

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.

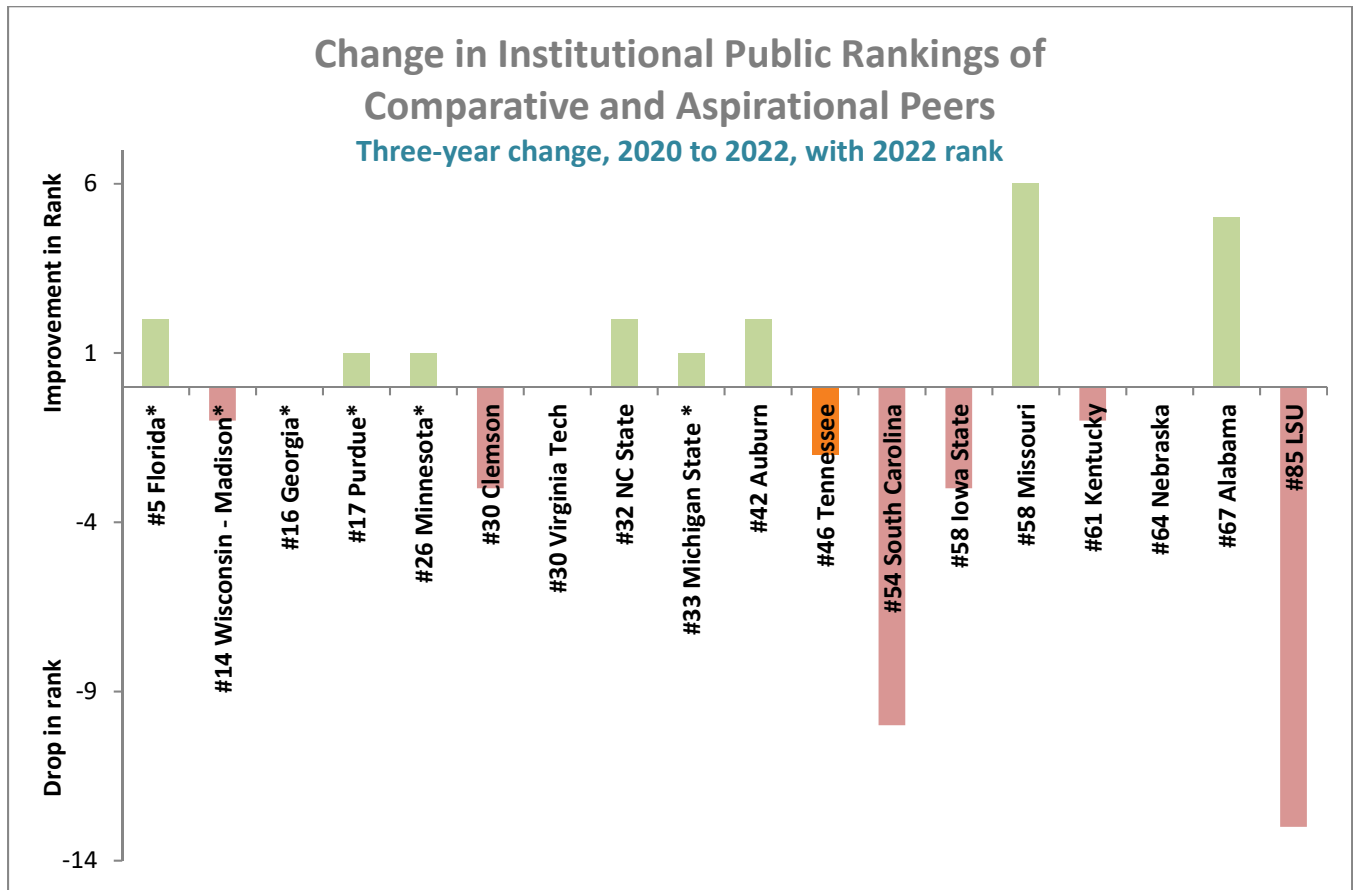
U.S. News made a minor change in their methodology this year. The change for the 2022 edition – if the combined percentage of the fall 2020 entering class submitting test scores was less than 50% of all new entrants, its combined SAT/ACT percentile distribution value used in the rankings was discounted 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.