

U.S. News Best Colleges – National University Ranking

SUMMARY

U.S. News Best Colleges rankings compare the relative quality of U.S. institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence.

The scoring is based on six different measures, including:

1. Outcomes;
2. Expert opinion;
3. Faculty resources;
4. Student excellence;
5. Financial resources; and
6. Alumni giving.

U.S. News began publishing their reports in 1983. Rankings are typically released in September.

Most metric data was reported to U.S. News from the colleges. For additional information on methodology and sources for metric data, as well as descriptions of the metrics, please see the Methodology and Metrics document.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH RESULTS

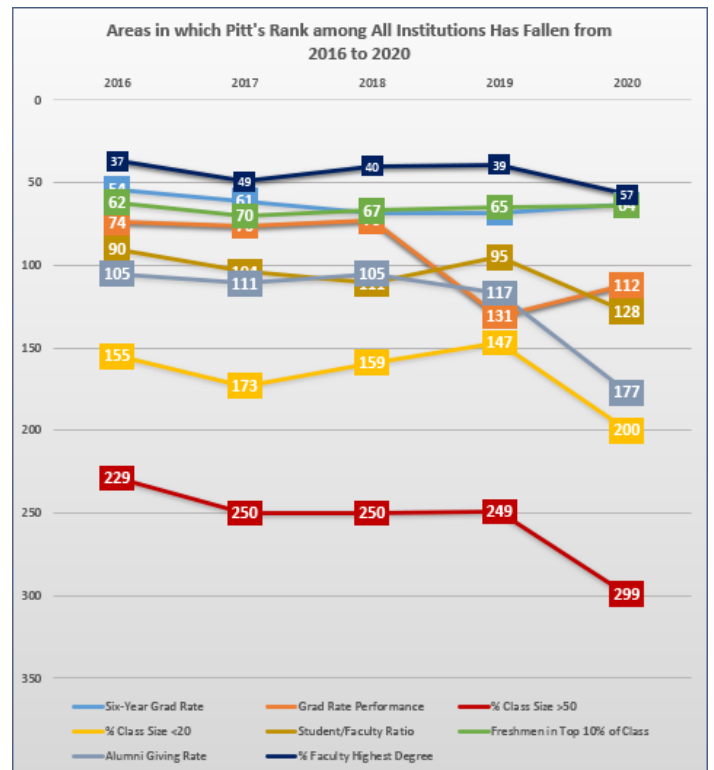
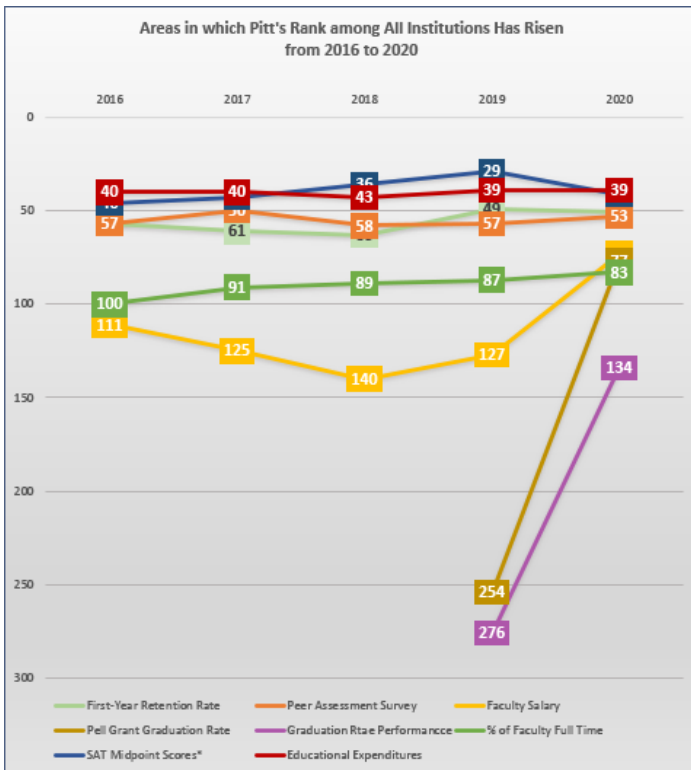
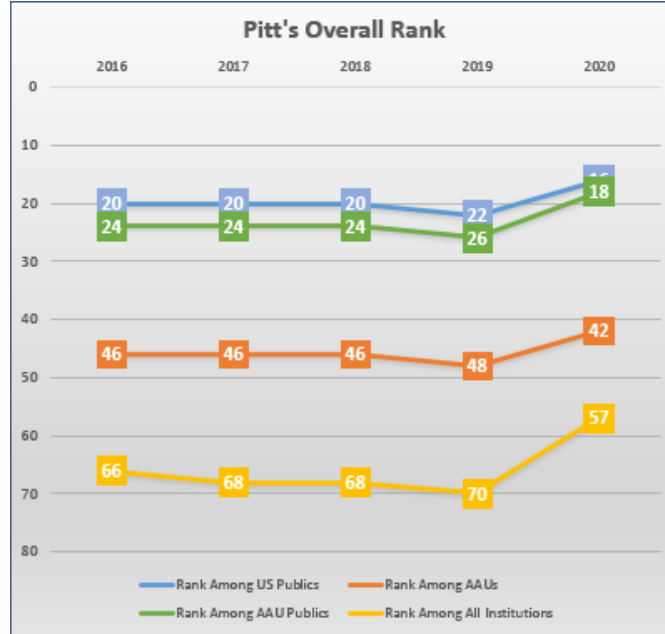
The following illustrates the 2020 ranking scores for the University of Pittsburgh.

University of Pittsburgh Rankings 2020	Rank Among All Institutions	Pitt Value	Rank among U.S. Publics	Rank among AAUs	Rank among AAU Publics
Overall Rank	57	61	18	42	16
Six-Year Graduation Rate	63	83%	21	43	17
First Year Retention Rate	51	93%	17	35	14
Graduation Rate Performance	112	3%	63	17	16
Pell Grant Graduation Rate	77	76%	25	44	18
Pell Grant Graduation Rate Comparison	134	8%	71	43	19
Academic Peer Assessment Survey	53	3.6	25	46	23
Class Size: % Classes Under 20 Students	200	45%	57	36	10
Class Size: % Class Over 50 Students	299	18%	151	39	13
Faculty Salary	73	73*	36	46	22
% Faculty with Highest Degree in Field	57	94%	27	33	15
Student/Faculty Ratio	128	14	10	29	3
% Full-Time Faculty	83	91%	59	38	21
SAT Midpoint Scores (out of SAT reporting institutions)	41	1350	14	28/41	11/24
Freshmen in Top 10% of High School Class	64	55%	23	43	17
Education Expenditures	39	\$62.2K	9	30	6
Alumni Giving Rate	177	7%	79	51	25

* The raw value for this metric is not reported; only Faculty Salary rank is provided.

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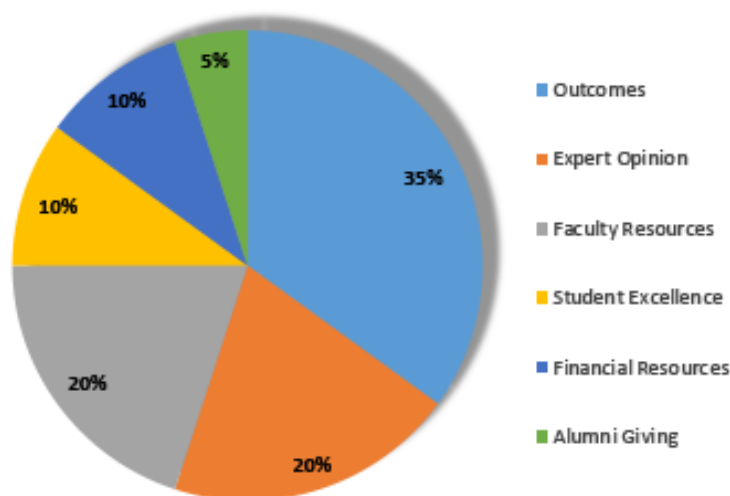
TRENDS: FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW



* out of SAT reporting institutions

Methodology and Metrics

The *U.S. News Best Colleges – National University Ranking* is based on the weighted scores of six areas.



Outcomes

Weight: 35%

The higher the proportion of first-year students who return to campus for sophomore year and eventually graduate, the better a school is likely to be at offering the classes and services that students need to succeed. This category also assesses a school's performance at supporting students from underserved backgrounds relative to all of its other students.

Six-Year Graduation Rate (17.6%)

Average graduation rate for bachelor-degree seeking undergraduates seeking a degree in six years or less.

First-Year Retention Rate (4.4%)

The average rate of first-year students who entered the school in fall as a freshman and returned the following fall as a sophomore.

Graduation Rate Performance (8%)

Comparison between a school's six-year graduation rate for a particular cohort and the rate *U.S. News* had predicted for that cohort.

Pell Grant Graduation Rate (2.5%)

Looks at a school's six-year graduation rate among students who received Pell Grants.

Pell Grant Graduation Rate Comparison (2.5%)

Compares each school's six-year graduation rate among Pell recipients with the six-year graduation rate among non-Pell recipients.

Expert Opinion

Weight: 20%

Giving weight to the opinions of those in a position to judge a school's undergraduate academic excellence.

Academic Peer Assessment Survey (20%)

The academic peer assessment survey allows the institution's leadership (presidents, provosts, dean of admissions) to account for intangibles at peer institutions, such as faculty dedication to teaching.

Faculty Resources

Weight: 20%

Research shows that the more satisfied students are about their contact with professors, the more they will learn and the more likely they are to graduate.

Class Size (8%)

Schools receive credit for the proportion of their undergraduate classes that have fewer than 50 students:

- Highest Credit: Class size fewer than 20
- Second Highest Credit: Class sizes 20–29
- Third Highest Credit: Class sizes 30–39
- Fourth Highest Credit: Class sizes 40–49
- No Credit: Class size greater than 50

Faculty Salary (7%)

Average faculty pay, plus benefits for full-time assistant, associate, and full professors. This is adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living, using indexes from Runzheimer International.

Percent Faculty with the Highest Degree in Their Fields (3%)

Weighs the proportion of full-time faculty (including instructors and lecturers) with the highest degree in their fields.

Student/Faculty Ratio (1%)

Compares full-time enrolled students to full-time faculty.

Percent of Faculty That Are Full Time (1%)

Weighs the proportion of faculty who are full-time.

Student Excellence

Weight: 10%

A school's academic atmosphere is influenced by the selectivity of its admissions. This category measures students' abilities and ambitions in two areas:

1. **Average test scores** of all enrolled freshmen who took the SAT (critical reading and math) or the ACT (7.75%); and
2. **Proportion of enrolled first-year students who graduated in the top 10% of their high school class** (2.25%).

Financial Resources

Weight: 10%

Measures the average spending per student on instruction, research, student services, academic support, and related educational expenditures. The higher the student spending, the better the university is able to offer a wide variety of programs and service.

Alumni Giving Rate

Weight: 5%

The average percent of living alumni with bachelor's degrees who donated during a given time period.

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Sources for Metric Data

Most colleges report the data directly to *U.S. News*. This year, 91 percent of ranked institutions returned their statistical information during the spring 2019 data collection window. Administrators who submitted data for *U.S. News* were instructed to have a top academic official sign off on the accuracy of the data. Schools that declined were still able to submit and be ranked but are footnoted in the rankings.

Missing data is obtained from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (finances, faculty, SAT and ACT, and graduation and retention rates). *U.S. News* uses estimates in the ranking calculation when schools fail to report ranking indicator data points that are not available from these sources.

	Colleges	Bureau of Economic Analysis	US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics	Survey
Outcomes	✓		✓	
Expert Opinion				✓
Faculty Resources	✓	✓	✓	
Student Excellence	✓		✓	
Financial Recourses	✓		✓	
Alumni Giving Rate	✓			