

U.S. News & World Report 2022 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 and other outcomes, peer assessments, and 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.

This report presents the 2022 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	2019	2020	2021	2022
Overall Rankings				
<i>National Universities</i>	115	104	112	103
<i>Public School</i>	52	44	52	46
Institutional Scores/Rankings				
<i>Overall Score</i>	48	51	59	60
<i>Expert Opinion</i>	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
<i>Outcomes Rank</i>	-	170	147	157
<i>Graduation and Retention Rank</i>	124	137	136	130
<i>Six-year graduation rate</i>	70%	71%	72%	71%
<i>Average freshmen retention rate</i>	86%	86%	87%	87%
<i>Over/Under Predicted graduation rate</i>	-3	-3	0	-5
<i>Graduate Indebtedness Rank</i>	-	-	103	107
<i>Graduating Students who Borrowed</i>	-	-	49%	48%
<i>Average Federal Indebtedness</i>	-	-	\$20,584	\$20,308
<i>Social Mobility Rank</i>	-	138	161	192
<i>Faculty Resources Rank</i>	123	169	166	141
<i>Faculty Compensation Rank</i>	-	55	51	49
<i>Proportion of classes fewer than 20 students</i>	30%	30%	31%	38%
<i>Proportion of classes with 50+ students</i>	14%	15%	15%	14%
<i>Student Excellence Rank</i>	112	83	98	81
<i>SAT/ACT 25th-75th percentile</i>	24-30	25-31	24-30	25-31
<i>Financial Resources Rank</i>	97	110	116	125
<i>Alumni Giving Rank</i>	105	108	90	84
<i>Average alumni giving rate</i>	10.5%	10.7%	11.1%	10.7%

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

In the 2022 rankings, the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK) rose 9 spots to #103 in the national rankings. We also rose 6 spots to #46 in the public school rankings. In the national rankings UTK is tied with thirteen other institutions and with seven in the public ranking.

Ties among institutions can have a significant impact on an institution's yearly rank. In 2018 we were ranked at #103 (tied with 6 other institutions), with 6 institutions tied in the rank above us. 2019's rankings had us dropping to #115 with 9 institutions tied in the rank above us. In 2020 we improved to #104 (tied with 11 other institutions) with 6 institutions tied in the rank above us while in 2021 the number of institutions tied in the rank above us increased (9 again) and we dropped in the rankings to #112. This year, we improved to #103 and we are tied with 13 other institutions (with 4 tied in the rank above us).

Our undergraduate business program ranked 49th nationally (down 5 places) and 30th among publics (down 2 places). The supply chain/logistics program is ranked 3rd nationally (up 2 places) and is also 3rd among public schools (up 1 place). Business Analytics is ranked at 17th nationally and 11th in publics. Undergraduate engineering is still ranked 63rd nationally and 35th among publics. Nursing, a new ranking this year, came in at 58th nationally and 42nd among publics. These discipline rankings are based solely on the peer surveys of deans and senior faculty members of the different programs.

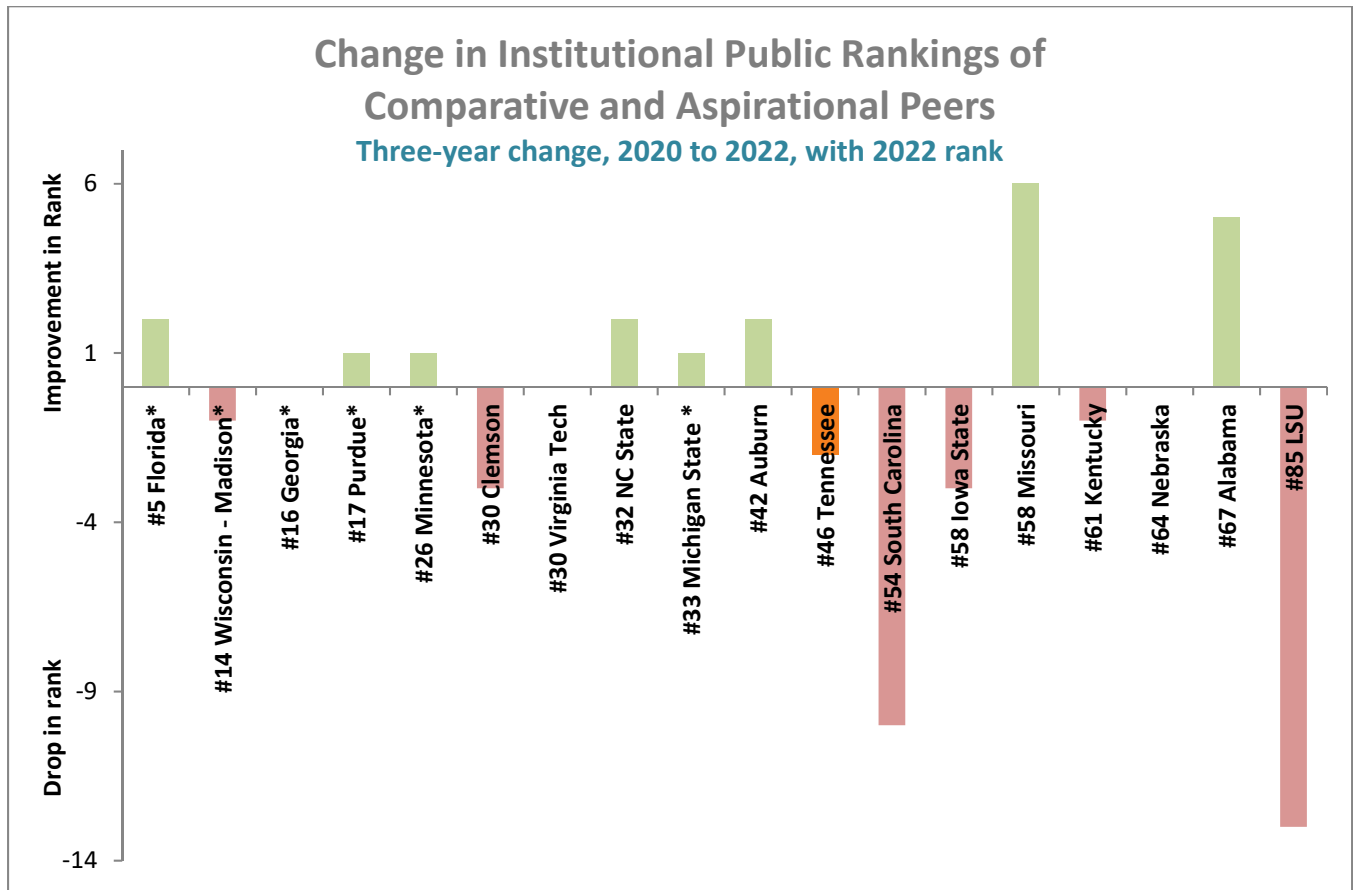
U.S. News made a minor change in their methodology this year. The change for the 2022 edition – if the combined percentage of the fall 2020 entering class submitting test scores was less than 50% of all new entrants, its combined SAT/ACT percentile distribution value used in the rankings was discounted by 15%. In previous editions, the threshold was 75% of new entrants. Standardized tests are weighted at 5% in the overall rankings. We are expecting another change next year due to many schools becoming test optional due to the pandemic.

UTK dropped in the Outcomes rank, moving down from 147 to 157. This occurred even with a rise in our Graduation and Retention Rank, which rose from 136 to 130. The drop may have been partially fueled by a slight decrease in our Graduate Indebtedness Rank (from 103 to 107) even though the percentage of graduate who borrowed decreased slightly along with the average federal indebtedness (-\$276). We are ranked higher than 5 of our comparable peers in the Outcomes rank. UTK also ranks better than seven of our comparable peers in the Graduate Indebtedness sub-ranking (federal loan debt) and one of our aspirational peers.

UTK rose significantly in the Faculty Resources ranking, from 166 to 141, which is higher than all of our comparable peers and 2 of our aspirational peers. For the faculty compensation sub-rank, we ranked better than all comparable peers, and better than all but 2 of our aspirational peers. Our percentage of classes with 20 or fewer students also rose to 38%.

Our rank in Student Excellence rose 17 points from 98 to 81 which is higher than all but 2 of our comparable peers.

The following chart shows the changes in institution rankings of our comparative and aspirational peers over a three year period, from 2020 to 2022. Over this period, 8 peers increased their public ranking, 6 peers decreased, and 3 saw no movement.



* Aspirational Peer

Peer Comparisons

The University of Tennessee – Knoxville has two sets of comparison peers: Comparative (11) and Aspirational (6). In the following section, we list the schools that exhibited the largest increases or decreases in the different categories.

Comparative Peers

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: UTK (9) and the University of Kentucky (6)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-19) and the University of Alabama (-5)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: UTK (6)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-14)

- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: NC State (9) and Virginia Tech (5)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-10) and LSU (-8)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: UTK (25), University of Kentucky (22), Iowa State (18), University of South Carolina (15), and the University of Alabama (14)
 - Decreased in rank: Clemson University (-41), University of Missouri (-40), and LSU (-34)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: UTK (17), University of Alabama (15), and the University of Nebraska (10)
 - Decreased in rank: Virginia Tech (-43) and Iowa State (-21)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of South Carolina (13), University of Missouri (10), and the University of Nebraska (9)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-63), University of Alabama (-35), and UTK (-9)

Aspirational Peers

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: UTK (9), Purdue University (4), and the University of Florida (2)
 - Decreased in rank: Michigan State University (-3) and the University of Minnesota (-2)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: UTK (6) and the University of Florida (1)
 - Decreased in rank: Michigan State University (-1), University of Georgia (-1), and the University of Wisconsin - Madison (-1)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: University of Minnesota (9)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-10) and Michigan State University (-9)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: UTK (25), University of Wisconsin - Madison (16) and Purdue University (10)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Georgia (-5)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: UTK (17), and University of Minnesota (5)
 - Decreased in rank: Michigan State University (-11) and the University of Wisconsin - Madison (-5)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Wisconsin - Madison (7)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-9), Purdue University (-8), and Michigan State University (-7)

SEC

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Mississippi (12), Mississippi State (10), and UTK (9)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-19)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Mississippi (10), Mississippi State (6), and UTK (6)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-14)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: Mississippi State (23)
 - Decreased in rank: Texas A&M (-15), UTK (-10), and LSU (-8)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: University of Mississippi (56), UTK (25), Mississippi State (22), University of Kentucky (22), University of South Carolina (15), and the University of Alabama (14)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Missouri (-40) and LSU (-34)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Mississippi (19), UTK (17), University of Arkansas (17), and University of Alabama (15)
 - Decreased in rank: University of South Carolina (-7)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of South Carolina (13) and the University of Missouri (10)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-63), University of Alabama (-35), and Mississippi State (-32)

In the 2022 national rankings the University of Tennessee – Knoxville tied with thirteen other universities. The public institutions tied with UTK include Miami University-Oxford, University of Colorado Boulder, Temple University, University of Arizona, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of Illinois-Chicago, and University of South Florida. The private institutions that are tied with us are: Clark University, Creighton University, Drexel University, Loyola University, Saint Louis University, and the University of San Francisco.

U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best College Rankings

Appendix A: UTK and Peer Comparison Tables

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville									
Overall Rankings	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National Universities	101	106	103	103	103	115	104	112	103
Public School	47	50	47	46	46	52	44	52	46
Institutional Scores/Rankings									
Overall Score	48	44	42	47	49	48	51	59	60
Expert Opinion	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Outcomes Rank	-	-	-	-	-	-	170*	147	157
Graduation and Retention Rank	142	135	127	122	120	124	137	136	130
Six-year graduation rate	66%	68%	69%	70%	69%	70%	71%	72%	71%
Average freshmen retention rate	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	87%	87%
Over/Under Predicted graduation rate	-6	-4	-5	-2	-2	-3	-3	0	-5
Graduate Indebtedness Rank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103*	107
Social Mobility Rank	-	-	-	-	-	-	138*	161	192
Faculty Resources Rank	85	144	135	137	124	123	169	166	141
Faculty Compensation Rank	-	-	-	-	-	-	55*	51	49
Proportion of classes fewer than 20 students	39%	29%	28%	28%	30%	30%	30%	31%	38%
Proportion of classes with 50+ students	7%	15%	14%	14%	13%	14%	15%	15%	14%
Student Excellence Rank	70	76	82	79	84	112	83	98	81
SAT/ACT 25 th -75 th percentile	24-29	24-29	24-29	24-30	24-30	24-30	25-31	24-30	25-31
Financial Resources Rank	55	55	56	72	84	97	110	116	125
Alumni Giving Rank	129	132	127	115	102	105	108	90	84
Average alumni giving rate	9.6%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	10.4%	10.5%	10.7%	11.1%	10.7%

* New categories

The proliferation of ties in rank have been a large reason for our movement the last 4 years

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 National Universities	2021 National Universities	Change	2022 Public Schools	2021 Public Schools	Change	2022 Expert Opinion	2021 Expert Opinion	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	103	112	9	46	52	6	3.3	3.3	0.0
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	99	97	-2	42	40	-2	3.3	3.3	0
Clemson University	75	74	-1	30	29	-1	3.4	3.4	0
Iowa State University	122	118	-4	58	54	-4	3.2	3.3	-0.1
Louisiana State University	172	153	-19	85	71	-14	2.9	3.0	-0.1
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	79	80	1	32	32	0	3.2	3.2	0
University of Alabama	148	143	-5	67	65	-2	3.1	3.2	-0.1
University of Kentucky	127	133	6	61	62	1	3.2	3.2	0
University of Missouri	122	124	2	58	60	2	3.3	3.3	0
University of Nebraska	136	133	-3	64	62	-2	3.2	3.3	-0.1
University of South Carolina	117	118	1	54	54	0	3.2	3.2	0
Virginia Tech	75	74	-1	30	29	-1	3.7	3.7	0
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	83	80	-3	33	32	-1	3.5	3.6	-0.1
Purdue University	49	53	4	17	17	0	3.8	3.8	0
University of Georgia	48	47	-1	16	15	-1	3.7	3.7	0
University of Florida	28	30	2	5	6	1	3.8	3.8	0
University of Minnesota	68	66	-2	26	26	0	3.6	3.7	-0.1
University of Wisconsin - Madison	42	42	0	14	13	-1	4.1	4.1	0

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Social Mobility Rank	2021 Social Mobility Rank	Change	2022 Graduation & Retention Rank	2021 Graduation & Retention Rank	Change	2022 Outcome Rank	2021 Outcome Rank	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	192	161	-31.0	130	136	6	157	147	-10
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	380	381	1	93	93	0	123	122	-1
Clemson University	365	361	-4	61	64	3	93	92	-1
Iowa State University	312	291	-21	114	115	1	139	141	2
Louisiana State University	335	328	-7	175	172	-3	199	191	-8
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	211	237	26	65	73	8	72	81	9
University of Alabama	385	377	-8	130	136	6	199	197	-2
University of Kentucky	297	318	21	175	172	-3	222	221	-1
University of Missouri	327	353	26	141	143	2	184	185	1
University of Nebraska	242	303	61	163	161	-2	190	191	1
University of South Carolina	335	318	-17	100	104	4	123	122	-1
Virginia Tech	275	291	16	54	52	-2	57	62	5
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	265	265	0	82	81	-1	81	72	-9
Purdue University	275	284	9	75	81	6	72	72	0
University of Georgia	202	191	-11	43	43	0	41	39	-2
University of Florida	55	48	-7	33	34	1	9	7	-2
University of Minnesota	220	237	17	75	73	-2	72	81	9
University of Wisconsin - Madison	343	340	-3	39	41	2	50	52	2

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Student Excellence Rank	2021 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2022 Financial Resources Rank	2021 Financial Resources Rank	Change	2022 Overall Score	2021 Overall Score	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	81	98	17	125	116	-9	60	59	1
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	86	91	5	163	156	-7	61	61	0
Clemson University	64	65	1	135	142	7	65	65	0
Iowa State University	168	147	-21	173	173	0	58	58	0
Louisiana State University	133	134	1	205	142	-63	53	54	-1
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	69	65	-4	109	108	-1	64	63	1
University of Alabama	91	106	15	267	232	-35	55	55	0
University of Kentucky	124	126	2	59	59	0	57	56	1
University of Missouri	107	116	9	163	173	10	58	57	1
University of Nebraska	137	147	10	147	156	9	56	56	0
University of South Carolina	113	106	-7	205	218	13	59	58	1
Virginia Tech	137	94	-43	135	135	0	65	65	0
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	158	147	-11	89	82	-7	63	63	0
Purdue University	70	72	2	103	95	-8	70	69	1
University of Georgia	56	54	-2	116	119	3	71	71	0
University of Florida	36	32	-4	44	46	2	78	77	1
University of Minnesota	64	69	5	46	44	-2	66	66	0
University of Wisconsin - Madison	59	54	-5	52	59	7	73	72	1

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Faculty Resources Rank	2021 Faculty Resources Rank	Change	2022 Alumni Giving Rank	2021 Alumni Giving Rank	Change	2022 Indebtedness Rank	2021 Indebtedness Rank	Change
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	141	166	25	84	90	6	107	103	-4
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	176	184	8	60	65	5	76	73	-3
Clemson University	157	116	-41	28	25	-3	107	103	-4
Iowa State University	239	257	18	84	90	6	192	164	-28
Louisiana State University	255	221	-34	78	72	-6	98	78	-20
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	216	207	-9	84	102	18	136	120	-16
University of Alabama	255	269	14	28	30	2	115	110	-5
University of Kentucky	176	198	22	108	102	-6	228	198	-30
University of Missouri	206	166	-40	84	79	-5	136	120	-16
University of Nebraska	255	257	2	44	45	1	107	78	-29
University of South Carolina	206	221	15	168	102	-66	147	120	-27
Virginia Tech	255	248	-7	54	72	18	136	120	-16
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	268	269	1	176	204	28	192	182	-10
Purdue University	83	93	10	44	45	1	56	48	-8
University of Georgia	72	67	-5	66	68	2	76	73	-3
University of Florida	48	56	8	33	54	21	34	36	2
University of Minnesota	278	280	2	159	160	1	98	87	-11
University of Wisconsin - Madison	107	123	16	54	72	18	98	87	-11

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Graduation and Retention Rank	2021 Graduation and Retention Rank	Change	2022 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	2021 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	2022 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	2021 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	Predicted minus Actual
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	130	136	6	76%	72%	4%	71%	72%	-1%	-5%
Comparable Peers										
Auburn University	93	93	0	76%	73%	3%	78%	79%	-1%	2%
Clemson University	61	64	3	83%	81%	2%	85%	84%	1%	2%
Iowa State University	114	115	1	71%	69%	2%	75%	74%	1%	4%
Louisiana State University	175	172	-3	69%	66%	3%	70%	68%	2%	1%
North Carolina State University	65	73	8	80%	76%	4%	85%	83%	2%	5%
University of Alabama	130	136	6	77%	73%	4%	72%	71%	1%	-5%
University of Kentucky	175	172	-3	71%	67%	4%	66%	66%	0%	-5%
University of Missouri	141	143	2	73%	70%	3%	73%	71%	2%	0%
University of Nebraska	163	161	-2	69%	67%	2%	67%	65%	2%	-2%
University of South Carolina	100	104	4	74%	71%	3%	78%	77%	1%	4%
Virginia Tech	54	52	-2	78%	77%	1%	86%	86%	0%	8%
Aspirational Peers										
Michigan State University	82	81	-1	73%	69%	4%	82%	81%	1%	9%
Purdue University	75	81	6	78%	74%	4%	83%	82%	1%	5%
University of Georgia	43	43	0	81%	77%	4%	87%	87%	0%	6%
University of Florida	33	34	1	84%	81%	3%	89%	88%	1%	5%
University of Minnesota	75	73	-2	81%	76%	5%	84%	83%	1%	3%
University of Wisconsin	39	41	2	84%	80%	4%	89%	88%	1%	5%

Grad/Ret = 22% (4-yr avg grad rate 17.6%, 4-yr avg ret rate 4.4%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	2021 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	87%	87%	0%
Comparable Peers			
Auburn University	91%	91%	0%
Clemson University	93%	93%	0%
Iowa State University	88%	88%	0%
Louisiana State University	84%	83%	1%
North Carolina State University	94%	94%	0%
University of Alabama	87%	87%	0%
University of Kentucky	85%	84%	1%
University of Missouri	88%	87%	1%
University of Nebraska	84%	83%	1%
University of South Carolina	89%	88%	1%
Virginia Tech	93%	93%	0%
Aspirational Peers			
Michigan State University	92%	92%	0%
Purdue University	93%	92%	1%
University of Georgia	95%	96%	-1%
University of Florida	97%	97%	0%
University of Minnesota	93%	93%	0%
University of Wisconsin	95%	95%	0%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Social Mobility Rank	2021 Social Mobility Rank	Change	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	2021 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	Change	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell	2021 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	192	161	-31	61%	62%	-1%	75%	76%	-1%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	380	381	1	66%	68%	-2%	80%	80%	0%
Clemson University	365	361	-4	74%	72%	2%	87%	86%	1%
Iowa State University	312	291	-21	63%	65%	-2%	78%	76%	2%
Louisiana State University	335	328	-7	57%	57%	0%	73%	71%	2%
North Carolina State University	211	237	26	81%	78%	3%	86%	84%	2%
University of Alabama	385	377	-8	56%	56%	0%	76%	74%	2%
University of Kentucky	297	318	21	53%	54%	-1%	71%	70%	1%
University of Missouri	327	353	26	62%	59%	3%	76%	75%	1%
University of Nebraska	242	303	61	57%	54%	3%	70%	69%	1%
University of South Carolina	335	318	-17	68%	67%	1%	80%	79%	1%
Virginia Tech	275	291	16	80%	83%	-3%	87%	86%	1%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	265	265	0	70%	71%	-1%	85%	84%	1%
Purdue University	275	284	9	77%	73%	4%	85%	84%	1%
University of Georgia	202	191	-11	81%	81%	0%	89%	89%	0%
University of Florida	55	48	-7	86%	86%	0%	90%	90%	0%
University of Minnesota	220	237	17	78%	77%	1%	86%	85%	1%
University of Wisconsin	343	340	-3	83%	79%	4%	89%	89%	0%

Social Mobility = 5% (Pell grad rate 2.5%, Pell grad rate performance 2.5%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Pell / Non-Pell Diff.	2021 Pell / Non-Pell Diff.	2022 vs 2020 Difference
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	14%	14%	0%
Comparable Peers			
Auburn University	14%	12%	2%
Clemson University	13%	14%	-1%
Iowa State University	15%	11%	4%
Louisiana State University	16%	14%	2%
North Carolina State University	5%	6%	-1%
University of Alabama	20%	18%	2%
University of Kentucky	18%	16%	2%
University of Missouri	14%	16%	-2%
University of Nebraska	13%	15%	-2%
University of South Carolina	12%	12%	0%
Virginia Tech	7%	3%	4%
Aspirational Peers			
Michigan State University	15%	13%	2%
Purdue University	8%	11%	-3%
University of Georgia	8%	8%	0%
University of Florida	4%	4%	0%
University of Minnesota	8%	8%	0%
University of Wisconsin	6%	10%	-4%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Graduate Indebtedness Rank	2021 Graduate Indebtedness Rank	Change	2022 Graduating Students who Borrowed	2021 Graduating Students who Borrowed	Change	2022 Average Federal Indebtedness	2021 Average Federal Indebtedness	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	107	103	-4	48%	49%	-1%	\$20,308	\$20,584	-\$276
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	76	73	-3	37%	37%	0%	\$21,127	\$21,300	-\$173
Clemson University	107	103	-4	46%	44%	2%	\$21,047	\$21,714	-\$667
Iowa State University	192	164	-28	56%	55%	1%	\$22,564	\$22,697	-\$133
Louisiana State University	98	78	-20	44%	42%	2%	\$21,205	\$21,042	\$163
North Carolina State University	136	120	-16	48%	49%	-1%	\$21,102	\$21,748	-\$646
University of Alabama	115	110	-5	44%	45%	-1%	\$21,781	\$22,153	-\$372
University of Kentucky	228	198	-30	51%	50%	1%	\$24,953	\$24,961	-\$8
University of Missouri	136	120	-16	50%	50%	0%	\$21,275	\$21,760	-\$485
University of Nebraska	107	78	-29	54%	50%	4%	\$20,951	\$19,383	\$1,568
University of South Carolina	147	120	-27	51%	50%	1%	\$21,833	\$21,497	\$336
Virginia Tech	136	120	-16	45%	46%	-1%	\$21,638	\$22,366	-\$728
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	192	182	-10	49%	50%	-1%	\$23,421	\$24,023	-\$602
Purdue University	56	48	-8	39%	39%	0%	\$18,783	\$18,915	-\$132
University of Georgia	76	73	-3	40%	40%	0%	\$20,390	\$20,748	-\$358
University of Florida	34	36	2	30%	34%	-4%	\$17,746	\$18,402	-\$656
University of Minnesota	98	87	-11	53%	53%	0%	\$19,524	\$19,507	\$17
University of Wisconsin	98	87	-11	40%	41%	-1%	\$21,644	\$21,918	-\$274

Graduate Indebtedness = 5% (Graduate indebtedness total 3%, Graduate indebtedness proportion with debt 2%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Faculty Resources Rank	2021 Faculty Resources Rank	Change	2022 Classes Under 20	2021 Classes Under 20	Change	2022 Classes of 50 or More	2021 Classes of 50 or More	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	141	166	25	38.0%	31.0%	7%	14.0%	15.0%	-1%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	176	184	8	35.0%	36.0%	-1%	16.0%	16.0%	0%
Clemson University	157	116	-41	38.0%	53.0%	-15%	17.0%	14.0%	3%
Iowa State University	239	257	18	35.0%	32.0%	3%	19.0%	20.0%	-1%
Louisiana State University	255	221	-34	37.0%	41.0%	-4%	22.0%	17.0%	5%
North Carolina State University	216	207	-9	37.0%	35.0%	2%	18.0%	16.0%	2%
University of Alabama	255	269	14	36.0%	34.0%	2%	22.0%	21.0%	1%
University of Kentucky	176	198	22	40.0%	34.0%	6%	14.0%	16.0%	-2%
University of Missouri	206	166	-40	41.0%	41.0%	0%	15.0%	15.0%	0%
University of Nebraska	255	257	2	35.0%	36.0%	-1%	18.0%	18.0%	0%
University of South Carolina	206	221	15	44.0%	38.0%	6%	13.0%	16.0%	-3%
Virginia Tech	255	248	-7	28.0%	29.0%	-1%	24.0%	23.0%	1%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	268	269	1	24.0%	24.0%	0%	26.0%	24.0%	2%
Purdue University	83	93	10	44.0%	39.0%	5%	19.0%	19.0%	0%
University of Georgia	72	67	-5	46.0%	48.0%	-2%	11.0%	11.0%	0%
University of Florida	48	56	8	53.0%	53.0%	0%	9.0%	10.0%	-1%
University of Minnesota	278	280	2	36.0%	38.0%	-2%	20.0%	19.0%	1%
University of Wisconsin	107	123	16	47.0%	44.0%	3%	24.0%	22.0%	2%

Faculty Resources = 20% (class size 8%, fac compensation 7%, percent Ph.D or terminal degree 3%, percent full-time 1%, student-faculty ratio 1%)

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Faculty Compensation Rank	2021 Faculty Compensation Rank	Change	2022 % Full-Time Faculty	2021 % Full-Time Faculty	Change	2022 % Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	2021 % Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	49	51	2	95.5%	96.0%	-0.5%	86%	86%	0%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	62	64	2	94.8%	95.2%	-0.4%	89%	89%	0%
Clemson University	73	72	-1	91.4%	90.8%	0.6%	87%	86%	1%
Iowa State University	110	106	-4	94.3%	93.9%	0.4%	93%	93%	0%
Louisiana State University	110	113	3	95.2%	95.7%	-0.5%	86%	86%	0%
North Carolina State University	110	120	10	94.7%	94.9%	-0.2%	92%	93%	-1%
University of Alabama	66	72	6	90.6%	90.0%	0.6%	86%	86%	0%
University of Kentucky	96	90	-6	87.1%	86.0%	1.1%	93%	93%	0%
University of Missouri	117	120	3	93.5%	97.0%	-3.5%	87%	90%	-3%
University of Nebraska	85	77	-8	93.4%	98.2%	-4.8%	80%	77%	3%
University of South Carolina	100	113	13	83.4%	87.3%	-3.9%	88%	90%	-2%
Virginia Tech	55	51	-4	96.4%	96.4%	0.0%	90%	89%	1%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	55	57	2	95.4%	95.6%	-0.2%	90%	90%	0%
Purdue University	45	46	1	95.9%	95.5%	0.4%	99%	98%	1%
University of Georgia	66	64	-2	94.8%	95.5%	-0.7%	95%	95%	0%
University of Florida	60	59	-1	95.1%	94.8%	0.3%	93%	90%	3%
University of Minnesota	96	90	-6	87.7%	87.4%	0.3%	78%	78%	0%
University of Wisconsin	41	48	7	94.9%	93.8%	1.1%	91%	91%	0%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Student/Faculty Ratio	2021 Student/Faculty Ratio
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	17:1	17:1
Comparable Peers		
Auburn University	20:1	20:1
Clemson University	16:1	16:1
Iowa State University	18:1	18:1
Louisiana State University	22:1	20:1
North Carolina State University	15:1	14:1
University of Alabama	20:1	20:1
University of Kentucky	16:1	16:1
University of Missouri	18:1	17:1
University of Nebraska	16:1	17:1
University of South Carolina	18:1	17:1
Virginia Tech	14:1	14:1
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	16:1	16:1
Purdue University	13:1	13:1
University of Georgia	17:1	17:1
University of Florida	17:1	17:1
University of Minnesota	17:1	17:1
University of Wisconsin	17:1	17:1

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Student Excellence Rank	2021 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2022 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2021 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2022 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	2021 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	81	98	17	25-31	24-30	41%	35%	6%
Comparable Peers								
Auburn University	86	91	5	25-31	25-31	34%	33%	1%
Clemson University	64	65	1	25-31*	26-31*	53%	56%	-3%
Iowa State University	168	147	-21	22-28	22-28	14%	28%	-14%
Louisiana State University	133	134	1	23-28	23-29	24%	24%	0%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	69	65	-4	27-32	26-32*	47%	50%	-3%
University of Alabama	91	106	15	23-31	23-31	45%	40%	5%
University of Kentucky	124	126	2	22-29	22-29	33%	33%	0%
University of Missouri	107	116	9	23-30	23-29	35%	33%	2%
University of Nebraska	137	147	10	22-28	22-28	30%	28%	2%
University of South Carolina	113	106	-7	20-29*	24-30*	28%	28%	0%
Virginia Tech	137	94	-43	24-30*	24-31*	29%	29%	0%
Aspirational Peers								
Michigan State University	158	147	-11	22-28*	22-28*	27%	28%	-1%
Purdue University	70	72	2	24-32*	24-32*	48%	49%	-1%
University of Georgia	56	54	-2	25-31*	26-32*	56%	60%	-4%
University of Florida	36	32	-4	27-33*	28-33*	82%	81%	1%
University of Minnesota	64	69	5	25-31	26-31	49%	50%	-1%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	59	54	-5	27-32	27-32	51%	57%	-6%

Student Excellence (selectivity) = 7% (SAT/ACT 5%, high school class standing 2%)

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2021-2022 Comparison

UTK Peers	2022 Alumni Giving Rank	2021 Alumni Giving Rank	Change	2022 Average Alumni Giving Rate	2021 Average Alumni Giving Rate	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	84	90	6	10.7%	11.1%	-0.4%
Comparable Peers						
Auburn University	60	65	5	13.9%	14.0%	-0.1%
Clemson University	28	25	-3	20.2%	23.0%	-2.8%
Iowa State University	84	90	6	11.0%	11.4%	-0.4%
Louisiana State University	78	72	-6	11.3%	12.9%	-1.6%
North Carolina State University	84	102	18	10.8%	10.7%	0.1%
University of Alabama	28	30	2	20.5%	21.2%	-0.7%
University of Kentucky	108	102	-6	9.1%	10.6%	-1.5%
University of Missouri	84	79	-5	10.8%	11.8%	-1.0%
University of Nebraska	44	45	1	15.8%	16.7%	-0.9%
University of South Carolina	168	102	-66	6.3%	10.6%	-4.3%
Virginia Tech	54	72	18	14.2%	12.9%	1.3%
Aspirational Peers						
Michigan State University	176	204	28	5.8%	6.0%	-0.2%
Purdue University	44	45	1	15.9%	16.7%	-0.8%
University of Georgia	66	68	2	13.0%	13.3%	-0.3%
University of Florida	33	54	21	17.6%	15.7%	1.9%
University of Minnesota	159	160	1	6.8%	7.3%	-0.5%
University of Wisconsin	54	72	18	14.2%	12.8%	1.4%

Alumni Giving 3%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2022 Peer Rankings Comparison

UTK Peers	National Universities	Public Schools	Overall Score	Outcomes Rank	Faculty Resources Rank	Student Excellence Rank	Financial Resources Rank	Alumni Giving Rank
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	103	46	60	157	141	81	125	84
Comparable Peers								
Auburn University	99	42	61	123	176	100	109	60
Clemson University	75	30	61	93	157	64	135	28
Iowa State University	122	58	58	139	239	168	173	84
Louisiana State University	172	85	53	199	255	133	205	78
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	79	32	64	72	216	69	109	84
University of Alabama	148	67	55	199	255	91	267	28
University of Kentucky	127	61	57	222	176	124	59	108
University of Missouri	127	58	58	184	206	107	163	84
University of Nebraska	136	64	56	190	255	137	147	44
University of South Carolina	117	54	59	123	206	113	205	168
Virginia Tech	75	30	65	57	255	137	135	54
Aspirational Peers								
Michigan State University	83	33	63	81	268	158	89	176
Purdue University	49	17	70	72	83	70	103	44
University of Georgia	48	16	70	41	72	56	116	66
University of Florida	28	5	78	9	48	36	44	33
University of Minnesota	68	26	66	72	278	64	46	159
University of Wisconsin - Madison	42	14	73	50	107	59	52	54

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2022 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Public Schools	Overall Score	Expert Opinion	Graduation and Retention Rank	Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Over(+)/Under(-) Performance
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	46	60	3.3	130	76%	71%	-5%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	42	61	3.3	93	76%	78%	2%
Clemson University	30	61	3.4	61	83%	85%	2%
Iowa State University	58	58	3.2	114	71%	75%	4%
Louisiana State University	85	53	2.9	175	69%	70%	1%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	32	64	3.2	65	80%	85%	5%
University of Alabama	67	55	3.1	130	77%	72%	-5%
University of Kentucky	61	57	3.2	175	71%	66%	-5%
University of Missouri	58	58	3.3	141	73%	73%	0%
University of Nebraska	64	56	3.2	163	69%	67%	-2%
University of South Carolina	54	59	3.2	100	74%	78%	4%
Virginia Tech	30	65	3.7	54	78%	86%	8%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	33	63	3.5	82	73%	82%	9%
Purdue University	17	70	3.8	75	78%	83%	5%
University of Georgia	16	70	3.7	43	81%	87%	6%
University of Florida	5	78	3.8	33	84%	89%	5%
University of Minnesota	26	66	3.6	75	81%	84%	3%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	14	73	4.1	39	84%	89%	5%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2022 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Graduate Indebtedness Rank	Graduating Students who Borrowed	Average Federal Indebtedness	Social Mobility Rank	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	87%	107	48%	\$20,308	192	61%	75%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	91%	76	37%	\$21,127	380	66%	80%
Clemson University	93%	107	46%	\$21,047	365	74%	87%
Iowa State University	88%	192	56%	\$22,564	312	63%	78%
Louisiana State University	84%	98	44%	\$21,205	335	57%	73%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	94%	136	48%	\$21,102	211	81%	86%
University of Alabama	87%	115	44%	\$21,781	385	56%	76%
University of Kentucky	85%	228	51%	\$24,953	297	53%	71%
University of Missouri	88%	136	50%	\$21,275	327	62%	76%
University of Nebraska	84%	107	54%	\$20,951	242	57%	70%
University of South Carolina	89%	147	51%	\$21,833	335	68%	80%
Virginia Tech	93%	136	45%	\$21,638	275	80%	87%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	92%	192	49%	\$23,421	265	70%	85%
Purdue University	93%	56	39%	\$18,783	275	77%	85%
University of Georgia	95%	76	40%	\$20,390	202	81%	89%
University of Florida	97%	34	30%	\$17,746	55	86%	90%
University of Minnesota	93%	98	53%	\$19,524	220	78%	86%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	95%	98	40%	\$21,644	343	83%	89%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2022 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Classes Under 20	Classes of 50 or More	Student/Faculty Ratio	2022 Faculty Compensation Rank	% Full-Time Faculty	% Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	ACT 25th-75th Percentile
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	38.0%	14.0%	17:1	49	95.5%	86.0%	25-31
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	35.0%	16.0%	20:1	62	94.8%	89.0%	25-31
Clemson University	38.0%	17.0%	16:1	73	91.4%	87.0%	25-31*
Iowa State University	35.0%	19.0%	18:1	110	94.3%	93.0%	22-28
Louisiana State University	37.0%	22.0%	20:1	110	95.2%	86.0%	23-28
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	37.0%	18.0%	14:1	110	94.7%	92.0%	27-32
University of Alabama	36.0%	22.0%	20:1	66	90.6%	86.0%	23-31
University of Kentucky	40.0%	14.0%	16:1	96	87.1%	93.0%	22-29
University of Missouri	41.0%	15.0%	17:1	117	93.5%	87.0%	23-30
University of Nebraska	35.0%	18.0%	17:1	85	93.4%	80.0%	22-28
University of South Carolina	44.0%	13.0%	17:1	100	83.4%	88.0%	20-29*
Virginia Tech	28.0%	24.0%	14:1	55	96.4%	90.0%	24-30*
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	24.0%	26.0%	16:1	55	95.4%	90.0%	22-28*
Purdue University	44.0%	19.0%	13:1	45	95.9%	99.0%	24-32*
University of Georgia	46.0%	11.0%	17:1	66	94.8%	95.0%	25-31*
University of Florida	53.0%	9.0%	17:1	60	95.1%	93.0%	27-33*
University of Minnesota	36.0%	20.0%	17:1	96	87.7%	78.0%	25-31
University of Wisconsin - Madison	47.0%	24.0%	17:1	41	94.9%	91.0%	27-32

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2022 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Average Alumni Giving Rate
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	41%	11.0%
Comparable Peers		
Auburn University	34%	14.0%
Clemson University	53%	20.0%
Iowa State University	14%	11.0%
Louisiana State University	24%	11.0%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	47%	11.0%
University of Alabama	45%	21.0%
University of Kentucky	33%	9.0%
University of Missouri	35%	11.0%
University of Nebraska	30%	16.0%
University of South Carolina	28%	6.0%
Virginia Tech	N/A	14.0%
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	27%	6.0%
Purdue University	48%	16.0%
University of Georgia	56%	13.0%
University of Florida	82%	18.0%
University of Minnesota	49%	7.0%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	51%	14.0%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2021 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Public Schools	Overall Score	Expert Opinion	Graduation and Retention Rank	Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Over(+)/Under(-) Performance
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>							
	52	59	3.3	136	72%	72%	0%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	40	61	3.3	93	73%	79%	6%
Clemson University	29	65	3.4	64	81%	84%	3%
Iowa State University	54	58	3.3	115	69%	74%	5%
Louisiana State University	71	54	3.0	172	66%	68%	2%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	32	63	3.2	73	76%	83%	7%
University of Alabama	65	55	3.2	136	73%	71%	-2%
University of Kentucky	62	56	3.2	172	67%	66%	-1%
University of Missouri	60	57	3.3	143	70%	71%	1%
University of Nebraska	62	56	3.3	161	67%	65%	-2%
University of South Carolina	54	58	3.2	104	71%	77%	6%
Virginia Tech	29	65	3.7	52	77%	86%	9%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	32	63	3.6	81	69%	81%	12%
Purdue University	17	69	3.8	81	74%	82%	8%
University of Georgia	15	71	3.7	43	77%	87%	10%
University of Florida	6	77	3.8	34	81%	88%	7%
University of Minnesota	26	66	3.7	73	76%	83%	7%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	13	72	4.1	41	80%	88%	8%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2021 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Graduate Indebtedness Rank	Graduating Students who Borrowed	Average Federal Indebtedness	Social Mobility Rank	2021 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	2021 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	87%	103	49%	\$20,584	161	62%	76%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	91%	73	37%	\$21,300	381	68%	80%
Clemson University	93%	103	44%	\$21,714	361	72%	86%
Iowa State University	88%	164	55%	\$22,697	291	65%	76%
Louisiana State University	83%	78	42%	\$21,042	328	57%	71%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	94%	120	49%	\$21,748	237	78%	84%
University of Alabama	87%	110	45%	\$22,153	377	56%	74%
University of Kentucky	84%	198	50%	\$24,961	318	54%	70%
University of Missouri	87%	120	50%	\$21,760	353	59%	75%
University of Nebraska	83%	78	50%	\$19,383	303	54%	69%
University of South Carolina	88%	120	50%	\$21,497	318	67%	79%
Virginia Tech	93%	120	46%	\$22,366	291	83%	86%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	92%	182	50%	\$24,023	265	71%	84%
Purdue University	92%	48	39%	\$18,915	284	73%	84%
University of Georgia	96%	73	40%	\$20,748	191	81%	89%
University of Florida	97%	36	34%	\$18,402	48	86%	90%
University of Minnesota	93%	87	53%	\$19,507	237	77%	85%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	95%	87	41%	\$21,918	340	79%	89%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2021 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Classes Under 20	Classes of 50 or More	Student/Faculty Ratio	2021 Faculty Compensation Rank	% Full-Time Faculty	% Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	ACT 25th-75th Percentile
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	31.0%	15.0%	17:1	51	96.0%	86.0%	24-30
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	36.0%	16.0%	20:1	64	95.2%	89.0%	25-31
Clemson University	53.0%	14.0%	16:1	72	90.8%	86.0%	26-31*
Iowa State University	32.0%	20.0%	18:1	106	93.9%	93.0%	22-28
Louisiana State University	41.0%	17.0%	20:1	113	95.7%	86.0%	23-29
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	35.0%	16.0%	14:1	120	94.9%	93.0%	26-32*
University of Alabama	34.0%	21.0%	20:1	72	90.0%	86.0%	23-31
University of Kentucky	34.0%	16.0%	16:1	90	86.0%	93.0%	22-29
University of Missouri	41.0%	15.0%	17:1	120	97.0%	90.0%	23-29
University of Nebraska	36.0%	18.0%	17:1	77	98.2%	77.0%	22-28
University of South Carolina	38.0%	16.0%	17:1	113	87.3%	90.0%	24-30*
Virginia Tech	29.0%	23.0%	14:1	51	96.4%	89.0%	24-31*
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	24.0%	24.0%	16:1	57	95.6%	90.0%	22-28*
Purdue University	39.0%	19.0%	13:1	46	95.5%	98.0%	24-32*
University of Georgia	48.0%	11.0%	17:1	64	95.5%	95.0%	26-32*
University of Florida	53.0%	10.0%	17:1	59	94.8%	90.0%	28-33*
University of Minnesota	38.0%	19.0%	17:1	90	87.4%	78.0%	26-31
University of Wisconsin - Madison	44.0%	22.0%	17:1	48	93.8%	91.0%	27-32

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2021 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Average Alumni Giving Rate
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	35%	11.1%
Comparable Peers		
Auburn University	33%	14.0%
Clemson University	56%	23.0%
Iowa State University	28%	11.4%
Louisiana State University	24%	12.9%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	50%	10.7%
University of Alabama	40%	21.2%
University of Kentucky	33%	10.6%
University of Missouri	33%	11.8%
University of Nebraska	28%	16.7%
University of South Carolina	28%	10.6%
Virginia Tech	29%	12.9%
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	28%	6.0%
Purdue University	49%	16.7%
University of Georgia	60%	13.3%
University of Florida	81%	15.7%
University of Minnesota	50%	7.3%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57%	12.8%

**USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022 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	103	148	196	162	127	117	122	99	148	68	48	28	14	172
Public School Rank	46	67	99	78	61	54	58	42	67	26	16	5	-	85
Overall Score	60	55	50	54	57	59	58	61	55	66	71	78	88	53
Outcomes Rank	157	214	254	222	222	123	184	123	199	57	41	9	24	199
Graduation and Retention Rank	130	183	214	175	175	100	141	93	130	65	43	33	17	175
Social Mobility Rank	192	365	312	380	297	335	327	380	385	192	202	55	288	335
Graduate Indebtedness Rank	107	115	192	136	228	147	136	76	115	61	76	34	13	98
Faculty Resource Rank	141	128	247	189	176	206	206	176	255	315	72	48	17	255
Faculty Compensation Rank	49	138	162	73	96	100	117	62	66	36	66	60	16	110
Student Excellence Rank	81	148	120	124	124	113	107	86	91	64	56	36	8	133
Financial Resources Rank	125	116	205	185	59	205	163	163	267	97	116	44	12	205
Alumni Giving Rank	84	140	32	41	108	168	84	60	28	48	66	33	13	78
Expert Opinion Score (Out of 5)	3.3	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.3	2.9
Predicted 6 year Graduation Rate	76%	68%	66%	71%	71%	74%	73%	76%	77%	80%	81%	84%	96%	69%
Actual 6 Year Graduation Rate	71%	67%	64%	68%	66%	78%	73%	78%	72%	83%	87%	89%	93%	70%
Over/Under Performance	-5%	-1%	-2%	-3%	-5%	4%	0%	2%	-5%	3%	6%	5%	-3%	1%
Average Freshman Retention Rate	87%	86%	81%	84%	85%	89%	88%	91%	87%	93%	95%	97%	97%	84%
% of Classes Under 20	38.0%	57.0%	50.0%	47.0%	40.0%	44.0%	41.0%	35.0%	36.0%	26.0%	46.0%	53.0%	57.0%	37.0%
% of Classes of 50 or More	14.0%	11.0%	13.0%	17.0%	14.0%	13.0%	15.0%	16.0%	22.0%	28.0%	11.0%	9.0%	13.0%	22.0%
Student-Faculty Ratio	17:1	16:1	16:1	19:1	16:1	18:1	18:1	20:1	20:1	19:1	17:1	17:1	8:1	22:1
ACT Low/High	25-31	22-30	22-30	23-29	22-29	20-29*	23-30	25-31	23-31	24-30*	25-31*	27-33*	33-35	23-28
Freshman in Top 10% of HS Class	41%	23%	29%	29%	33%	28%	35%	34%	45%	66%	56%	82%	90%	24%
Average Alumni Giving Rate	11%	8%	19%	16%	9%	6%	11%	14%	21%	16%	13%	18%	28%	11%

*Converted from SAT Scores

**USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
Institutions Tied with UTK at National Ranking**

	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
2022 Rankings (#103)								
Clark University	123	-2%	87%	75%	48	100	135	66
Creighton University	145	0%	90%	79%	117	91	103	71
Drexel University	167	2%	89%	71%	62	94	74	193
Loyola University	139	4%	85%	76%	176	100	147	234
Miami University-Oxford	102	5%	91%	82%	189	100	257	48
New Jersey Inst. of Technology	123	8%	88%	70%	97	94	103	117
Saint Louis University	132	1%	90%	80%	157	81	89	117
Temple University	93	11%	89%	75%	157	154	147	234
University of Arizona	190	-3%	83%	65%	176	124	81	140
University of California-Santa Cruz	83	-7%	88%	76%	324	56	125	314
University of Illinois-Chicago	102	10%	80%	63%	239	200	46	329
University of San Francisco	114	4%	82%	71%	128	113	125	193
University of South Florida	41	10%	92%	74%	287	113	173	97
University of Tennessee	157	-5%	87%	71%	141	81	125	84
2021 Rankings (#112)								
Creighton University	141	1%	89%	78%	139	98	100	68
Loyola University Chicago	100	4%	84%	75%	136	113	140	220
Rochester Inst. of Technology	158	-1%	89%	70%	147	83	123	220
University of Illinois - Chicago	122	10%	80%	59%	207	203	41	330
University of La Verne (CA)	24	24%	83%	69%	48	273	116	254
University of Tennessee	147	0%	87%	71%	166	98	116	90
2020 Rankings (#104)								
Auburn University	144	4%	91%	78%	182	90	140	71
Creighton University	136	1%	89%	77%	110	101	103	76
Howard University	127	1%	89%	62%	227	152	49	108
Loyola University Chicago	100	4%	84%	75%	136	113	140	220
Rochester Inst. of Technology	158	-1%	89%	70%	147	83	123	220
Temple University	55	14%	90%	72%	182	152	148	220
University of California--Merced	1	23%	83%	66%	246	351	93	76
University of Colorado--Boulder	185	0%	87%	70%	210	107	81	205
University of Oregon	121	8%	87%	72%	136	177	148	158
Univ. of South Carolina	133	6%	88%	77%	169	95	200	63
University of South Florida	38	12%	90%	70%	256	111	211	87
University of Tennessee	170	-3%	86%	73%	169	83	110	108

U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best Colleges Rankings

Appendix B: Methodology

U.S. News 2022 Best Colleges Rankings Methodology

Expert Opinion (academic reputation)	20%	Peer assessment survey	20%
Outcomes (graduation/retention)	40%	Average six-year graduation rate	17.6%
		Average freshman retention rate	4.4%
		Graduation Rate Performance	8%
		Social Mobility (Pell)	5%
		Graduate Indebtedness	5%
Faculty resources (AY 2020-21)	20%	Class size index	8%
		Faculty compensation	7%
		Percent faculty with terminal degree in their field	3%
		Percent faculty that is full time	1%
		Student/faculty ratio	1%
Student Excellence (Selectivity) (Fall 2020 entering class)	7%	Math and evidence-based reading and writing portions of the SAT and the composite ACT scores	5%
		High school class standing in top 10%	2%
Financial Resources	10%	Financial resources per student	10%
Alumni Giving	3%	Average alumni giving rate	3%

Outcomes (40%)

Forty percent of a school's rank comes from outcomes. Among them, average graduation and retention rates combine to be the most heavily weighted factor in our rankings, at 22%, because degree completion is necessary to receive the full benefits of undergraduate study from employers and graduate schools. Other outcome measures are graduation rate performance (8%), social mobility (5%) and graduate indebtedness (5%).

Graduation and retention rates: This has two components.

- A four-year rolling average of the proportion of each entering class (fall 2011-fall 2014) earning a degree in six years or less (17.6%).
- A four-year rolling average of the proportion of first-year entering students (fall 2016-fall 2019) who returned the following fall (4.4%).

Graduation rate performance: We compared each college's actual six-year graduation rate with what we predicted for its fall 2013 and 2014 entering class. The predicted rates were modeled from factors including admissions data, the proportion of undergraduates who were awarded Pell Grants, school financial resources, the proportion of federal financial aid recipients who are first-generation college students, and National Universities' math and science orientations. We divided each school's actual graduation rate by its predicted rate and took a two-year average of the quotients for use in the rankings.

Social mobility: This indicator measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants. Students receiving these grants typically come from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually, with most money going to students with total family incomes below \$20,000. For the third consecutive year, U.S. News published a distinct social mobility ranking for all ranked schools. The social mobility ranking was computed by aggregating the two ranking factors assessing graduation rates of Pell-awarded students.

- **Pell Grant graduation rates** are the six-year graduation rates of Pell Grant students adjusted to give much more credit to schools with larger Pell student proportions. This is computed as a two-year rolling average.
- **Pell Grant graduation rate performance** is the factor that compares each school's six-year graduation rate among Pell recipients with its six-year graduation rate among non-Pell recipients by dividing the former into the latter, then adjusting to give much more credit to schools with larger Pell student proportions. The higher a school's Pell graduation rate relative to its non-Pell graduation rate up to the rates being equal, the better it scores. This, too, is computed as a two-year rolling average.

Graduate indebtedness: Affordability of college and the value of that degree after graduation – in terms of being able to earn enough money to make the loan payments – are prime concerns of prospective students and their families. Consequently, we assessed two measures of graduate indebtedness totaling 5% of each school's overall score..

- **Graduate indebtedness total:** (weighted 3%) assesses each school's average accumulated federal loan debt among its 2019 and 2020 bachelor's degree graduating classes by comparing it to the median debt amount among ranked schools.
- **Graduate indebtedness proportion:** (weighted 2%) is the percentage of graduates from the 2019 and 2020 bachelor's degree graduating classes who borrowed federal

loans. This ranking factor credits schools for meeting the full financial need without loans of their undergraduates (who would not be included in the graduate indebtedness total cohort) by comparing the proportions who borrowed to the median proportion among ranked schools.

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 be satisfied with their instructors. U.S. News uses five factors from the 2020-2021 academic year to assess a school's commitment to instruction: class size (8%), faculty salary (7%), faculty with the highest degree in their fields (3%), student-faculty ratio (1%) and proportion of faculty who are full time (1%).

- **Class size** is the most highly weighted faculty resource measure, at 8%. Schools score better with greater proportions of smaller classes for fall 2020. Schools have always been instructed to exclude classes taught fully online from this reporting, but pertaining to fall 2020 were instructed to include classes designed for in-person instruction, even if they were temporarily taught online because of the coronavirus. To down weight the influence of an irregular year due to the pandemic, schools' scores on the fall 2020 data were averaged against their scores from fall 2019 data – the first time U.S. News scored this ranking factor using a two-year average.
- **Faculty salary** is weighted at 7% and includes the average full-time faculty salaries for assistant, associate and full-time professors for 2020-2021, based on definitions from the American Association of University Professors. Salary data was once again adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis regional price parities indexes and was based on regional prices indexes published in December 2020. We returned to calculating average faculty salary as a two-year average because this is the second rankings edition to use the latest AAUP definitions during data collection.

Expert Opinion (20 percent)

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.

We take a two-year weighted average of ratings from top academics – presidents, provosts and deans of admissions – who rate the academic quality of peer institutions with which they are familiar on a scale of 1 (marginal) to 5 (distinguished). U.S. News collected the data by administering peer assessment surveys in spring and summer 2021. Of the 4,741 academics who were sent questionnaires on the overall rankings in 2021, 34.1% responded – just shy of the 36.4% response rate in 2020.

Financial Resources (10 percent)

Generous per-student spending indicates a college can offer a 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 2019 and 2020 fiscal years. Expenditures were compared with fall 2018 and fall 2019 full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate enrollment, respectively.

Student Excellence (7 percent)

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. This weighting has been reduced from 10% previously.

- **Standardized tests:** U.S. News factors average test scores for all enrollees who took the mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing portions of the SAT and the composite ACT in fall 2020. Both SATs and ACTs were converted to their 0-100 test taker percentile distributions and weighted based on the proportions of new entrants submitting each exam. For example, if a school had two-thirds of its test takers submitting ACT scores and one-third submitting SAT scores, its ACT scores

Schools sometimes fail to report SAT and ACT scores for students in these categories: athletes, international students, minority students, legacies, those admitted by special arrangement and those who started in the summer term. For any school that did not report all scores or that declined to say whether all scores were reported, U.S. News reduced its combined SAT/ACT percentile distribution value used in the ranking model by 15%.

A change for the 2022 edition – if the combined percentage of the fall 2020 entering class submitting test scores was less than 50% of all new entrants, its combined SAT/ACT percentile distribution value used in the rankings was discounted by 15%. In previous editions, the threshold was 75% of new entrants. The change was made to reflect the growth of test-optional policies through the 2019 calendar year and the fact that the coronavirus impacted the fall 2020 admission process at many schools.

- **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% of their high school classes, and for Regional Universities and Regional Colleges, the proportion who graduated in the top quarter of their high school classes. This contributes 2% toward schools' overall scores.

Alumni Giving (3 percent)

This is the average percentage of living alumni with bachelor's degrees who gave to their school during 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Giving measures student satisfaction and post-graduate engagement.