

Berkeley's Consistency: The number of published university rankings has risen dramatically over the past ten years, including new efforts being done on a global scale. With few exceptions, UC Berkeley continues to appear among the top schools whether the ranking focuses on academics, research, common good or sustainability. In enumerating the results (and depending on the survey) it is possible to consider Berkeley's place among all research universities in the world, among United States universities, or among other U.S. public institutions alone.



UC Berkeley in the U.S. News & World Report's 2013 Guide to America's Best Colleges and a Ranking Comparison


AVC-CFO — Office of Planning & Analysis

In the last 10 years of university rankings, the Berkeley campus has ranked in the top 5:

Ranking Indicator Foci:

 **19** times world-wide,

 **66** times nationally, and

 **82** times among U.S. publics, 1/2 of which were #1.

- academic excellence
- research
- reputation
- honors & awards
- sustainability
- outcomes
- common good
- access
- multi-nationalism
- web presence

Furthermore, many publishers now annually rank universities on disciplines and sub-disciplines of academic study. Some are based solely on opinion surveys of highest reputation and a few attempt to collect indicator data at this level. U.S. News annually ranks Engineering, Law, Business and Education using a small array of measures, and less frequently publishes ranked lists of other disciplines based on reputation.

Considering discipline-based rankings collectively, UC Berkeley has ranked in the top 5 some 550 times in the last 10 years.

Rankings included in the counts on this page: U.S. News, Shanghai Jiao Tong's ARWU, Times Higher Education, Washington Monthly, Association of Research Libraries, TheCenter, QS Ltd., H.E.E.A.C. of Taiwan, Hispanic Magazine, Payscale, Webometrics, GreenMetric World University Rankings and the Peace Corp.

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 an email to Alan Underwood at alanu@berkeley.edu.

Prepared September 12, 2012. AVC-CFO — Office of Planning & Analysis.

The U.S. News and World Report (USNWR) annual rankings of undergraduate institutions in the United States were released September 12, 2012. **U.C. Berkeley was again ranked 1st among public National Universities** (those offering doctoral degrees and emphasizing faculty research), followed by UCLA and Virginia (both 24th nationally), and Michigan (29th nationally). **Berkeley remained at 21st overall**, with a composite score of 79. Georgetown, moved back up to 21st to tie with Berkeley. Harvard and Princeton were tied for 1st, with Yale 3rd, and Columbia and Chicago tied at 4th. Sixth place was a two-way tie between MIT and Stanford. The top-ranked schools are shown in the two lists below. Berkeley peers are shown in green.

Among public institutions, five of the top ten were University of California campuses again, with all eight campuses in the top 50. (UCSF and UC Merced are not included in this category.) Nationally, UC San Diego moved down one position to 38th to tie with UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara up one to 41st, and UC Irvine up one to rank 44th. UC Santa Cruz fell two positions to 77th and UC Riverside fell four to 101st.

All National Universities

1. *Harvard*
1. *Princeton*
3. *Yale*
4. *Columbia*
4. *Chicago*
6. *MIT*
6. *Stanford*
8. *Pennsylvania*
8. *Duke*
10. *Cal Tech*
10. *Dartmouth*
12. *Northwestern*
13. *Johns Hopkins*
14. *Washington St.Louis*
15. *Brown*
15. *Cornell*
17. *Rice*
17. *Vanderbilt*
17. *Notre Dame*
20. *Emory*
21. **UC Berkeley**
21. *Georgetown*
23. *Carnegie Mellon*
24. *Southern Cal*
24. **UCLA**
24. **Virginia**
27. *Wake Forest*
28. *Tufts*
29. **Michigan**
30. *North Carolina*

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. **UC San Diego**
8. *UC Davis*
10. *UC Santa Barbara*
10. **Wisconsin**
12. *UC Irvine*
13. *Penn State*
13. **Illinois**
13. **Texas**
13. *Washington*
17. *Florida*
18. *Ohio State*
19. *Maryland*
19. *Pittsburgh*
21. *Connecticut*
21. *Georgia*
23. *Texas A&M*
23. *Purdue*
25. *Clemson*
25. *Minnesota*
25. *Rutgers*
28. *Iowa*
28. *Michigan State*
28. *Virginia Tech*

38. **UC San Diego**, 41. **Wisconsin**,
46. **Illinois**, 46. **Texas**

32. **UC Santa Cruz**
46. **UC Riverside**

The ranked lists do not indicate the close overall scores between many universities. As shown on the following page, which describes the USNWR methodology, the composite scores used to put schools in ranked order are often within a point or two of one another, meaning that small changes in an indicator value can impact overall rank. Retaining rank from one year to the next is not determined solely on a school's performance, but depends on the performance of other institutions as well, especially those that are close in rank.

U.S. News also lists UC Berkeley among the top universities in strong commitment to teaching, high degree of economic diversity, least amount of student debt upon graduation, and high school guidance counselor choice. These are not part of the overall rank score.

Of interest, Berkeley was the top public pick by high school counselors (ranked 17th with a 4.6 of 5.0 scale), ranked 8th by top administrators in having a strong commitment to teaching, and ranked 2nd behind UCLA in economic diversity with 38% of UGs receiving a Pell Grant.

This page describes U.S. News and World Report's Methodology for the 2013 Guide.

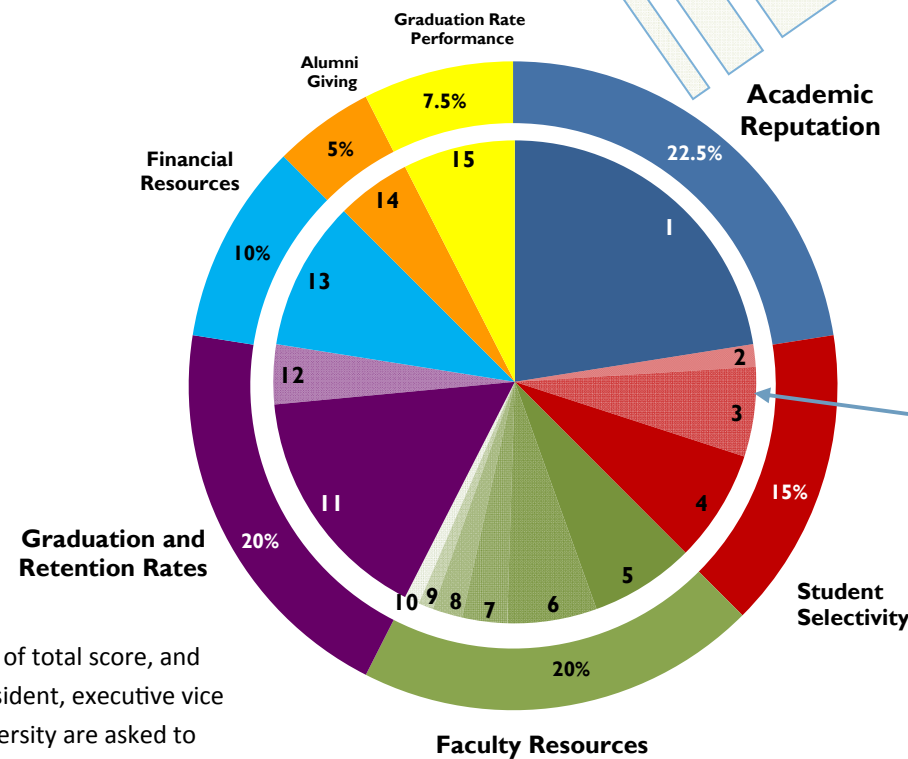
Fifteen indicators grouped into seven categories are used to develop a composite score for each school. Indicator data is manipulated in various ways, and each data element is weighted to determine its contribution to the composite score. The publisher surveys campus administrators and high school guidance counselors for "academic reputation". The other 14 indicators are self-reported by universities, and most are publicly available.

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 15 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 93, which ranks 8th.

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 showed the same predicted and actual graduation rates at 90%.



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 (21st) 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).

Berkeley Rankings - 2013 Guide

(composite score = 79)

- 21 **Overall Ranking**
- 1 **Public University Ranking**
- 8 Academic Reputation
- 14 Student Selectivity
- 28 Faculty Resources
- 19 Graduation & Retention Rates
- 37 Financial Resources
- 114 Alumni Satisfaction

15 Component Indicators (center pie) Weight Berkeley Data Source

Indicator	Weight	Berkeley Score	Data Source
1 Academic Reputation	22.5%	93 of 100	survey (see text box for detail)
Student Selectivity			
2 Admit Rate	1.5%	22%	Common Data Set
3 % in Top 10% in HS	6.0%	98%	Common Data Set
4 SAT/ACT Scores	7.5%	1250/1490	Common Data Set
Faculty Resources			
5 Average Faculty Compensation	7.0%	est. \$176,580	AAUP (2 year avg COLA adjusted)
6 % Classes Under 20	6.0%	64%	Common Data Set
7 % Faculty w/Terminal Degree	3.0%	99%	OPA estimate
8 % Classes Over 50	2.0%	14%	Common Data Set
9 % Full-Time Faculty FTE	1.0%	89%	UCOP (PT = .333 FTE)
10 Student/Faculty Ratio	1.0%	17/1	Common Data Set
Graduation & Retention Rates			
11 6 Year Graduation Rate	16.0%	90%	Common Data Set
12 1st Year Retention Rate	4.0%	97%	Common Data Set
13 Expenditures per Student	10.0%	est. \$48,500	IPEDS (2 fiscal year avg; logarithmic transformed then standardized)
14 % Alumni Who Gave	5.0%	12%	University Relations; USNWR calculates 2 year average
15 Predicted vs Actual Grad. Rate	7.5%	90% v 90%	USNWR calculates; regression model using 4 variables for "predicted" rate

2013 Guide National Rankings		
Composite Score	University	Rank
100	Harvard	1
100	Princeton	1
99	Yale	3
95	Columbia	4
95	Chicago	4
94	Stanford	6
94	MIT	6
93	Pennsylvania	8
93	Duke	8
92	Cal Tech	10
92	Dartmouth	10
91	Northwestern	12
90	Johns Hopkins	13
88	Washington StL	14
87	Brown	15
87	Cornell	15
84	Rice	17
84	Vanderbilt	17
84	Notre Dame	17
82	Emory	20
79	UC Berkeley	21
79	Georgetown	21
78	Carnegie Mellon	23
77	Southern Cal	24
77	UCLA	24
77	Virginia	24
76	Wake Forest	27
75	Tufts	28
74	Michigan	29
73	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 scored 3rd in Business and 3rd in Engineering overall.** Values in parenthesis indicate change in Berkeley's rank from the 2012 survey; zero indicates no change.

BUSINESS (40% survey response rate from business deans and senior faculty)

- 1. Pennsylvania 4.8
- 2. MIT 4.6
- 3. **UC Berkeley 4.4 (0)**
- 3. Michigan 4.4
- 5. Virginia 4.3
- 5. NYU 4.3

Business specialty fields:

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

ENGINEERING (54% survey response rate from engineering deans and senior faculty)

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

Engineering specialty fields:

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