

U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best Colleges Rankings

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment Summary Report

U.S. News and World Report releases the Best Colleges Rankings each fall. These undergraduate rankings are used by students to help them decide where to apply to college. Rankings are based on criteria such as retention and graduation rates, peer assessments, student selectivity, as well as faculty and financial resources. Rankings serve a purpose, but only measure a small portion of what we use as an institution to measure our success. The university is coming off a record year in undergraduate enrollment, with the largest and most academically qualified incoming class in more than three decades. UTK has also seen sustained growth in our retention and graduation rates.

This report presents the 2019 U.S. News Best Colleges Rankings for the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and our peers. Detailed peer rankings and rankings methodology are presented in the appendices.

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville	2017	2018	2019
Overall Rankings			
<i>National Universities</i>	103	103	115
<i>Public School</i>	46	46	52
Institutional Scores/Rankings			
<i>Overall Score</i>	47	49	48
<i>Peer Assessment</i>	3.1	3.2	3.2
<i>High School Counselor Score</i>	3.7	3.6	3.7
<i>Outcomes Rank</i>	122	120	124
<i>Six-year graduation rate</i>	70%	69%	70%
<i>Average freshmen retention rate</i>	86%	86%	86%
<i>Over/Under Predicted graduation rate</i>	-2	-2	-3
<i>Faculty Resources Rank</i>	137	124	123
<i>Proportion of classes fewer than 20 students</i>	27.8%	30.0%	30.0%
<i>Proportion of classes with 50+ students</i>	14%	13.0%	14.0%
<i>Student Excellence Rank</i>	79	84	112
<i>SAT/ACT 25th-75th percentile</i>	24-30	24-30	24-30
<i>Freshmen in top 10% HS Class</i>	54%	54%	n/a
<i>Financial Resources Rank</i>	72	84	97
<i>Alumni Giving Rank</i>	115	102	105
<i>Average alumni giving rate</i>	9.5%	10.4%	10.5%

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

In the 2019 rankings, the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK) dropped 12 spots to 115 in the national rankings. We also fell 6 spots to #52 in the public school rankings. In the national and public rankings, UTK is tied with three other institutions.

Undergraduate engineering is ranked 59st nationally (up 2 places) and 33th among publics (up 1). Our undergraduate business program ranked 62nd nationally (down 17 places) and 39^h among publics (down 12 places) due to the unusually large number of programs tying at 44th (the group ahead of us). The supply chain/logistics program is ranked 6th nationally and 5th publically.

U.S. News made several changes in their methodology this year. The biggest change was to increase the percentage of weight for Outcomes (formerly “Graduation and Retention”) to 35% from 30%. This includes adding an indicator of social mobility (the additional 5%) based on the overall graduation rate of Pell Grant recipients as well as the graduation rate of Pell Grant recipients vs all other students. This change has greatly affected many schools’ rankings.

This year U.S. News also removed acceptance rates as a piece of the Student Excellence (formerly “Selectivity”) rank, which only left high school standing and standardized tests. Because many high schools are no longer providing rankings of their students, some institutions, including UTK, are choosing to no longer report this data.

Another factor, besides the methodology changes, in the movement of programs within the ranks is the proliferation of ties. In the 2019 US News rankings, there were over 30 ties (usually involving multiple schools) between the 1st and the 115th school.

UTK slightly improved in the Faculty Resources rank, moving up from 124 to 123. Even though UTK saw an increase, the majority of our peers saw a decrease in their Faculty Resources rank. We also improved our ranking by high school counselors and continue to improve our six year graduation rate.

Among our comparable peers, 9 saw a decrease in the national rankings and 9 decreased in the public school rankings from 2018 to 2019. Most of our peers (including UTK) saw decreases in their graduation and retention rank. For the 2011 cohort, UTK had a higher percentage of Pell recipients (31%) than all of our comparative peers and all but one aspirational peer. Our differential six year grad rate between Pell recipients and non-recipients was smaller than all but two of our comparable peers. While UTK only saw a 4 point drop in this measure, 10 of 11 peers experienced drops ranging from -14 to -39 points.

UTK also experienced a drop in the Financial Resources rank. The fluctuations in this rank over the past few years are due to the change of no longer being accredited with UTHSC and the movement of the institutions ranked near us. The Alumni Giving rank also decreased slightly even though the actual Alumni Giving Rate slightly increased.

The Student Excellence rank was the largest drop the university experienced with a decrease of 28. The decrease in this rank is mostly due to changes in the US News methodology and decreasing availability of data related to high school standing.

The University of Tennessee – Knoxville

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Overall Rankings					
<i>National Universities</i>	106	103	103	103	115
<i>Public School</i>	50	47	46	46	52
Institutional Scores/Rankings					
<i>Overall Score</i>	44	42	47	49	48
<i>Peer Assessment</i>	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2
<i>High School Counselor Score</i>	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7
<i>Outcomes Rank</i>	135	127	122	120	124
<i>Faculty Resources Rank</i>	144	135	137	124	123
<i>Student Excellence Rank</i>	76	82	79	84	112
<i>Financial Resources Rank</i>	55	56	72	84	97
<i>Alumni Giving Rank</i>	132	127	115	102	105

The following chart shows the changes in institution rankings of our comparative and aspirational peers over a three year period, from 2017 to 2019. Over this period, 5 peers have increased their public ranking and 12 peers (as well as UTK) have decreased.



* Aspirational Peer

Peer Comparisons

The University of Tennessee – Knoxville has two sets of comparison peers: Comparative (11) and Aspirational (6). From 2018 to 2019, we dropped 6 places in the public rankings to 52nd, while one of our comparative peers over the same 2 year period dropped 10 places and another dropped 12. One comparative and three aspirational peers rose in the public rankings during this time period with one comparative peer maintaining their previous rank. In the following section, we list the schools that exhibited a large increase or decrease in the different categories.

Comparative Peers

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: No large increases
 - Decreased in rank: University of Alabama (-19), University of Kentucky (-14), Auburn University (-12), UTK (-12), University of Missouri (-9), Louisiana State (-7), and Virginia Tech (-7)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: No large increases
 - Decreased in rank: University of Kentucky (-12), University of Alabama (-10), and Louisiana State (-7)

- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: North Carolina State (7)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Alabama (-39), Auburn University (-33), Louisiana State (-32), University of Missouri (-30), University of Kentucky (-28), University of South Carolina (-27), University of Nebraska (-26), and Iowa State (-20)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: LSU (50), University of South Carolina (28), and University of Kentucky (23)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Nebraska (-33), Virginia Tech (-26), University of Alabama (-20), and University of Missouri (-16)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: Virginia Tech (30), Auburn University (7), and Clemson University (7)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-28), University of Alabama (-11), University of Missouri (-8), and Louisiana State (-6)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: North Carolina State (9), Auburn University (8), and University of Kentucky (7)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-13), Iowa State (-11), and Virginia Tech (-9)

Aspirational Peers

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Georgia (8) and University of Florida (7)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-12), University of Minnesota (-7), and Michigan State University (-4)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Georgia (3)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-12) and University of Minnesota (-7)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: University of Florida (27) and University of Minnesota (7)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Wisconsin - Madison (-14)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: University of Florida (24) and University of Minnesota (13)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Wisconsin - Madison (-7) and Purdue University (-5)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Florida (8)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-28) and Michigan State University (-4)

- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Florida (5)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-13) and Michigan State University (-6)

SEC

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Georgia (8) and University of Florida (7)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Alabama (-19), University of Arkansas (-19), University of Kentucky (-14), Auburn University (-12), and UTK (-12)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: No large increases
 - Decreased in rank: University of Arkansas (-15), University of Kentucky (-12), and University of Alabama (-10)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank University of Florida (27) and Texas A&M (11)
 - Decreased in rank University of Arkansas (-35), Auburn University (-33), Louisiana State (-32), University of Missouri (-30), University of Kentucky (-28), University of South Carolina (-27), and University of Mississippi (-25)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: LSU (50), University of South Carolina (28), University of Mississippi (27), University of Florida (24), and University of Kentucky (23)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Alabama (-20) and University of Missouri (-16)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Florida (8)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-28), University of Alabama (-11), and University of Arkansas (-10)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: Auburn University (8)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-13)

In the 2019 national rankings the University of Tennessee – Knoxville tied with three other universities. The following public institutions tied with UTK: Arizona State University, Auburn University (again), and Rutgers University. Of the six schools that we were tied with last year, three rose (Loyola University, University of Oregon, and Illinois Institute of Technology) and three (Auburn University, University of New Hampshire, and University of South Carolina) fell in the rankings.

U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best College Rankings

Appendix A: UTK and Peer Comparison Tables

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 National Universities	2018 National Universities	Change	2019 Public Schools	2018 Public Schools	Change	2019 Peer Assessment	2018 Peer Assessment	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	115	103	-12	52	46	-6	3.2	3.2	0.0
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	115	103	-12	52	46	-6	3.3	3.3	0
Clemson University	66	67	1	24	23	-1	3.3	3.3	0
Iowa State University	119	115	-4	56	53	-3	3.3	3.3	0
Louisiana State University	140	133	-7	70	63	-7	2.9	2.9	0
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	80	81	1	32	33	1	3.2	3.2	0
University of Alabama	129	110	-19	61	51	-10	3.2	3.2	0
University of Kentucky	147	133	-14	75	63	-12	3.1	3.1	0
University of Missouri	129	120	-9	61	57	-4	3.2	3.2	0
University of Nebraska	129	124	-5	61	58	-3	3.1	3.2	-0.1
University of South Carolina	106	103	-3	46	46	0	3.1	3.1	0
Virginia Tech	76	69	-7	30	25	-5	3.5	3.5	0
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	85	81	-4	35	33	-2	3.5	3.6	-0.1
Purdue University	56	56	0	17	18	1	3.8	3.8	0
University of Georgia	46	54	8	13	16	3	3.6	3.5	0.1
University of Florida	35	42	7	8	9	1	3.7	3.7	0
University of Minnesota	76	69	-7	30	25	-5	3.7	3.7	0
University of Wisconsin - Madison	49	46	-3	15	12	-3	4.0	4.0	0

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 High School Counselor Score	2018 High School Counselor Score	Change	2019 Outcomes Rank	2018 Outcomes Rank	Change	2019 Faculty Resources Rank	2018 Faculty Resources Rank	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	3.7	3.6	0.1	124	120	-4	123	124	1
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	3.8	3.8	0	130	97	-33	144	145	1
Clemson University	4.1	4.0	0.1	74	60	-14	95	89	-6
Iowa State University	3.7	3.5	0.2	124	104	-20	202	194	-8
Louisiana State University	3.6	3.6	0	170	138	-32	144	194	50
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	3.7	3.5	0.2	74	81	7	144	138	-6
University of Alabama	3.8	3.7	0.1	166	127	-39	198	178	-20
University of Kentucky	3.7	3.6	0.1	192	164	-28	183	206	23
University of Missouri	3.7	3.6	0.1	155	125	-30	175	159	-16
University of Nebraska	3.7	3.4	0.3	164	138	-26	183	150	-33
University of South Carolina	3.8	3.7	0.1	124	97	-27	131	159	28
Virginia Tech	4.2	4.1	0.1	66	49	-17	192	166	-26
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	3.9	3.8	0.1	74	77	3	211	210	-1
Purdue University	4.2	4.2	0	95	92	-3	79	74	-5
University of Georgia	4.1	4.1	0	42	47	5	47	44	-3
University of Florida	4.1	3.9	0.2	7	34	27	65	89	24
University of Minnesota	3.8	3.8	0	74	81	7	202	215	13
University of Wisconsin - Madison	4.2	4.0	0.2	55	41	-14	131	124	-7

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Student Excellence Rank	2018 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2019 Financial Resources Rank	2018 Financial Resources Rank	Change	2019 Alumni Giving Rank	2018 Alumni Giving Rank	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	112	84	-28	97	84	-13	105	102	-3
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	94	101	7	166	174	8	67	79	12
Clemson University	57	64	7	133	129	-4	27	29	2
Iowa State University	139	140	1	158	147	-11	87	79	-8
Louisiana State University	122	116	-6	133	136	3	87	102	15
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	68	64	-4	88	97	9	105	86	-19
University of Alabama	100	89	-11	206	211	5	19	16	-3
University of Kentucky	122	120	-2	65	72	7	75	67	-8
University of Missouri	112	104	-8	158	163	5	75	63	-12
University of Nebraska	135	133	-2	142	136	-6	45	43	-2
University of South Carolina	103	104	1	181	179	-2	61	61	0
Virginia Tech	94	124	30	123	114	-9	87	92	5
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	132	110	-22	109	103	-6	122	140	18
Purdue University	80	84	4	88	87	-1	39	41	2
University of Georgia	66	64	-2	123	121	-2	62	76	14
University of Florida	39	47	8	44	49	5	75	86	11
University of Minnesota	68	60	-8	44	46	2	133	127	-6
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57	52	-5	61	61	0	75	67	-8

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Outcomes Rank	2018 Outcomes Rank	Change	2019 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	2018 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	2019 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	2018 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	over/under	2019 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	2018 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Change
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	124	120	-4	73.0%	71.0%	2%	70.0%	69.0%	1%	-3%	86%	86%	0%
Comparable Peers													
Auburn University	130	97	-33	78.0%	78.0%	0%	77.0%	75.0%	2%	-1%	91%	90%	1%
Clemson University	74	60	-14	78.0%	77.0%	1%	82.0%	81.0%	1%	4%	93%	93%	0%
Iowa State University	124	104	-20	67.0%	68.0%	-1%	73.0%	74.0%	-1%	6%	87%	87%	0%
Louisiana State University	170	138	-32	69.0%	70.0%	-1%	67.0%	68.0%	-1%	-2%	84%	84%	0%
North Carolina State University	74	81	7	72.0%	72.0%	0%	79.0%	78.0%	1%	7%	94%	94%	0%
University of Alabama	166	127	-39	75.0%	73.0%	2%	68.0%	69.0%	-1%	-7%	87%	87%	0%
University of Kentucky	192	164	-28	70.0%	70.0%	0%	61.0%	64.0%	-3%	-9%	83%	83%	0%
University of Missouri	155	125	-30	69.0%	70.0%	-1%	68.0%	68.0%	0%	-1%	87%	86%	1%
University of Nebraska	164	138	-26	68.0%	68.0%	0%	68.0%	67.0%	1%	0%	83%	83%	0%
University of South Carolina	124	97	-27	68.0%	68.0%	0%	75.0%	73.0%	2%	7%	88%	88%	0%
Virginia Tech	66	49	-17	74.0%	74.0%	0%	84.0%	84.0%	0%	10%	93%	93%	0%
Aspirational Peers													
Michigan State University	74	77	3	69.0%	68.0%	1%	79.0%	78.0%	1%	10%	92%	92%	0%
Purdue University	95	92	-3	72.0%	70.0%	2%	79.0%	77.0%	2%	7%	93%	92%	1%
University of Georgia	42	47	5	76.0%	79.0%	-3%	85.0%	85.0%	0%	9%	95%	95%	0%
University of Florida	7	34	27	82.0%	83.0%	-1%	88.0%	87.0%	1%	6%	96%	96%	0%
University of Minnesota	74	81	7	77.0%	77.0%	0%	80.0%	78.0%	2%	3%	93%	92%	1%
University of Wisconsin	55	41	-14	84.0%	83.0%	1%	87.0%	85.0%	2%	3%	95%	95%	0%

Outcomes = 20% (Peil 5%, 4-yr avg grad rate 17.6%, 4-yr avg ret rate 4.4%, grad rate performance 8%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Outcomes Rank	Predicted 6 Year Graduation Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	over/under	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Average 6-year graduation rate	6-year Pell grad rate	6-year non-Pell grad rate	Difference Pell vs. non-Pell
Comparable Peers									
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	124	73.0%	70.0%	-3%	86%	70%	62%	74%	-12%
Auburn University	130	78.0%	77.0%	-1%	91%	74%	65%	78%	-13%
Clemson University	74	78.0%	82.0%	4%	93%	82%	71%	85%	-14%
Iowa State University	124	67.0%	73.0%	6%	87%	72%	63%	77%	-14%
Louisiana State University	170	69.0%	67.0%	-2%	84%	66%	56%	69%	-13%
North Carolina State University	74	72.0%	79.0%	7%	94%	77%	72%	82%	-10%
University of Alabama	166	75.0%	68.0%	-7%	87%	68%	51%	72%	-21%
University of Kentucky	192	70.0%	61.0%	-9%	83%	62%	45%	66%	-21%
University of Missouri	155	69.0%	68.0%	-1%	87%	69%	53%	73%	-20%
University of Nebraska	164	68.0%	68.0%	0%	83%	67%	56%	72%	-16%
University of South Carolina	124	68.0%	75.0%	7%	88%	73%	64%	78%	-14%
Virginia Tech	66	74.0%	84.0%	10%	93%	84%	78%	86%	-8%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	74	69.0%	79.0%	10%	92%	78%	71%	82%	-11%
Purdue University	95	72.0%	79.0%	7%	93%	76%	72%	80%	-8%
University of Georgia	42	76.0%	85.0%	9%	95%	84%	80%	87%	-7%
University of Florida	7	82.0%	88.0%	6%	96%	88%	85%	90%	-5%
University of Minnesota	74	77.0%	80.0%	3%	93%	78%	71%	83%	-12%
University of Wisconsin	55	84.0%	87.0%	3%	95%	85%	83%	88%	-5%

Outcomes = 20% (Pell 5%, 4-yr avg grad rate 17.6%, 4-yr avg ret rate 4.4%, grad rate performance 8%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Faculty Resources Rank	2018 Faculty Resources Rank	Change	2019 Classes Under 20	2018 Classes Under 20	Change	2019 Classes of 50 or More	2018 Classes of 50 or More	Change	2019 Student/Faculty Ratio	2018 Student/Faculty Ratio	
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	123	124	1	30.0%	30.0%	0%	14.0%	13.0%	1%	17:1	17:1	
Comparable Peers												
Auburn University	144	145	1	33.0%	32.0%	1%	16.0%	16.0%	0%	19:1	19:1	
Clemson University	95	89	-6	53.0%	51.0%	2%	15.0%	15.0%	0%	16:1	18:1	
Iowa State University	202	194	-8	29.0%	29.0%	0%	25.0%	25.0%	0%	19:1	19:1	
Louisiana State University	144	194	50	41.0%	36.0%	5%	18.0%	22.0%	-4%	20:1	22:1	
North Carolina State University	144	138	-6	36.0%	38.0%	-2%	16.0%	15.0%	1%	13:1	13:1	
University of Alabama	198	178	-20	32.0%	36.0%	-4%	22.0%	22.0%	0%	23:1	23:1	
University of Kentucky	183	206	23	32.0%	31.0%	1%	15.0%	16.0%	-1%	17:1	17:1	
University of Missouri	175	159	-16	38.0%	40.0%	-2%	17.0%	18.0%	-1%	18:1	19:1	
University of Nebraska	183	150	-33	35.0%	37.0%	-2%	18.0%	18.0%	0%	21:1	21:1	
University of South Carolina	131	159	28	38.0%	36.0%	2%	16.0%	17.0%	-1%	17:1	18:1	
Virginia Tech	192	166	-26	27.0%	29.0%	-2%	22.0%	21.0%	1%	14:1	14:1	
Aspirational Peers												
Michigan State University	211	210	-1	25.0%	27.0%	-2%	24.0%	23.0%	1%	16:1	17:1	
Purdue University	79	74	-5	38.0%	38.0%	0%	18.0%	18.0%	0%	13:1	12:1	
University of Georgia	47	44	-3	46.0%	46.0%	0%	11.0%	11.0%	0%	17:1	18:1	
University of Florida	65	89	24	48.0%	48.0%	0%	16.0%	15.0%	1%	19:1	20:1	
University of Minnesota	202	215	13	37.0%	36.0%	1%	20.0%	21.0%	-1%	17:1	17:1	
University of Wisconsin	131	124	-7	43.0%	44.0%	-1%	22.0%	21.0%	1%	18:1	18:1	

Faculty Resources = 20% (class size 8%, fac salary 7%, prop hi degr 3%, ratio 1%, FT prop 1%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Student Excellence Rank	2018 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2019 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2018 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2019 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	2018 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	112	84	-28	24-30	24-30	N/A	54% *	
Comparable Peers								
Auburn University	94	101	7	24-30	24-30	31%	30%	1%
Clemson University	57	64	7	27-31	26-31	62%	57%	5%
Iowa State University	139	140	1	22-28	22-28	25%	22%	3%
Louisiana State University	122	116	-6	23-28	23-28	23%	25%	-2%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	68	64	-4	27-31	27-31	46%	50%	
University of Alabama	100	89	-11	23-32	23-31	39%	37%	2%
University of Kentucky	122	120	-2	22-28	22-28	29%	30%	-1%
University of Missouri	112	104	-8	23-29	23-29	29%	30%	-1%
University of Nebraska	135	133	-2	22-29	22-28	26%	24%	2%
University of South Carolina	103	104	1	25-30	25-30	29%	28%	1%
Virginia Tech	94	124	30	26-31*	24-29*	38%	40%	-2%
Aspirational Peers								
Michigan State University	132	110	-22	24-29*	24-29	30%	30%	0%
Purdue University	80	84	4	25-31*	23-30*	44%	43%	1%
University of Georgia	66	64	-2	26-31	25-30*	54%	55%	-1%
University of Florida	39	47	8	27-32*	26-31*	77%	73%	4%
University of Minnesota	68	60	-8	26-31	26-31	50%	48%	2%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57	52	-5	27-31	27-31	52%	54%	-2%

Student Excellence (selectivity) = 10% (SAT/ACT 7.75%, rank 2.25%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2018-2019 Comparison

UTK Peers	2019 Alumni Giving Rank	2018 Alumni Giving Rank	Change	2019 Average Alumni Giving Rate	2018 Average Alumni Giving Rate	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	105	102	-3	10.5%	10.4%	0.1%
Comparable Peers						
Auburn University	67	79	12	13.1%	12.6%	0.5%
Clemson University	27	29	2	22.9%	22.7%	0.2%
Iowa State University	87	79	-8	11.4%	12.3%	-0.9%
Louisiana State University	87	102	15	11.8%	10.8%	1.0%
North Carolina State University	105	86	-19	10.2%	11.5%	-1.3%
University of Alabama	19	16	-3	27.1%	30.3%	-3.2%
University of Kentucky	75	67	-8	12.4%	13.8%	-1.4%
University of Missouri	75	63	-12	12.6%	13.9%	-1.3%
University of Nebraska	45	43	-2	18.2%	18.4%	-0.2%
University of South Carolina	61	61	0	14.3%	14.8%	-0.5%
Virginia Tech	87	92	5	11.5%	11.2%	0.3%
Aspirational Peers						
Michigan State University	122	140	18	8.5%	8.0%	0.5%
Purdue University	39	41	2	18.6%	18.7%	-0.1%
University of Georgia	62	76	14	13.6%	12.6%	1.0%
University of Florida	75	86	11	12.8%	11.6%	1.2%
University of Minnesota	133	127	-6	8.2%	8.8%	-0.6%
University of Wisconsin	75	67	-8	12.9%	13.3%	-0.4%

Alumni Giving 5%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2019 Peer Rankings Comparison

UTK Peers	National Universities	Public Schools	Overall Score	Peer Assessment	High School Counselor Score	Outcomes Rank	Faculty Resources Rank
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	115	52	48	3.2	3.7	124	123
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	115	52	48	3.3	3.8	130	144
Clemson University	66	24	58	3.3	4.1	74	95
Iowa State University	119	56	47	3.3	3.7	124	202
Louisiana State University	140	70	42	2.9	3.6	170	144
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	80	35	54	3.2	3.7	74	144
University of Alabama	129	61	44	3.2	3.8	166	198
University of Kentucky	147	75	41	3.1	3.7	192	183
University of Missouri	129	61	44	3.2	3.7	155	175
University of Nebraska	129	61	44	3.1	3.7	164	183
University of South Carolina	106	46	49	3.1	3.8	124	131
Virginia Tech	76	30	56	3.5	4.2	66	192
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	85	35	53	3.5	3.9	74	211
Purdue University	56	17	61	3.8	4.2	95	79
University of Georgia	46	13	64	3.6	4.1	42	47
University of Florida	35	8	69	3.7	4.1	7	65
University of Minnesota	76	30	56	3.7	3.8	74	202
University of Wisconsin - Madison	49	15	63	4.0	4.2	55	131

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2019 Peer Rankings Comparison

UTK Peers	Student Excellence Rank	Financial Resources Rank	Alumni Giving Rank
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	112	97	105
Comparable Peers			
Auburn University	94	166	67
Clemson University	57	133	27
Iowa State University	139	158	87
Louisiana State University	122	133	87
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	68	88	105
University of Alabama	100	206	19
University of Kentucky	122	65	75
University of Missouri	112	158	75
University of Nebraska	135	142	45
University of South Carolina	103	181	61
Virginia Tech	94	123	87
Aspirational Peers			
Michigan State University	132	109	122
Purdue University	80	88	39
University of Georgia	66	123	62
University of Florida	39	44	75
University of Minnesota	68	44	133
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57	61	75

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2019 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Public Schools	Overall Score	Peer Assessment	High School Counselor Score	Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Over(+)/Under(-) Performance
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	52	48	3.2	3.7	73.0%	70.0%	-3%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	52	48	3.3	3.8	78.0%	77.0%	-1%
Clemson University	24	58	3.3	4.1	78.0%	82.0%	4%
Iowa State University	56	47	3.3	3.7	67.0%	73.0%	6%
Louisiana State University	70	42	2.9	3.6	69.0%	67.0%	-2%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	35	53	3.2	3.7	72.0%	79.0%	7%
University of Alabama	61	44	3.2	3.8	75.0%	68.0%	-7%
University of Kentucky	75	41	3.1	3.7	70.0%	61.0%	-9%
University of Missouri	61	44	3.2	3.7	69.0%	68.0%	-1%
University of Nebraska	61	44	3.1	3.7	68.0%	68.0%	0%
University of South Carolina	46	49	3.1	3.8	68.0%	75.0%	7%
Virginia Tech	30	56	3.5	4.2	74.0%	84.0%	10%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	35	53	3.5	3.9	69.0%	79.0%	10%
Purdue University	17	61	3.8	4.2	72.0%	79.0%	7%
University of Georgia	13	64	3.6	4.1	76.0%	85.0%	9%
University of Florida	8	69	3.7	4.1	82.0%	88.0%	6%
University of Minnesota	30	56	3.7	3.8	77.0%	80.0%	3%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	15	63	4.0	4.2	84.0%	87.0%	3%

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2019 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Classes Under 20	Classes of 50 or More	Student/Faculty Ratio	ACT 25th-75th Percentile	Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Average Alumni Giving Rate
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	86%	30.0%	14.0%	17:1	24-30	N/A	10.5%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	91%	33.0%	16.0%	19:1	24-30	31%	13.1%
Clemson University	93%	53.0%	15.0%	16:1	27-31	62%	22.9%
Iowa State University	87%	29.0%	25.0%	19:1	22-28	25%	11.4%
Louisiana State University	84%	41.0%	18.0%	20:1	23-28	23%	11.8%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	94%	36.0%	16.0%	13:1	27-31	46%	10.2%
University of Alabama	87%	32.0%	22.0%	23:1	23-32	39%	27.1%
University of Kentucky	83%	32.0%	15.0%	17:1	22-28	29%	12.4%
University of Missouri	87%	38.0%	17.0%	18:1	23-29	29%	12.6%
University of Nebraska	83%	35.0%	18.0%	21:1	22-29	26%	18.2%
University of South Carolina	88%	38.0%	16.0%	17:1	25-30	29%	14.3%
Virginia Tech	93%	27.0%	22.0%	14:1	26-31*	38%	11.5%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	92%	25.0%	24.0%	16:1	24-29*	30%	8.5%
Purdue University	93%	38.0%	18.0%	13:1	25-31*	44%	18.6%
University of Georgia	95%	46.0%	11.0%	17:1	26-31	54%	13.6%
University of Florida	96%	48.0%	16.0%	19:1	27-32*	77%	12.8%
University of Minnesota	93%	37.0%	20.0%	17:1	26-31	50%	8.2%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	95%	43.0%	22.0%	18:1	27-31	52%	12.9%

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2018 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Public Schools	Overall Score	Peer Assessment	High School Counselor Score	Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Over(+) / Under(-) Performance
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	46	49	3.2	3.6	71.0%	69.0%	-2%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	46	49	3.3	3.8	78.0%	75.0%	-3%
Clemson University	23	59	3.3	4.0	77.0%	81.0%	4%
Iowa State University	53	47	3.3	3.5	68.0%	74.0%	6%
Louisiana State University	63	43	2.9	3.6	70.0%	68.0%	-2%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	33	54	3.2	3.5	72.0%	78.0%	6%
University of Alabama	51	48	3.2	3.7	73.0%	69.0%	-4%
University of Kentucky	63	43	3.1	3.6	70.0%	64.0%	-6%
University of Missouri	57	46	3.2	3.6	70.0%	68.0%	-2%
University of Nebraska	58	45	3.2	3.4	68.0%	67.0%	-1%
University of South Carolina	46	49	3.1	3.7	68.0%	73.0%	5%
Virginia Tech	25	57	3.5	4.1	74.0%	84.0%	10%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	33	54	3.6	3.8	68.0%	78.0%	10%
Purdue University	18	61	3.8	4.2	70.0%	77.0%	7%
University of Georgia	16	62	3.5	4.1	79.0%	85.0%	6%
University of Florida	9	65	3.7	3.9	83.0%	87.0%	4%
University of Minnesota	25	57	3.7	3.8	77.0%	78.0%	1%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	12	64	4.0	4.0	83.0%	85.0%	2%

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2018 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Classes Under 20	Classes of 50 or More	Student/Faculty Ratio	Percentage of Full-Time Faculty	ACT 25th-75th Percentile	Freshmen in Top 10% of Class
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>							
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	90%	32.0%	16.0%	19:1	95.3%	24-30	30%
Clemson University	93%	51.0%	15.0%	18:1	97.5%	26-31	57%
Iowa State University	87%	29.0%	25.0%	19:1	94.0%	22-28	22%
Louisiana State University	84%	36.0%	22.0%	22:1	95.8%	23-28	25%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	94%	38.0%	15.0%	13:1	94.8%	27-31	50%
University of Alabama	87%	36.0%	22.0%	23:1	88.9%	23-31	37%
University of Kentucky	83%	31.0%	16.0%	17:1	85.8%	22-28	30%
University of Missouri	86%	40.0%	18.0%	19:1	97.8%	23-29	30%
University of Nebraska	83%	37.0%	18.0%	21:1	99.7%	22-28	24%
University of South Carolina	88%	36.0%	17.0%	18:1	86.2%	25-30	28%
Virginia Tech	93%	29.0%	21.0%	14:1	96.0%	24-29*	40%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	92%	27.0%	23.0%	17:1	94.7%	24-29	30%
Purdue University	92%	38.0%	18.0%	12:1	95.1%	23-30*	43%
University of Georgia	95%	46.0%	11.0%	18:1	95.9%	25-30*	55%
University of Florida	96%	48.0%	15.0%	20:1	93.1%	26-31*	73%
University of Minnesota	92%	36.0%	21.0%	17:1	87.8%	26-31	48%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	95%	44.0%	21.0%	18:1	93.9%	27-31	54%

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2018 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Acceptance Rate	Average Alumni Giving Rate
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	77.0%	10.0%
Comparable Peers		
Auburn University	81.0%	13.0%
Clemson University	51.0%	23.0%
Iowa State University	87.0%	12.0%
Louisiana State University	76.0%	11.0%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	46.0%	11.5%
University of Alabama	53.0%	30.0%
University of Kentucky	91.0%	14.0%
University of Missouri	75.0%	14.0%
University of Nebraska	75.0%	18.0%
University of South Carolina	68.0%	15.0%
Virginia Tech	71.0%	11.0%
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	66.0%	8.0%
Purdue University	56.0%	19.0%
University of Georgia	54.0%	13.0%
University of Florida	46.0%	12.0%
University of Minnesota	44.0%	9.0%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	53.0%	13.0%

* Converted from SAT scores

**USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2019 SEC Schools Comparison**

SEC Comparison	UTK	Ole Miss	Miss State	Arkansas	Kentucky	South Carolina	Missouri	Auburn	Alabama	Texas A&M	UGA	Florida	Vanderbilt	LSU
National Rank	115	152	177	152	147	106	129	115	129	66	46	35	14	140
Public School Rank	52	78	97	78	75	46	61	52	61	24	13	8	N/A	70
Overall Score	48	40	35	40	41	49	44	48	44	58	64	69	85	42
Outcomes Rank	124	182	192	192	192	124	155	130	166	62	42	7	26	170
Faculty Resource Rank	123	157	227	117	183	131	175	144	198	183	47	65	13	144
Student Excellence Rank	112	139	143	130	122	103	112	94	100	80	66	39	10	122
Financial Resources Rank	97	115	152	166	65	181	158	166	206	88	123	44	12	133
Alumni Giving Rank	105	67	57	29	75	61	75	67	19	50	62	75	24	87
Peer Assessment Score (Out of 5)	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.2	2.9
High School Counselor Score (Out of 5)	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.7	3.6
Predicted 6 year Graduation Rate	73%	63%	62%	70%	70%	68%	69%	78%	75%	76%	76%	82%	94%	69%
Actual 6 Year Graduation Rate	70%	60%	58%	62%	61%	75%	68%	77%	68%	82%	85%	88%	92%	67%
Over/Under Performance	-3%	-3%	-4%	-8%	-9%	7%	-1%	-1%	-7%	6%	9%	6%	-2%	-2%
Average Freshman Retention Rate	86%	86%	80%	82%	83%	88%	87%	91%	87%	91%	95%	96%	97%	84%
% of Classes Under 20	30.0%	45.0%	37.0%	48.0%	32.0%	38.0%	38.0%	33.0%	32.0%	23.0%	46.0%	48.0%	66.0%	41.0%
% of Classes of 50 or More	14.0%	16.0%	15.0%	18.0%	15.0%	16.0%	17.0%	16.0%	22.0%	25.0%	11.0%	16.0%	8.0%	18.0%
Student-Faculty Ratio	17:1	18:1	20:1	19:1	17:1	17:1	18:1	19:1	23:1	20:1	17:1	19:1	7:1	20:1
ACT Low/High	24-30	22-29	21-28	23-29	22-28	25-30	23-29	24-30	23-32	25-31*	26-31	27-32*	32-35	23-28
Freshman in Top 10% of HS Class	N/A	26%	25%	26%	29%	29%	29%	31%	39%	60%	54%	77%	90%	23%
Average Alumni Giving Rate	10.5%	13.4%	15.3%	22.2%	12.4%	14.3%	12.6%	13.1%	27.1%	16.2%	13.6%	12.8%	24.7%	11.8%

*Converted from SAT Scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
Institutions Tied with UTK at National Ranking = 115

	Outcomes Rank	Graduation Over(+) / Under(-) Performance	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Faculty Resources Rank	Student Excellence Rank	Financial Resources Rank	Alumni Giving Rank
2019 Rankings								
Arizona State University	142	4%	86%	63%	117	117	166	96
Auburn University	130	-1%	91%	77%	144	94	166	67
Rutgers University	85	14%	85%	68%	131	259	104	209
University of Tennessee	124	-3%	86%	70%	123	112	97	105
2018 Rankings								
Auburn University	97	-3%	90%	75%	145	101	174	79
Illinois Institute of Technology	110	-3%	92%	71%	69	60	121	152
Loyola University	102	4%	85%	75%	106	96	121	184
University of New Hampshire	83	17%	86%	78%	150	189	136	173
University of Oregon	110	9%	87%	72%	106	172	147	127
University of South Carolina	97	5%	88%	73%	159	104	179	61
University of Tennessee	120	-2%	86%	69%	124	84	84	102
2017 Rankings								
Illinois Institute of Technology	102	-4%	92%	73%	66	63	112	152
University of Alabama	125	-2%	86%	67%	137	89	212	13
University of Oregon	113	10%	87%	72%	108	155	162	127
University of Tennessee	122	-2%	86%	70%	137	79	72	115
2016 Rankings								
University of Missouri	106	0%	85%	69%	129	100	173	62
University of Nebraska	122	0%	84%	67%	111	124	123	41
University of New Hampshire	80	13%	86%	77%	102	196	139	156
University of Oregon	117	6%	86%	69%	91	161	161	139
University of Tennessee	127	-5%	86%	69%	135	82	56	127

U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best College Rankings

Appendix B: Methodology

U.S. News 2019 Best Colleges Rankings Methodology

Expert Opinion (academic reputation)	20.0% <i>(down from 22.5%)</i>	Peer assessment survey	15%
		High school counselors' ratings	5%
Outcomes (graduation/retention)	35.0% <i>(up from 30%)</i>	Social Mobility (Pell)	5%
		Average graduation rate	17.6%
		Average freshman retention rate	4.4%
		Graduation Rate Performance	8.0
Faculty resources	20.0%	Faculty compensation	7%
		Percent faculty with terminal degree in their field	3%
		Percent faculty that is full time	1%
		Student/faculty ratio	1%
		Class size	8%
Student Excellence (Selectivity) (Fall 2017 entering class)	10.0% <i>(down from 12.5%)</i>	High school class standing in top 10%	2.25%
		Critical Reading and Math portions of the SAT and the composite ACT scores	7.75%
Financial Resources (the average of fiscal years 2016 and 2017)	10.0%	Financial resources per student	
Alumni Giving (Average of 2015-16 and 2016-17)	5.0%	Average alumni giving rate	

Outcomes (35 percent, up from 30 percent in 2018)

More than one-third of a school's rank comes from its success at retaining and graduating students within 150 percent of normal time (six years). It receives the highest weight in our rankings because degree completion is necessary to receive the full benefits of undergraduate study from employers and graduate schools. We approach outcomes from angles of social mobility (5 percent), graduation and retention (22 percent), and graduation rate performance (8 percent).

Social mobility: New this year, we factored a school's success at promoting social mobility by graduating students who received federal Pell Grants (those typically coming from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually, though most Pell Grant money goes to students with a total family income below \$20,000). See below the two measures that factor into social mobility.

- Pell Grant graduation rates are weighted at 2.5 percent. This new ranking indicator measures the success of Pell Grant students on an absolute basis. To calculate this indicator, we use a school's six-year graduation rate among new fall 2011 entrants receiving Pell Grants. This assesses each school's performance graduating students from low-income backgrounds. A higher Pell Grant graduation rate scores better than a lower one.
- Pell Grant graduation rates compared with all other students are weighted at 2.5 percent. This additional new ranking factor compares each school's six-year graduation rate among Pell recipients who were new fall 2011 entrants graduating in 2017 with the six-year graduation rate among non-Pell recipients at the same school by dividing the former into the latter. The minority of schools whose Pell graduation rates are equal to or greater than non-Pell graduation rates score the highest. Altogether, this metric assesses each school's performance at supporting students from underserved backgrounds relative to all of its other students. The lower a school's Pell graduation rate relative to its non-Pell graduation rate, the lower it scores on this indicator.

Scores for the new social mobility indicators were then adjusted by the proportion of the entering class that was awarded Pell Grants because achieving a higher low-income student graduation rate is more challenging with a larger proportion of low-income students.

Graduation and retention rates: The higher the proportion of first-year students who return to campus for sophomore year and eventually graduate, the better a school is apt to be at offering the classes and services that students need to succeed. This has two components: the average six-year graduation rate is 17.6 percent, down from 18 percent in 2018; and the average first-year retention rate is 4.4 percent, down from 4.5 percent in 2018.

The graduation rate indicates the average proportion of a graduating class earning a degree in six years or less; we considered first-year student classes that started from fall 2008 through fall 2011. First-year retention indicates the average proportion of first-year students who entered the school in the fall 2013 through fall 2016 and returned the following fall. Graduation is given four times more weight than retention. We weighted it at 22 percent total, down from 22.5 percent in 2018.

Graduation rate performance: We compared each college's actual six-year graduation rate to what we predicted for its fall 2011 entering class. The predicted rates were modeled from admissions data, proportion of undergraduates awarded Pell Grants, school financial resources, and national universities' math and science, or STEM, orientations. We weighted it at 8 percent, up from 7.5 percent in 2018.

The graduation and retention rate numerical ranking published on usnews.com for the 2019 Best Colleges is based on a school's total score in the following four ranking indicators: average six-year graduation rates, average first-year retention rates, Pell Grant graduation rates and Pell Grant graduation rates compared all other students. Previously, the graduation and retention rate numerical ranking published on usnews.com was based on a school's total score in these two ranking indicators: average six-year graduation and average first-year retention rates.

Faculty Resources (20 percent)

Research shows the greater access students have to quality instructors, the more engaged they will be in class and the more they will learn and likely graduate. U.S. News uses five factors from the 2017-2018 academic year to assess a school's commitment to instruction: class size, faculty salary, faculty with the highest degree in their fields, student-faculty ratio and proportion of faculty who are full time.

- **Class size** is the most highly weighted faculty resource measure, at 8 percent. Schools score better the greater their proportions of smaller classes. Schools receive the most credit in this index for the proportion of their fall 2017 term undergraduate classes with fewer than 20 students. Classes with 20 to 29 students score second highest, 30 to 39 students third highest and 40 to 49 students fourth highest. Classes that have 50 or more students receive no credit.
- **Faculty salary** is weighted at 7 percent and is the average faculty pay, plus benefits, during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living using indexes from the consulting firm Runzheimer International.
- U.S. News also factors the **proportion of full-time faculty with the highest degree in their fields** (3 percent), **student-faculty ratio** (1 percent) and the **proportion of faculty who are full time** (1 percent).

Expert Opinion (Academic Reputation) (20 percent, down from 22.5 percent in 2018)

We survey top academics – presidents, provosts and deans of admissions – asking them to rate the academic quality of peer institutions with which they are familiar on a scale of 1 (marginal) to 5 (distinguished). To get another set of important opinions, U.S. News also surveyed nearly 24,400 counselors at public, private and parochial high schools from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Academic reputation matters because it factors things that cannot easily be captured elsewhere. For example, an institution known for having innovative approaches to teaching may perform especially well on this indicator, whereas a school struggling to keep its accreditation will likely perform poorly.

- The **peer assessment** survey averages results from spring 2017 and 2018. It is weighted at 15 percent for National Universities. Of the 4,589 academics who were sent questionnaires, 35.5 percent responded (down from the 40.4 percent response rate in spring 2017).
- The **high school counselor assessment** survey averages results from spring 2016, 2017 and 2018. It is weighted at 5 percent (down from 7.5 percent in 2018) and only applies toward National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges. For the high school counselor survey, approximately half of the high school counselors (12,200) were asked to rate the schools in the National Universities ranking category and the other half were asked to rate schools in the National Liberal Arts category.

Financial Resources (10 percent)

Generous per-student spending indicates that a college can offer a wide variety of programs and services. U.S. News measures financial resources by using the average spending per student on instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures in the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years. Spending on sports, dorms and hospitals does not count.

Student Excellence (10 percent, down from 12.5 percent in 2018)

A school's academic atmosphere is influenced by the selectivity of its admissions. Simply put, students who achieved strong grades and test scores during high school have the highest probability of succeeding at challenging college-level coursework; enabling instructors to design classes that have great rigor. New for 2019, acceptance rate (1.25 percent in last year's ranking) has been completely removed from the ranking calculations to make room for the new social mobility indicators.

Also, we reduced the weight of the two remaining student excellence factors assessing the fall 2017 entering class – standardized tests and high school class standing.

Standardized tests: U.S. News factors admissions test scores for all enrollees who took the mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing portions of the SAT and the composite ACT. The SAT scores used in this year's rankings and published on usnews.com are for the new SAT test administered starting March 2016. We weighted standardized tests at 7.75 percent, down from 8.125 percent in 2018.

High school class standing: U.S. News incorporates the proportion of enrolled first-year students at National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges who graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. For Regional Universities and Regional Colleges, we used the proportion of those who graduated in the top quarter of their high school classes. We weighted this at 2.25 percent, down from 3.125 percent in 2018.

Alumni Giving (5 percent)

This is the average percentage of living alumni with bachelor's degrees who gave to their school during 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Giving measures student satisfaction and post-graduate engagement.