New York University	29	27	20	25	25
Northwestern University	37	37	47	30	31
University of Texas	27	33	46	34	32
University of Wisconsin	--	--	--	--	32
University of Washington	27	31	33	29	34
University of Illinois	24	23	30	30	36
University of North Carolina	51-60	61-70	61-70	51-60	50
Ohio State University	51-60	51-60	81-90	51-60	61-70
University of Maryland	91-100	81-90	91-100	51-60	71-80
University of Southern California	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	71-80
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 10,000 academics from around the world for the 2017 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 rankings are assembled based on the frequency that each institution is included on the respondent's lists of best institutions in their fields.

[4] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published 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[5], 2013-17.**

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	7	7	3	2	2
Harvard University	2	4	2	3	3
University of Chicago	9	11	10	10	9
Cornell University	15	19	17	16	14
Yale University	8	10	15	15	16
Johns Hopkins University	16	14	16	17	17
Columbia University	14	14	22	20	18
University of Pennsylvania	13	13	18	18	19
MICHIGAN	22	23	30	23	21
University of California-Berkeley	25	27	26	28	27
Northwestern University	29	34	32	26	28
University of California-Los Angeles	40	37	27	31	33
New York University	44	41	53	46	52
University of Wisconsin	37	41	54	54	55
University of Washington	59	65	65	59	61
University of Texas	71	79	77	67	67
University of Illinois	56	63	59	66	69
University of North Carolina	54	62	79	78	80
Ohio State University	113	109	99	88	86
University of Maryland	116	122	126	131	129
University of Southern California	125	131	130	136	132
University of Virginia	132	141	172	172	173

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

SOURCE: QS Intelligence Unit.

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

[5] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

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

12.4   Academic Ranking of World Universities, U-M and Peers[6], 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	3	3	5	4
University of California-Berkeley	4	4	4	3	5
Columbia University	8	8	8	9	8
University of Chicago	9	9	9	10	10
Yale University	11	11	11	11	11
University of California-Los Angeles	12	12	14	12	12
University of Washington	16	15	15	15	13
Cornell University	12	13	13	13	14
University of Pennsylvania	15	16	17	18	17
Johns Hopkins University	17	17	16	16	18
Northwestern University	30	28	27	26	22
MICHIGAN	23	22	22	23	24
University of Wisconsin	19	24	24	28	28
New York University	27	27	27	29	29
University of North Carolina	43	36	39	35	33
University of Illinois	25	28	29	30	37
University of Texas	36	39	37	44	51
University of Maryland	38	43	43	52	53
University of Southern California	47	51	49	49	54
Ohio State University	65	64	67	79	80
University of Virginia	101-150	101-150	101-150	151-200	151-200

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

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

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is based on six numerical elements (listed with the percent weight of the element in parentheses): the number of alumni winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (10%), number of faculty winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (20%), number of highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories according to Thomson Scientific (20%), number of articles published in journals of *Nature* and *Science* over the most recent five-year period (20%), number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index (20%), and per capita academic performance of an institution (10%), determined by adding the weighted scores of all of the other indicators and dividing the sum by the number of full-time equivalent academic staff. More than 1,300 universities are ranked by ARWU every year and the best 500 are published on the web.

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

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[6] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published 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%
MICHIGAN	65	98%	82%	100%	92%
Cornell University	61	90%	69%	95%	80%
University of California-Los Angeles	59	93%	76%	93%	85%
University of Washington	59	93%	76%	95%	75%
University of Illinois	58	91%	62%	91%	79%
Harvard University	52	100%	100%	100%	100%
University of California-Berkeley	52	100%	94%	100%	98%
University of North Carolina	51	86%	67%	100%	76%
Yale University	49	100%	80%	100%	82%
Columbia University	47	94%	81%	96%	74%
Stanford University	47	100%	94%	100%	91%
Indiana University	44	80%	48%	91%	57%
Average of All AAU Institutions	42	86%	61%	89%	64%
University of Pennsylvania	41	100%	90%	100%	85%
University of Virginia	38	76%	42%	95%	55%
University of Chicago	37	95%	78%	95%	86%
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 contribute most to the University's position in the *Washington Monthly* ordered list, which focuses on universities' contributions to society.

12.6   *Washington Monthly* National University Rankings, U-M and Peers[7], 2012-16.

University	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stanford University	3	6	6	5	1
Harvard University	11	8	10	8	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	15	11	14	15	2
University of Pennsylvania	27	21	41	37	5
University of California-Berkeley	5	5	3	4	7
University of California-Los Angeles	6	10	5	6	8
Yale University	41	54	57	44	13
University of Washington	8	13	7	7	14
University of North Carolina	4	14	12	11	20
MICHIGAN	13	12	13	13	21
Columbia University	36	32	51	49	23
Cornell University	19	43	39	36	27
University of Wisconsin	18	15	17	19	28
University of Illinois	22	19	26	27	33
University of Southern California	50	67	72	65	46
Johns Hopkins University	46	34	48	48	47
University of Virginia	48	51	60	63	54
University of Maryland	--	50	58	60	56
Ohio State University	37	28	18	18	69
University of Chicago	29	46	53	55	92
Northwestern University	75	58	101	106	99
New York University	77	79	96	97	174

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

SOURCE: Washington Monthly.

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

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

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

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

[7] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published 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[8], 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harvard University	8	7	6	4	1
Stanford University	1	2	3	1	2
Yale University	4	6	5	6	5
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	10	5	10	5	5
University of Pennsylvania	11	12	12	11	7
Columbia University	5	20	15	16	14
Cornell University	19	31	25	29	15
University of Chicago	14	24	20	20	16
Northwestern University	17	19	16	15	28
University of California-Berkeley	22	37	35	40	29
Johns Hopkins University	46	67	62	66	30
MICHIGAN	30	45	41	44	38
University of Virginia	29	40	36	36	40
University of Southern California	63	78	71	65	44
University of California-Los Angeles	34	44	45	46	48
New York University	56	72	77	77	52
University of North Carolina	38	50	49	47	68
University of Illinois	53	68	68	72	69
University of Maryland	73	82	93	82	72
University of Washington	55	73	76	75	79
University of Wisconsin	68	70	69	69	87
University of Texas	66	76	82	93	91
Ohio State University	138	155	155	160	131

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 2017) that *Forbes* and the Washington, D.C.-based Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) have produced since 2008. The distinction that Forbes make about its list is the focus on how well colleges and universities succeed at yielding successful graduates. Put bluntly, America's Top Colleges attempts to rank institutions by the return on investment of time and money to attend a school.

The components of the rankings can vary somewhat from year-to-year. The breakdown described here applies only to the 2016 rankings, which includes indicators of post-graduate success (35%), student debt (20%), the student experience (20%), graduation rates (20%), and academic success (12.5%).

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[8] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

The U-M is listed among the top 25 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[9], 2013-17.

University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Harvard University	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford University	2	2	2	2	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	3	3	3	3
Columbia University	6	6	6	6	6
University of California-Berkeley	7	7	7	7	7
University of Chicago	9	8	8	8	8
Yale University	10	10	11	10	10
Cornell University	13	11	10	12	12
University of Pennsylvania	12	14	14	14	14
University of California-Los Angeles	16	15	15	15	15
Johns Hopkins University	17	19	16	16	16
Northwestern University	28	23	22	21	17
New York University	19	17	18	22	19
MICHIGAN	32	21	19	19	22
University of Washington	31	32	31	27	25
University of Wisconsin	23	25	25	25	26
University of Texas	26	29	30	32	30
University of Illinois	24	28	33	34	36
University of North Carolina	34	45	40	38	38
University of Virginia	71	41	41	40	40
University of Southern California	39	51	51	44	45
Ohio State University	52	47	49	46	48
University of Maryland	59	76	72	68	80

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

The education quality measure is based on a weighted measure of alumni who have won major international awards, prizes, and medals. Almuni 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.

[9] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

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

12.9 *Kiplinger's* **Best Value Public Colleges, U-M, Public Peer**[10] **and Public Big Ten Universities, 2013-17.**

University	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
University of North Carolina †	1	1	1	1	1
University of Virginia †	2	2	3	2	3
MICHIGAN *	6	6	5	5	4
University of California-Berkeley †	9	4	4	3	5
University of California-Los Angeles †	5	5	6	6	6
University of Washington †	13	11	9	12	7
University of Texas †	21	14	13	13	8
University of Maryland †*	7	9	11	8	10
University of Wisconsin †*	8	8	8	11	13
Purdue University *	40	27	19	34	15
University of Minnesota *	44	32	25	20	23
Ohio State University †*	26	15	17	22	25
University of Illinois †*	38	36	26	16	30
Indiana University *	37	40	44	55	33
Rutgers University *	47	43	47	33	34
Michigan State University *	41	50	40	38	40
Pennsylvania State University *	53	56	49	44	51
University of Iowa *	56	86	57	79	55
University of Nebraska *	83	68	75	81	83

† 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 300 public and private schools, as well as three separate lists of the top 50 private universities, top 50 liberal arts colleges, and top 100 public universities.

Academic quality indicators include the admission rate (percentage of applicants offered admission) and "yield" (percentage of those admitted who enroll) for each school, SAT and ACT schores 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.

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[10] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

MONEY Magazine latest ordered list places the U-M second among U.S. public universities and colleges, and third overall.

12.10   *MONEY's* Best Colleges, U-M and Peer[11] Universities, 2014-17.

University	2014	2015	2016	2017
University of Michigan	22	18	2	3
University of California-Berkeley	13	9	5	4
University of California-Los Angeles	31	26	20	5
Stanford University	5	1	10	5
Harvard University	6	6	3	10
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	11	8
University of Virginia	16	17	9	11
University of Washington	47	56	30	13
Yale University	15	21	12	14
University of Maryland	68	54	19	20
Columbia University	22	28	52	21
University of Illinois	76	75	22	22
University of Pennsylvania	11	12	26	27
University of Texas	n/a	82	50	31
University of Wisconsin	99	116	63	45
University of Chicago	101	127	83	54
Cornell University	24	34	64	59
University of North Carolina	40	46	45	60
Ohio State University	144	134	130	102
Northwestern University	129	89	70	103
University of Southern California	n/a	n/a	155	116
Johns Hopkins University	n/a	85	81	131
New York University	n/a	n/a	306	210

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

SOURCE: *MONEY Magazine*.

MONEY Magazine made major changes to its methodology for the 2016 ordered list, which contributed to the large changes to the placement of many schools. A few more changes went into the formula used to produce the 2017 list, such as a factor flagging schools experiencing financial troubles, a small boost to scores for schools with the lowest net price for students from low-income families, and the introduction of a "social mobility" factor tied to incomes of low-income students six years after graduation.

Overall, Money's methodology uses 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).

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[11] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.

U-M ranked second among public universities in a ranking of U.S. universities launched two years ago.

✦**12.11** *Wall Street Journal* **- Times Higher Education U.S. College Rankings, U-M and Peer[12] Universities, 2017.**

University	2016	2017
Harvard University	2	1
Columbia University	5	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3
Stanford University	1	3
Yale University	6	6
University of Pennsylvania	4	8
Cornell University	8	10
University of Chicago	14	11
Northwestern University	10	15
University of Southern California	17	15
Johns Hopkins University	13	17
University of California-Los Angeles	28	25
University of Michigan	22	27
New York University	26	29
University of North Carolina	30	33
University of California-Berkeley	35	40
University of Illinois	45	48
University of Texas	52	56
University of Virginia	50	56
Ohio State University	68	69
University of Wisconsin	63	71
University of Maryland	96	82
University of Washington	75	89

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

SOURCE: *MONEY Magazine.*

Data used for creating this ordered list 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 paper 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%).

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[12] A list of the peers used for comparison on this page is published in Appendix A.