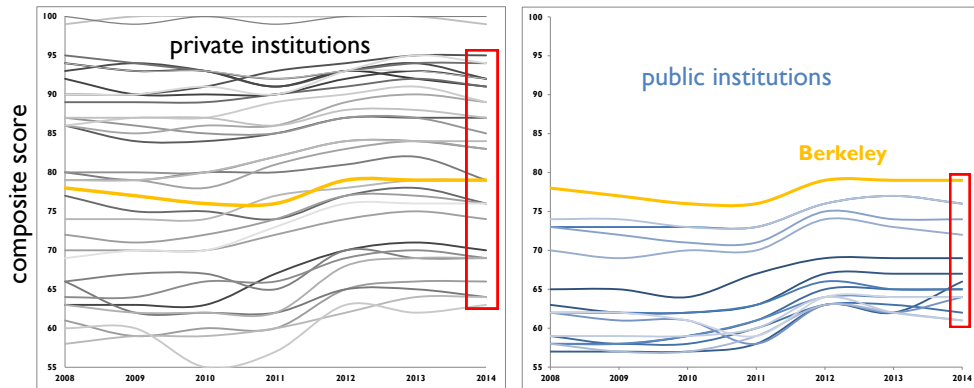


## UC Berkeley in the U.S. News & World Report's 2014 Guide to America's Best Colleges

September, 2013

**Composite Score Trends:** Each year, U.S. News standardizes individual composite scores, with the highest scoring institution receiving 100 points. Composite scores among the top 50 tier-one universities from 2008 to 2014 are shown in the charts below. Although there is some fluctuation, the range in scores has narrowed in 2014 (red rectangles) for both private and public institutions. Berkeley is shown in **gold** on both charts.

**Composite Scores of Private and Public Universities - 2008 to 2014**



Both public and private institutions show a general upward trend in composite scores. The calculated average change between 2008 and 2014 was +3.9 points for private institutions and +3.4 points for public institutions. In evaluating trends in underlying indicator scores and their category rankings, it was noted that private institutions generally improved more in financially related indicators: faculty resources, financial resources and alumni giving.

The dashboard to the right shows upward change in rank (progressing to darker shades of green) or downward change in rank (in shades of blue) for these three indicators between 2008 and 2014. The top ten private and top ten public universities based on composite score are shown separately.

Public institutions had the largest individual upward and downward shifts in these rankings. Among the top-ranked publics, Berkeley and UCLA improved in all three indicators, while top-ranked privates saw declines in alumni giving (Harvard) and faculty resources (Princeton). More publics improved in alumni giving rank, but were more severely impacted in financial resources rank, except for Penn State and UCSB.

As composite scores continue to rise and the distribution narrows in spread, more schools end in ties among the higher ranks, and some would argue that the concept of ranking among an increasingly narrow range of scores loses even more meaning.

The Office of Planning & Analysis responds to the USNWR survey for *America's Best Colleges* each April by providing responses to all questions used as ranking indicators, any admissions related information and any question that appears in the Common Data Set. For more information, please visit our website at <http://opa.berkeley.edu>, or send email to [alanu@berkeley.edu](mailto:alanu@berkeley.edu).

**Change in Financial-Related Indicators Top 10 Private/Public (2008 to 2014)**

	Faculty Resources	Financial Resources	Alumni Giving
Harvard	2	3	-3
Princeton	-2	2	0
Yale	1	0	-1
Chicago	4	1	18
Columbia	8	4	2
MIT	5	-3	4
Stanford	2	1	0
Duke	-1	2	-6
Pennsylvania	-5	-2	-6
Cal Tech	-10	0	5
Dartmouth	2	-5	1
<b>Berkeley</b>	6	3	12
UCLA	8	5	12
Virginia	-2	2	3
Michigan	-8	-11	36
NCarolina	-18	-5	9
Wm & Mary	-11	-8	7
Ga Tech	-42	0	5
Penn State	54	13	-18
UC Davis	48	2	-29
UCSD	-7	6	9
UCSB	3	28	24
Wisconsin	-21	-8	-20

The U.S. News and World Report (U.S. News) annual rankings of undergraduate institutions in the United States were released September 10, 2013. **U.C. Berkeley was again ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among public National Universities** (those offering doctoral degrees and emphasizing faculty research), marking 16 years in the top position. UCLA and Virginia were second among publics (both 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally) followed by Michigan (28<sup>th</sup> nationally). **Berkeley improved one position to 20<sup>th</sup> overall**, with the same composite score of 79. Emory and Georgetown were tied with Berkeley. Princeton was top ranked, followed by Harvard 2<sup>nd</sup>, Yale 3<sup>rd</sup>, Columbia 4<sup>th</sup> and Chicago and Stanford tied at 5<sup>th</sup>. Seventh place was shared by Duke, MIT and Pennsylvania. Top schools are shown in the two lists below.

**All National Universities**

1. Princeton
2. Harvard
3. Yale
4. Columbia
5. Chicago
5. Stanford
7. Duke
7. MIT
7. Pennsylvania
10. Cal Tech
10. Dartmouth
12. Johns Hopkins
12. Northwestern
14. Brown
14. Washington St.Louis
16. Cornell
17. Vanderbilt
18. Rice
18. Notre Dame
20. **UC Berkeley**
20. Emory
20. Georgetown
23. Carnegie Mellon
23. Southern Cal
23. **UCLA**
23. Virginia
23. Wake Forest
28. Tufts
28. Michigan
30. North Carolina
39. UC Davis & **UC San Diego**
41. Illinois & Wisconsin
52. Texas

Private institutions are shown in italics.  
Berkeley peers are shown in green.

**National Public Universities**

1. **UC Berkeley**
2. **UCLA**
2. Virginia
4. Michigan
5. North Carolina
6. William and Mary (VA)
7. Georgia Tech
8. Penn State
9. UC Davis
9. **UC San Diego**
11. UC Santa Barbara
11. Illinois
11. Wisconsin
14. UC Irvine
14. Florida
16. Ohio State
16. Texas
16. Washington
19. Connecticut
20. Georgia
21. Clemson
21. Maryland
21. Pittsburgh
24. Purdue
25. Rutgers
25. Texas A&M
25. Minnesota
25. Virginia Tech
29. Michigan State
29. Iowa
36. UC Santa Cruz
55. UC Riverside

Berkeley peers are shown in green.

Among public institutions, four of the top ten were University of California campuses, with seven campuses in the top 50. (UCSF and UC Merced are not included in this category.) Nationally, UC San Diego and UC Davis moved down one position to 39<sup>th</sup>, UC Santa Barbara remained 41<sup>st</sup>, and UC Irvine moved down five to rank 49<sup>th</sup>. UC Santa Cruz fell nine positions to 86<sup>th</sup> and UC Riverside fell eleven to 112<sup>th</sup>.

This year, U.S. News lists Berkeley as 2nd to UCLA in percentage of undergraduates receiving Pell grants, and among the top universities in strong commitment to teaching, least amount of student debt upon graduation, and a top choice among high school guidance counselors. These metrics are not incorporated into their rankings of undergraduate education.

In concert with their national rankings, U.S. News will also post the global rankings by European-based QS, which ranks Berkeley 25th in the world this year using six indicators.

**This page describes U.S. News and World Report's Methodology for the 2014 Guide.**

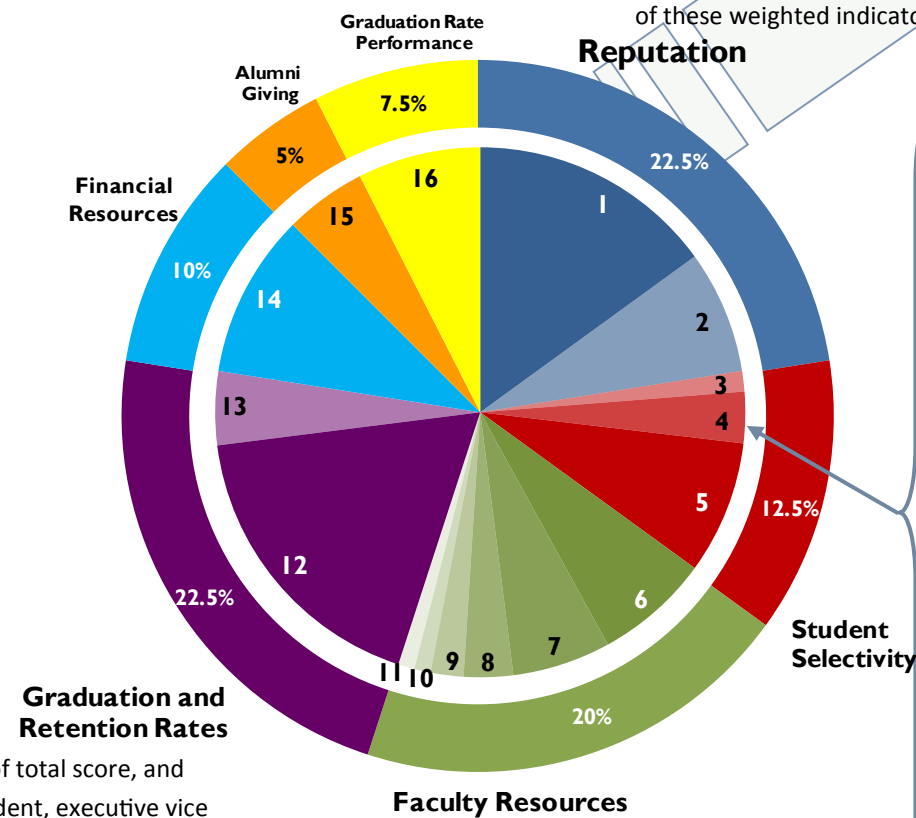
Sixteen indicators grouped into seven categories are used to develop a composite score for each school. Indicator data is manipulated in various ways, and each data element is weighted to determine its contribution to the composite score. This year, **U.S. News altered the weights** to increase Graduation and Retention and lower Student Selectivity by 2.5%. The component weights of Student Selectivity were altered slightly as well.

Controversies over rankings most frequently relate to methodology: the indicators chosen and what they are meant to measure, the rationale for assigning relative weights to each indicator, the concept of measuring the quality of complex organizations through a small set of data points.

**Indicators:** The 16 indicators suggest overlaps and gaps in an overall assessment of undergraduate education. Student graduation and retention rates appear in three indicators (11, 12 and 15), while class size is used twice (6 and 8) with 6% of the total score based on percentage of small classes and 2% on percentage of large classes. The potential gaps depend on one's concerns, but might include the value of research, student and faculty diversity, major and course offerings, level of financial aid, or exposure to graduate-level education. Alumni giving is used as a proxy for alumni satisfaction, but perhaps it more readily measures wealth after graduation, or the success of a university relations office. Indicator choice and weighting in any ranking should be examined for integrity and validity.

**Academic Reputation:** This indicator is again valued at 22.5% of total score, and contains two components. Three top administrators (the president, executive vice president and director of admissions) from each national university are asked to rate every national institution on a 5-point scale, worth 15% of the 22.5%. The other 7.5% comes from the same ratings by high school guidance counselors. The two highest and lowest scores for each school are eliminated, and one value is reported for the indicator. UC Berkeley scored a 4.7 in the academic reputation ranking 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Graduation Rate Performance:** The weighting of this indicator is 7.5%. According to U.S. News, "This indicator of added value shows the effect of the college's programs and policies on the graduation rate of students after controlling for spending and student characteristics such as test scores and the proportion receiving Pell grants." A predicted six-year graduation rate is calculated and compared to the actual rate. This year, Berkeley's predicted rate was 89% while the actual rate was 91%.



**Assigned Weights:** As shown below, U.S. News assigns a weight to each indicator. The rationale behind the chosen weightings is not made public. The list to the right shows that each university is given a composite score derived from a tally of these weighted indicators, which is then normalized to the highest score (Harvard and/or Princeton usually score 100).

**Berkeley's Data:** This table shows Berkeley's rank for each of the seven categories of indicators, which are translated into a normalized composite score (79) that is then rank ordered (20<sup>th</sup>) in the list of national universities to the right.

**Berkeley Rankings - 2014 Guide**

(composite score = 79)

- 20 Overall Ranking
- 1 Public University Ranking
- 6 Academic Reputation
- 24 Student Selectivity
- 32 Faculty Resources
- 21 Graduation & Retention Rates
- 37 Financial Resources
- 105 Alumni Giving

15 Component Indicators (center pie)	Weight	Berkeley	Data Source
1 Academic Reputation	15.0%	4.7 of 5.0	survey (see text box for detail)
2 H.S. Counselor Reputation	7.5%	4.7 of 5.0	survey (see text box for detail)
<u>Student Selectivity</u>			
3 Admit Rate	1.25%	18%	Common Data Set
4 % in Top 10% in HS	3.125%	98%	Common Data Set
5 SAT/ACT Scores	8.125%	1220/1490	Common Data Set
<u>Faculty Resources</u>			
6 Average Faculty Compensation	7.0%	est. \$183,000	AAUP (2 year avg COLA adjusted)
7 % Classes Under 20	6.0%	63%	Common Data Set
8 % Faculty w/Terminal Degree	3.0%	99%	OPA estimate
9 % Classes Over 50	2.0%	15%	Common Data Set
10 % Full-Time Faculty FTE	1.0%	89%	UCOP (PT = .333 FTE)
11 Student/Faculty Ratio	1.0%	17/1	Common Data Set
<u>Graduation &amp; Retention Rates</u>			
12 6 Year Graduation Rate	18.0%	91%	Common Data Set (2 year average)
13 1st Year Retention Rate	4.5%	97%	Common Data Set (2 year average)
14 Expenditures per Student	10.0%	est. \$45,000	IPEDS (2 fiscal year avg; logarithmic transformed then standardized)
15 % Alumni Who Gave	5.0%	12%	University Relations; USNWR calculates 2 year average
16 Predicted vs Actual Grad. Rate	7.5%	89% v 91%	USNWR calculates; regression model using 4 variables for "predicted" rate

2013 Guide National Rankings		
Composite Score	University	Rank
100	Princeton	1
99	Harvard	2
97	Yale	3
95	Columbia	4
94	Chicago	5
94	Stanford	5
92	Duke	7
92	MIT	7
92	Pennsylvania	7
91	Cal Tech	10
91	Dartmouth	10
89	Johns Hopkins	12
89	Northwestern	12
87	Brown	14
87	Washington StL	14
85	Cornell	16
84	Vanderbilt	17
83	Rice	18
83	Notre Dame	18
79	UC Berkeley	20
79	Emory	20
79	Georgetown	20
76	Carnegie Mellon	23
76	Southern Cal	23
76	UCLA	23
76	Virginia	23
76	Wake Forest	23
74	Tufts	28
74	Michigan	28
72	N Carolina	30

**Academics Rank Specialties with Undergraduate Business and Engineering.** U.S. News surveys peer academics in the ranking of undergraduate Business and Engineering programs, and the specialty or sub-discipline units within these disciplines. These surveys are based solely on scoring peer universities on a 1 to 5 scale. As shown below, **Berkeley moved up one to 2<sup>nd</sup> in Business and remained 3<sup>rd</sup> in Engineering overall.** Values in parenthesis indicate change in Berkeley's rank from the 2013 survey; zero indicates no change.

**BUSINESS** (survey responses from business deans and senior faculty)

- 1. Pennsylvania 4.8
- 3. UC Berkeley 4.5 (+1)
- 3. MIT 4.5
- 3. Michigan 4.5
- 5. NYU 4.4
- 5. Virginia 4.4

**Business specialty fields:**

- Finance** Penn, NYU, MIT, Michigan, UCB 5th (-2)
- Management** Michigan, Virginia, Penn, UCB 4th (-1)
- Marketing** Penn, Michigan, Texas, Indiana, UCB 5th (-2)
- Quant. Analysis/Meth.** MIT, CMellon, Penn, Purdue, UCB 5th (-1)
- Real Estate** Wisconsin, Penn, UCB 3rd (0)

**ENGINEERING** (survey responses from engineering deans and senior faculty)

- 1. MIT 4.9
- 2. Stanford 4.8
- 3. UC Berkeley 4.7 (0)
- 4. Cal Tech 4.6
- 5. Georgia Tech 4.5
- 5. Illinois 4.5

**Engineering specialty fields:**

- Chemical** MIT, UCB 2nd (0)
- Civil** UCB 1st (+1)
- Comp. Engr.** MIT, CMellon, Stanford, UCB 4th (-1)
- Electrical/Elect./Com.** MIT, Stanford, UCB 3rd (-1)
- Eng. Sci/Eng. Physics** Illinois, Cornell, UCB 3rd (+1)
- Env'l/Env'l Health** UCB 1st (+2)
- Industrial/Manuf.** GaTech, Michigan, UCB 3rd (0)
- Materials** MIT, Illinois, UCB 3rd (0)
- Mechanical** MIT, Michigan, Ga Tech, UCB 4th (-2)