Berkeley in Other Rankings

Rankings are indicator weighting dependent. Berkeley continues to rank among the top 10 worldwide when the indicators focus on academic excellence, faculty and research quality. The list below shows Berkeley’s rank both globally and nationally for 2015 (or 2014 if this year’s data is not yet released) and the indicators used by each publisher in preparing their ranking.

Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China)

Berkeley: 4th worldwide (1st U.S. Public)
Indicators: alumni & staff w/Nobels & Fields Medals, citations weighted by academic FTE

THE World Reputation Rankings (Times Higher Education, U.K.)
Berkeley: 6th worldwide (1st U.S. Public)
Indicators: invitation-only academic opinion survey (9,794 responses from 142 countries)

Center for World University Rankings (CWUR, Saudi Arabia)
Berkeley: 6th worldwide (1st U.S. Public)
Indicators: faculty & alumni awards, alumni CEOs, publication influence, citation impact, patents

THE World Rankings (Times Higher Education, U.K.)
Berkeley: 8th worldwide (6th U.S. Public)
Indicators: reputation, stu/fac ratio, research, citations, industry funding, international faculty & research

Money Magazine’s Best Colleges (Money Magazine, U.S.)
Berkeley: na worldwide (1st U.S. Public among highly selective institutions)
Indicators: quality, affordability, student outcomes

Berkeley: na worldwide (4th U.S. Public)
Indicators: Pell grants, net price, graduation rate, research expenditures, faculty awards, public service

QS World University Rankings (Quacquarelli Symonds, U.K.)
Berkeley: 2014 release -- 27th worldwide (15th U.S. Public)
Indicators: academic & employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations, international faculty & students

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.

UC Berkeley in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2016 Guide to America’s Best Colleges

September, 2015

The U.S. News and World Report (U.S. News) annual rankings of undergraduate institutions in the United States were released September 9, 2015. UC Berkeley was again ranked 1st among public National Universities (those offering doctoral degrees and emphasizing faculty research), marking 18 years in the top position. UCLA was second among publics (23rd nationally) followed by Virginia (24th) and Michigan (29th). Berkeley remained 20th overall although the composite score dropped two to 77. Princeton was ranked 1st, followed by Harvard 2nd, Yale 3rd, and Columbia, Chicago and Stanford tied at 4th. MIT was 5th, Duke 6th, Pennsylvania 9th, CalTech and Johns Hopkins 10th. Top schools are shown in the two lists below. Berkeley peers are shown in green.

All National Universities

1. Princeton
2. Harvard
3. Yale
4. Chicago
5. Columbia
6. Stanford
7. MIT
8. Duke
9. Pennsylvania
10. Cal Tech
11. Johns Hopkins
12. Dartmouth
13. Northwestern
14. Brown
15. Cornell
16. Vanderbilt
17. Washington St. Louis
18. Rice
19. Notre Dame
20. UC Berkeley
21. Emory
22. Georgetown
23. Carnegie Mellon
24. UCLA
25. USC
26. Virginia
27. Tufts
28. Wake Forest
29. Michigan
30. Boston College
31. North Carolina
32. UC San Diego
33. Illinois
34. Wisconsin
35. Texas

National Public Universities

1. UC Berkeley
2. UCLA
3. Virginia
4. Michigan
5. North Carolina
6. William and Mary (VA)
7. Georgia Tech
8. UC Santa Barbara
9. UC Irvine
10. UC San Diego
11. UC Davis
12. Illinois
13. Wisconsin
14. Penn State
15. Florida
16. Ohio State
17. Texas
18. Washington
19. Connecticut
20. Maryland
21. Clemson
22. Purdue
23. Georgia
24. Pittsburgh
25. Minnesota
26. Texas A&M
27. Virginia Tech
28. Rutgers
29. (5-way tie)
30. UC Santa Cruz
31. UC Riverside

Among public institutions, six University of California campuses ranked among the top eleven. (UCSF and UC Merced are not ranked in this category.) UCLA also dropped 2 points in composite score but retained its rank at 23.

Nationally, Santa Barbara moved up three spots to 37th and Irvine is up three to 39th while San Diego fell two to 39th and Davis fell three to 41st. Santa Cruz improved three to 82nd but Riverside fell eight to 121st.

Again Berkeley is 2nd to UCLA’s top spot in the percentage of undergraduates receiving Pell grants, and 8th among national universities with the least student debt upon graduation.

Berkeley again ranked 2nd in undergraduate business programs tied with MIT behind Penn, and 3rd in undergraduate engineering programs behind top-ranked MIT and Stanford.

In reputation among high school guidance counselors, Berkeley was 14th behind 13 private institutions, followed by North Carolina which ranked 22nd.
This page describes U.S. News and World Report’s Methodology for the 2016 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. There were no changes in the indicators used or their associated weightings from the prior year.

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.

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) but is then ranked ordered (20) in the list of national universities to the right.

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).