Ranking the University

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Institutional Research & Planning
Overview

- Proliferation of rankings
  - Great breadth in what is measured
  - Different rankings emphasize widely different attributes
- Brief analysis of USN&WR rankings
- What rankings miss
- Measurement that is most useful to Cornell
"The plan puts forth an overarching aspiration for the university: to be widely recognized as a top-ten research university in the world, and a model university for the interweaving of liberal education and fundamental knowledge with practical education and impact on societal and world problems."
A sampling of ranking efforts

In the United States:

- USN&WR’s America’s Best Colleges: 1983 -
- Washington Monthly: 2005 -
- Newsweek: 2006 -
- Forbes College Rankings: 2008 -
- Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index (Academic Analytics): 2006
- Am. Council of Trustees & Alumni (WhatWillTheyLearn.com): 2010
- Wall Street Journal: 2010

International:

  - Times Higher Education (THE) World University: 2010 -
  - QS World University: 2010 -
- Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), 2003 -
- USN&WR: World’s Best Univ’s
- Global Inst’l Profiles Project (Thomson Reuters), 2009 -
- Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, 2006 -
- Undergraduate selectivity (e.g. SAT scores)
- Undergraduates’ views of faculty as reported on ratemyprofessor.com
- Outcomes for recent grads: jobs, service
- Time-to-degree for PhD students
- Faculty scholarly productivity/citations/impact
- Faculty compensation
- Results from surveys asking about a school’s academic reputation
- Evaluation of quality/volume of web-based materials
2011 USN&WR Best Colleges

1. Harvard
2. Princeton
3. Yale
4. Columbia
5. Stanford
6. Penn
7. Caltech
8. MIT
9. Dartmouth
10. Duke
11. U of Chicago
12. Northwestern
13. Johns Hopkins
14. Wash Univ-St. L.
15. Brown
16. Cornell
17. Rice
18. Vanderbilt
19. Notre Dame
20. Emory
Methodology: THE and USN&WR

- Peer assessment (survey), 40.0%
- Staff-to-student ratio, 20.0%
- Citations per faculty, 20.0%
- Employer survey, 10.0%
- Faculty resources, 20.0%
- Alumni giving, 5.0%
- Financial resources, 10.0%
- Grad. rate performance, 7.5%
- UG retention, 20.0%
- UG selectivity, 15.0%
- Peer assessment (survey), 22.5%
- Financial resources, 10.0%
- Grad. rate performance, 7.5%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Emphases</th>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>CU rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US News &amp; World Report’s Best Colleges</td>
<td>✓ Peer assessment ✓ UG persistence ✓ Class size</td>
<td>× Research × Employment outcomes for grads</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times Higher Education</td>
<td>✓ Peer assessment ✓ Research impact (citations) ✓ Int’l population</td>
<td>× Any measures of student outcomes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai: Academic Ranking of World Universities</td>
<td>✓ Research impact (prizes, citations)</td>
<td>× Anything relating to students</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall Street Journal</td>
<td>✓ Employer survey</td>
<td>× Everything else</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forbes</td>
<td>✓ ratemyprofessor.com ✓ Debt level at graduation</td>
<td>× Research</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A closer look at USN&WR

Cornell ranked 15th overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>CU rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer assessment</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty resources</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student selectivity</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial resources</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni giving</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad. rate performance</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>20th *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Out of top 50 schools overall
Peer assessment (22.5%)

Cornell tied for 8th
Faculty resources (20%)

Cornell ranked 16th

Six sub-factors:
• Faculty compensation (7%)
• % of faculty with the highest degree (3%)
• % of the faculty who are full time (1%)
• Student-faculty ratio (1%)
• Proportion of classes < 20 students (6%)
• Proportion of classes > 50 students (2%)
% of classes < 20 students

Cornell ranked 54th

56%
Student-faculty ratio

Cornell ranked 27th *

* Out of top 50 schools overall
Retention (20%)

Cornell ranked 15th

- 6-year graduation rate of first-time freshmen (16%)
- Freshman-to-sophomore retention (4%)
6-year graduation rate

Cornell ranked 16th

National average: 56%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Penn</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Wash U</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Cornell</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>U of Chicago</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not captured in any rankings

- Breadth of offerings
- Quality of the classroom experience
- Quality of student experience outside the classroom
Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education?

1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Somewhat dissatisfied, 3 = Ambivalent, 4 = Very satisfied, 5 = Very satisfied

2010 Senior Survey results
2010 Senior Survey results

How satisfied are you with... overall quality of instruction?

Average response

1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Somewhat dissatisfied, 3 = Very satisfied, 4 = Very satisfied
2010 Senior Survey results

How satisfied are you with... availability of courses you wanted to take?

Average response

1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Somewhat dissatisfied, 3 = Very satisfied, 4 = Very satisfied
How satisfied are you with... social life on campus?

1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Somewhat dissatisfied, 3 = Very satisfied, 4 = Very satisfied
Data useful for improvement

• Institution-wide comparisons mask important differences within institutions
• The best data should support the evaluation of colleges, departments, programs... and even individual faculty members
Data on faculty excellence

**Journal articles**
- Journal articles per author
- Journal articles per faculty
- Number of faculty with a journal article
- Percentage of faculty with a journal article
- Total number of journal articles

**Books**
- Book publications per faculty
- Number of faculty who have published a book
- Percentage of faculty with a book publication
- Total number of books

**Grants**
- Dollars per grant
- Grant dollars per faculty
- Number of faculty with grant
- Percentage of faculty with grant
- Total grant dollars
- Total number of grants

**Citations**
- Citations per faculty member
- Citations per journal article
- Citations per journal article author
- Number of faculty with a citation
- Percentage of authors with a citation
- Percentage of faculty with a citation
- Total number of citations

**Honorific Awards**
- Awards per faculty member
- Number of faculty with an award
- Percentage of faculty with an award
- Total number of awards