

## Topic in Brief

### U.S. News Releases Annual Graduate Program Rankings

March, 2013

Berkeley programs again rank among the very best in the nation in the U.S. News annual release of graduate rankings, including 14 disciplines ranked #1 in the nation.

U.S. News and World Report released their annual rankings of U.S. graduate programs for many disciplines on March 12, 2013. With few exceptions, Berkeley programs either maintained or improved in the new rankings.

Berkeley's ranking in the four disciplines that are produced each year: **Engineering remains 3<sup>rd</sup>, Business remains 7<sup>th</sup> and Education improved one position to 12<sup>th</sup>. Law fell two spots to 9<sup>th</sup>** to return to its 2011 ranking. Several other disciplines and sub-field specialties are included in this year's report.

#### FOUR ANNUAL RANKINGS

The methodologies for the four graduate disciplines ranked annually use different indicators. Other disciplines are based solely on reputation scores.

**Engineering.** Berkeley was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> behind MIT and Stanford among 199 schools surveyed. The U.S. News methodology uses indicators such as GRE scores, acceptance rate, doctoral student per faculty ratio, faculty membership in the National Academy of Engineering, the number of doctoral degrees awarded, and research expenditures, along with peer and recruiter assessment in the overall score.

Among engineering specialties, Berkeley ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in environmental, 2<sup>nd</sup> in both civil and computer, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in chemical, electrical, industrial and mechanical.

**Business.** Retaining its 7<sup>th</sup> place rank in business for the sixth consecutive year, Berkeley is the top-ranked public business

school among the 448 full-time MBA programs surveyed. Besides peer assessment, indicators include mean GPA and GMAT scores, acceptance rate, average starting salary, and employment rates

Among specialty rankings in business, Berkeley's best scores were 1<sup>st</sup> in part-time MBA, 4<sup>th</sup> in non-profit organizations and 6<sup>th</sup> in entrepreneurship.

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**Berkeley is the top-ranked public university in Engineering and Business, and second only to Virginia in Law in this year's rankings.**  
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**Law.** Of the 194 law schools surveyed, Berkeley's rank returned to 9<sup>th</sup> place after being ranked 7<sup>th</sup> last year. Indicators include median LSAT and GPA, acceptance rate, placement success, expenditures per student, student-faculty ratio, library resources, the bar passage rate in the local jurisdiction, and peer assessment.

Berkeley's specialty law rankings of note include 1<sup>st</sup> in intellectual property, 3<sup>rd</sup> in environmental and 5<sup>th</sup> in international.

**Education.** Berkeley improved one spot to rank 12<sup>th</sup> this year among 278 schools surveyed. Indicators include mean GRE scores, acceptance rate, doctoral student-faculty ratio, faculty awards, doctorates granted, research expenditures and peer assessment.

Berkeley's was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in education policy and 8<sup>th</sup> in educational psychology among specialty sub-disciplines.

## Berkeley Top-10 Rankings in 2013

(#1 rankings check marks; top 5 rankings in blue)

	2009	2012	2013
<b>Business</b>		7	7
Entrepreneurship		6	6
Executive MBA		9	10
Finance		8	8
International Business		10	9
Management		9	7
Marketing		8	9
Non-Profit Organizations		3	4
Part-Time MBA		2	1 ✓
<b>Education</b>		13	12
Educational Psychology		8	8
Education Policy		9	7
<b>Engineering</b>		3	3
Biomedical/Bioengineering		10	10
Chemical Engineering		2	3
Civil Engineering		1	2
Computer Engineering		3	2
Electrical Engineering		3	3
Environmental Engineering		1	1 ✓
Industrial Engineering		3	3
Materials Science		6	6
Mechanical Engineering		3	3
Nuclear Engineering		7	7
<b>English</b>	1		1 ✓
African-American	3		4
American Lit. After 1865	2		1 ✓
American Lit. Before 1865	3		1 ✓
18th - 20th Cent. British Lit.	2		1 ✓
Gender and Literature	1		1 ✓
Literary Crit and Theory	3		2
Medieval/Renais. Lit.	4		2
<b>Law</b>		7	9
Environmental		4	3
Intellectual Property		1	1 ✓
International		6	5
<b>Social Sciences</b>			
Anthropology (no rankings this year)			
<b>Economics</b>	6		5
Development Econ.	4		5
Econometrics	6		6
Industrial Org.	7		6
International Econ.	4		4
Labor Econ.	5		4
Macroeconomics	8		8
Microeconomics	8		9
Public Finance	3		1 ✓
Geography (no rankings this year)			
<b>History</b>	1		1 ✓
Asian	2		1 ✓
Cultural	1		1 ✓
European	1		1 ✓
Modern U.S.	4		2
Women's	7		10
Linguistics (no rankings this year)			
<b>Political Science</b>	6		6
American	7		5
Comparative	3		3
Political Methodology	9		8
Political Theory	5		6
<b>Psychology</b>	1		2
Behavioral Neuroscience	4		7
Developmental Psych.	4		5
Experimental Psych.	5		5
Social Psych.	8		8
<b>Sociology</b>	1		1 ✓
Economic	2		2
Sex and Gender	1		2
Social Stratification	2		5
Sociology of Culture	2		2
Sociology of Population	2		9

Source: [U.S. News Graduate School Rankings](#)

## NEW DISCIPLINES RANKED

U.S. News ranks additional disciplines each year but on an irregular cycle. This year, reputation-based rankings were released for English and some social science fields. These programs were last ranked in 2009. The table at the left summarizes the 2013 top ten and prior-year rankings for UC Berkeley.

Graduate programs in English, History and Sociology were all ranked 1<sup>st</sup> along with many specialty fields in these and other disciplines in the U.S. News release.

## SUMMARY

Ranking methodologies vary and continue to be controversial in terms of indicator selection and value. We encourage examination of underlying methods of any ranking, and also the comparison of rankings themselves. The U.S. News graduate school methodologies are available on their web site at <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/2013/03/11/about-the-best-graduate-schools-rankings>.

Assessment by peers and experts within the disciplines remains a very large component of the U.S. News methodology. Berkeley's esteemed reputation is backed by high scores in other indicators as shown in numerous U.S. and global rankings. We continue to be placed among the very best universities world-wide, and often enjoy the top spot among public institutions.

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