

U.S. News & World Report 2023 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 2023 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	2020	2021	2022	2023
Overall Rankings				
<i>National Universities</i>	104	112	103	115
<i>Public School</i>	44	52	46	53
Institutional Scores/Rankings				
<i>Overall Score</i>	51	59	60	59
<i>Expert Opinion</i>	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
<i>Outcomes Rank</i>	170	147	157	171
<i>Graduation and Retention Rank</i>	137	136	130	136
<i>Six-year graduation rate</i>	71%	72%	71%	72%
<i>Average freshmen retention rate</i>	86%	87%	87%	88%
<i>Over/Under Predicted graduation rate</i>	-3	0	-5	-6
<i>Graduate Indebtedness Rank</i>	*	103	107	115
<i>Graduating Students who Borrowed</i>	*	0.49	48%	48%
<i>Average Federal Indebtedness</i>	*	\$20,584	\$20,308	\$19,810
<i>Social Mobility Rank</i>	138	161	192	250
<i>Faculty Resources Rank</i>	169	166	141	198
<i>Faculty Compensation Rank</i>	55	51	49	55
<i>Proportion of classes fewer than 20 students</i>	30%	31%	38%	28%
<i>Proportion of classes with 50+ students</i>	15%	15%	14%	16%
<i>Student Excellence Rank</i>	83	98	81	79
<i>SAT/ACT 25th-75th percentile</i>	25-31	24-30	25-31	25-31
<i>Financial Resources Rank</i>	110	116	125	132
<i>Alumni Giving Rank</i>	108	90	84	86
<i>Average alumni giving rate</i>	10.7%	11.1%	10.7%	10.4%

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

In the 2023 rankings, the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK) fell to #115 in the national rankings and to #53 in the public school rankings. In the national rankings UTK is tied with five other institutions and with two in the public ranking.

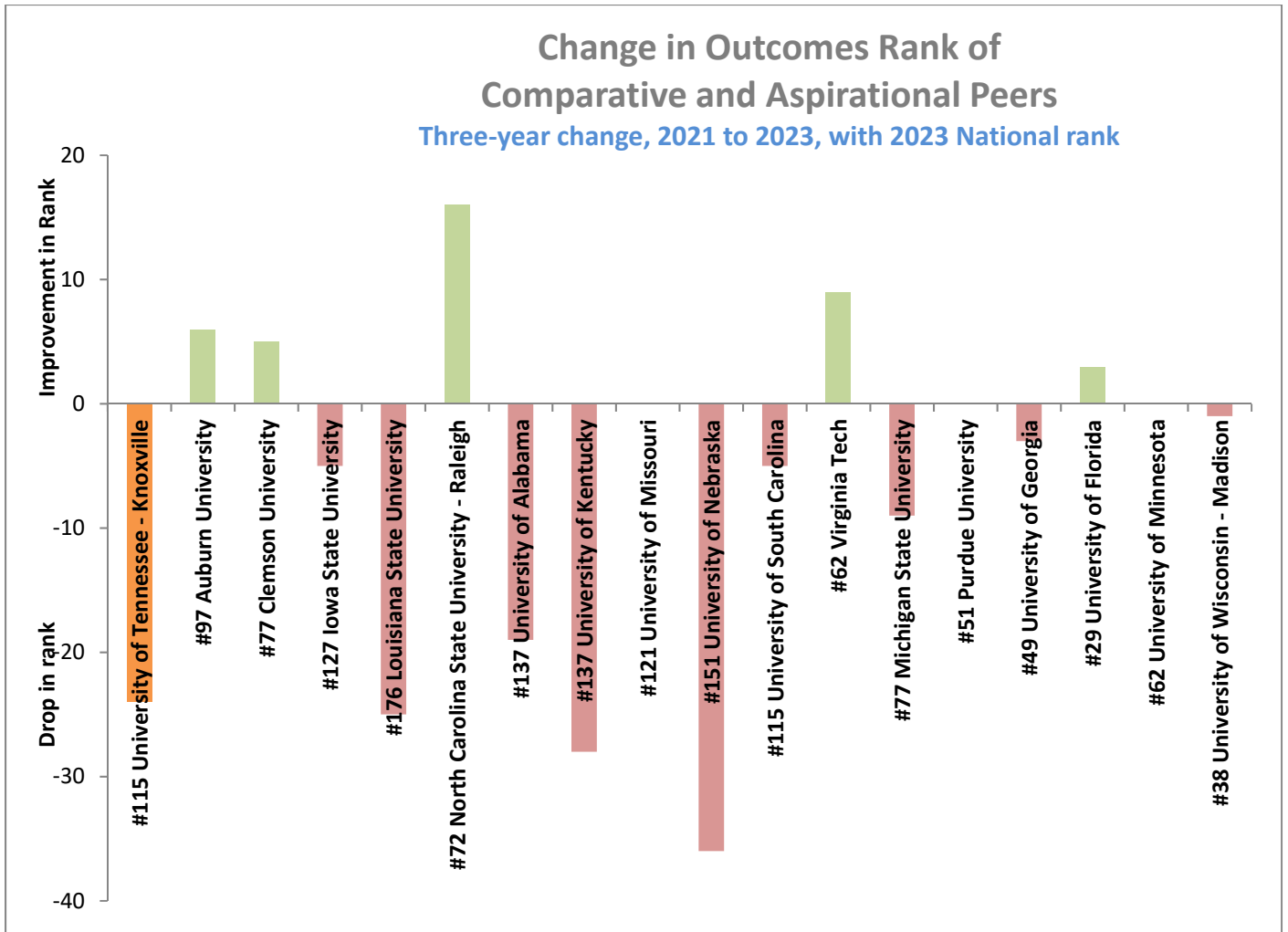
Ties among institutions can have a significant impact on an institution's yearly rank. In 2020 we were tied with 11 other institutions with 6 institutions tied in the rank above us, while in 2021 the number of institutions tied in the rank above us increased to 9 and we dropped in the rankings to #112. In 2022 we improved to #103 and were tied with 13 other institutions (with 4 tied in the rank above us). This year, we dropped to #115 (tied with 5 other institutions) with 10 institutions tied in the rank above us.

Our undergraduate business program ranked 39th nationally (up 10 places) and 26th among publics (up 4 places). The supply chain/logistics program is again ranked 3rd nationally and is also 3rd among public schools. Undergraduate engineering is ranked 68th (down 5 places) nationally and 38th among publics (down 3 places). Nursing came in at 51st (up 7 spots) nationally and 37th among publics (up 5 places). These discipline rankings are based solely on the peer surveys of deans and senior faculty members of the different programs.

U.S. News made several minor changes in their methodology this year. A change in weighting for the percentage of the 2020 entering class submitting test scores did not affect us. The proportion of faculty with terminal degree ranking factor was determined by using both full-time and part-time instructional faculty with terminal degrees. Also, both the average faculty salaries and class size ranking indicators only used 2021-22 academic year data instead of being based on two-year averages – as both indicators were in the previous ranking.

UTK dropped in the Outcomes rank, moving down from 157 to 171. The drop was fueled by decreases in our Graduation & Retention Rank, Social Mobility Rank, and Graduate Indebtedness Rank. The University's Graduation & Retention Rank fell slightly from 130 to 136. Two of our comparable peers had much larger drops in Outcomes, the Universities of Nebraska and Kentucky, mainly due to drops of -29 and -17 respectively in Graduation and Retention. Our Social Mobility Rank fell from 192 to 250, and all of our peers dropped anywhere from 20 to 75 spots. The Graduate Indebtedness Rank fell from 107 to 115 even though the percentage of graduates who borrowed remained the same along with the average federal indebtedness decreasing slightly (-\$498). UTK ranks better than nine of our comparable peers in the Graduate Indebtedness sub-ranking (federal loan debt) and one of our aspirational peers.

The following chart shows the changes in Outcomes Rank of our comparative and aspirational peers over a three year period, from 2021 to 2023. Over this period, 5 peers increased their rank and 9 peers decreased with 3 having no change.



UTK dropped significantly in the Faculty Resources ranking, from 141 to 198, which is still tied with or higher than 8 of our comparable peers and 2 of our aspirational peers. These falls were mostly due to changes in class size. Our percentage of classes with 20 or fewer students dropped to 28%, back to pre-pandemic levels. Many other institutions did the same, but a few of our peers made progress in this area. For the faculty compensation sub-rank, we ranked better than most of our peers.

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: Virginia Tech (13), University of Alabama (11) and NC State (7)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Nebraska (-15), UTK (-12), and the University of Kentucky (-10)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: Virginia Tech (7)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Nebraska (-8) and UTK (-7)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: Auburn University (7), NC State (7) and Clemson University (6)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Nebraska (-37), University of Kentucky (-27), LSU (-17), University of Alabama (-17), and UTK (-14)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: Virginia Tech (109), University of Alabama (57), and NC State (18)
 - Decreased in rank: Clemson University (-110), Iowa State (-75), and UTK (-57)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Missouri (16), LSU (14), Virginia Tech (13), and NC State (11)
 - Decreased in rank: Auburn University (-14) and University of Alabama (-13)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: Iowa State (6)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-43), University of Nebraska (-20), University of Alabama (-19), Auburn University (-16), University of Missouri (-16), and the University of South Carolina (-14)

Aspirational Peers

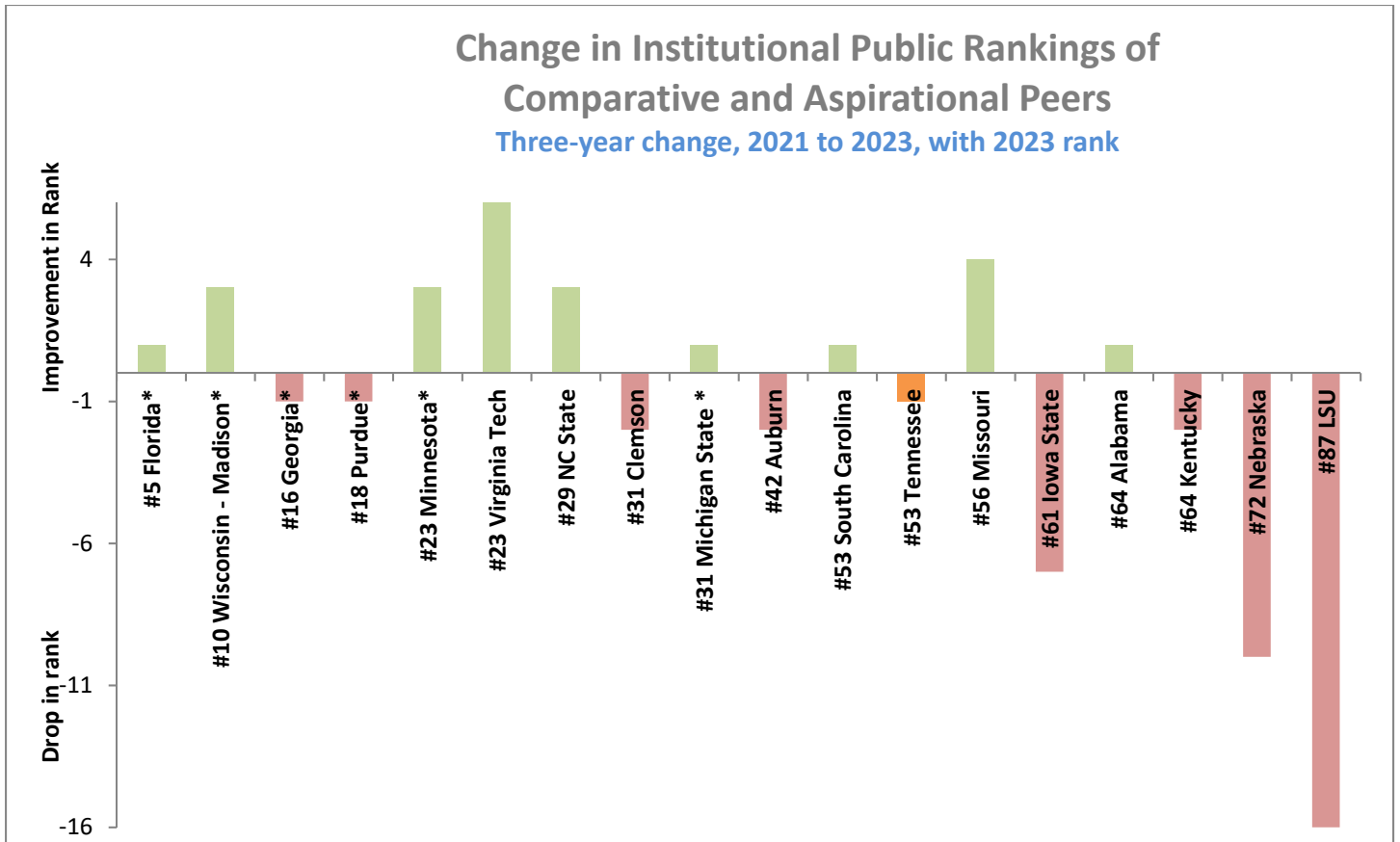
- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: Michigan State University (6), and the University of Minnesota (6)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-12) and Purdue University (-2)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Wisconsin - Madison (4) and the University of Minnesota (3)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-7)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: University of Florida (5)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-14) and the University of Minnesota (-9)

- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: University of Minnesota (47), University of Wisconsin - Madison (23), Michigan State University (21), and the University of Georgia (11)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-57) and Purdue University (-17)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: Michigan State University (6) and the University of Georgia (4)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Minnesota (-4)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Wisconsin - Madison (1)
 - Decreased in rank: UTK (-7), Michigan State University (-6), and the University of Georgia (-5)

SEC

- National Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Alabama (11) and
 - Decreased in rank: University of Arkansas (-14) and the University of Kentucky (-10)
- Public Universities ranking
 - Increased in rank: University of Alabama (3) and the University of Missouri (2)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Arkansas (-9)
- Outcomes Rank
 - Increased in rank: Auburn University (7) and the University of Florida (5)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Kentucky (-27), University of Alabama (-17), LSU (-17), Mississippi State (-16), UTK (-14), and University of Mississippi (-13)
- Faculty Resources Rank
 - Increased in Rank: University of Alabama (57) and Mississippi State (31)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Arkansas (-58), UTK (-57), and Texas A&M (-40)
- Student Excellence Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: University of Missouri (16) and LSU (14)
 - Decreased in rank: University of Arkansas (-24), Mississippi State (-20), Auburn University (-14), and the University of Alabama (-13)
- Financial Resources Rank:
 - Increased in Rank: Texas A&M (2)
 - Decreased in rank: LSU (-43), University of Alabama (-19), University of Missouri (-16), and Auburn University (-16)

The following chart shows the changes in institution rankings of our comparative and aspirational peers over a three year period, from 2021 to 2023. Over this period, 8 peers increased their public ranking and 10 peers decreased.



* Aspirational Peer

In the 2023 national rankings the University of Tennessee – Knoxville tied with five other universities. The public institutions tied with UTK include Rutgers University--Newark and the University of South Carolina. The private institutions that are tied with us are: Creighton University, Fairfield University, and Loyola University – Chicago.

U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best College Rankings

Appendix A: UTK and Peer Comparison Tables

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville									
Overall Rankings	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
National Universities	106	103	103	103	115	104	112	103	115
Public School	50	47	46	46	52	44	52	46	53
Institutional Scores/Rankings									
Overall Score	44	42	47	49	48	51	59	60	59
Expert Opinion	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Outcomes Rank	-	-	-	-	-	170*	147	157	171
Graduation and Retention Rank	135	127	122	120	124	137	136	130	136
Six-year graduation rate	68%	69%	70%	69%	70%	71%	72%	71%	72%
Average freshmen retention rate	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	87%	87%	88%
Over/Under Predicted graduation rate	-4	-5	-2	-2	-3	-3	0	-5	-6
Graduate Indebtedness Rank	-	-	-	-	-	-	103*	107	115
Social Mobility Rank	-	-	-	-	-	138*	161	192	250
Faculty Resources Rank	144	135	137	124	123	169	166	141	198
Faculty Compensation Rank	-	-	-	-	-	55*	51	49	55
Proportion of classes fewer than 20 students	29%	28%	28%	30%	30%	30%	31%	38%	28%
Proportion of classes with 50+ students	15%	14%	14%	13%	14%	15%	15%	14%	16%
Student Excellence Rank	76	82	79	84	112	83	98	81	79
SAT/ACT 25 th -75 th percentile	24-29	24-29	24-30	24-30	24-30	25-31	24-30	25-31	25-31
Financial Resources Rank	55	56	72	84	97	110	116	125	132
Alumni Giving Rank	132	127	115	102	105	108	90	84	86
Average alumni giving rate	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	10.4%	10.5%	10.7%	11.1%	10.7%	10.4%

* New categories

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

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 National Universities	2022 National Universities	Change	2023 Public Schools	2022 Public Schools	Change	2023 Expert Opinion	2022 Expert Opinion	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	115	103	-12	53	46	-7	3.3	3.3	0.0
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	97	99	2	42	42	0	3.3	3.3	0
Clemson University	77	75	-2	31	30	-1	3.4	3.4	0
Iowa State University	127	122	-5	61	58	-3	3.2	3.2	0
Louisiana State University	176	172	-4	87	85	-2	2.9	2.9	0
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	72	79	7	29	32	3	3.3	3.2	0.1
University of Alabama	137	148	11	64	67	3	3.2	3.1	0.1
University of Kentucky	137	127	-10	64	61	-3	3.2	3.2	0
University of Missouri	121	122	1	56	58	2	3.2	3.3	-0.1
University of Nebraska	151	136	-15	72	64	-8	3.2	3.2	0
University of South Carolina	115	117	2	53	54	1	3.2	3.2	0
Virginia Tech	62	75	13	23	30	7	3.7	3.7	0
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	77	83	6	31	33	2	3.6	3.5	0.1
Purdue University	51	49	-2	18	17	-1	3.9	3.8	0.1
University of Georgia	49	48	-1	16	16	0	3.7	3.7	0
University of Florida	29	28	-1	5	5	0	3.8	3.8	0
University of Minnesota	62	68	6	23	26	3	3.7	3.6	0.1
University of Wisconsin - Madison	38	42	4	10	14	4	4.1	4.1	0

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Social Mobility Rank	2022 Social Mobility Rank	Change	2023 Graduation & Retention Rank	2022 Graduation & Retention Rank	Change	2023 Outcome Rank	2022 Outcome Rank	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	250	192	-58	136	130	-6	171	157	-14
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	432	380	-52	86	93	7	116	123	7
Clemson University	403	365	-38	57	61	4	87	93	6
Iowa State University	361	312	-49	110	114	4	146	139	-7
Louisiana State University	384	335	-49	192	175	-17	216	199	-17
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	250	211	-39	57	65	8	65	72	7
University of Alabama	435	385	-50	136	130	-6	216	199	-17
University of Kentucky	372	297	-75	178	175	-3	249	222	-27
University of Missouri	372	327	-45	136	141	5	185	184	-1
University of Nebraska	303	242	-61	192	163	-29	227	190	-37
University of South Carolina	361	335	-26	100	100	0	127	123	-4
Virginia Tech	339	275	-64	54	54	0	53	57	4
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	296	265	-31	84	82	-2	81	81	0
Purdue University	326	275	-51	73	75	2	72	72	0
University of Georgia	250	202	-48	41	43	2	42	41	-1
University of Florida	75	55	-20	32	33	1	4	9	5
University of Minnesota	270	220	-50	66	75	9	81	72	-9
University of Wisconsin - Madison	384	343	-41	39	39	0	53	50	-3

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Student Excellence Rank	2022 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2023 Financial Resources Rank	2022 Financial Resources Rank	Change	2023 Overall Score	2022 Overall Score	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	79	81	2	132	125	-7	59	60	-1
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	100	86	-14	179	163	-16	61	61	0
Clemson University	64	64	0	141	135	-6	64	65	-1
Iowa State University	160	168	8	167	173	6	57	58	-1
Louisiana State University	119	133	14	248	205	-43	53	53	0
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	58	69	11	115	109	-6	65	64	1
University of Alabama	104	91	-13	286	267	-19	56	55	1
University of Kentucky	124	124	0	63	59	-4	56	57	-1
University of Missouri	91	107	16	179	163	-16	58	58	0
University of Nebraska	131	137	6	167	147	-20	55	56	-1
University of South Carolina	107	113	6	219	205	-14	59	59	0
Virginia Tech	124	137	13	141	135	-6	67	65	2
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	152	158	6	95	89	-6	64	63	1
Purdue University	68	70	2	105	103	-2	70	70	0
University of Georgia	52	56	4	121	116	-5	71	71	0
University of Florida	33	36	3	47	44	-3	78	78	0
University of Minnesota	68	64	-4	49	46	-3	67	66	1
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57	59	2	51	52	1	74	73	1

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Faculty Resources Rank	2022 Faculty Resources Rank	Change	2023 Alumni Giving Rank	2022 Alumni Giving Rank	Change	2023 Indebtedness Rank	2022 Indebtedness Rank	Change
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	198	141	-57	86	84	-2	115	107	-8
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	182	176	-6	56	60	4	101	76	-25
Clemson University	267	157	-110	34	28	-6	122	107	-15
Iowa State University	314	239	-75	86	84	-2	210	192	-18
Louisiana State University	247	255	8	94	78	-16	115	98	-17
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	198	216	18	86	84	-2	141	136	-5
University of Alabama	198	255	57	29	28	-1	141	115	-26
University of Kentucky	182	176	-6	130	108	-22	248	228	-20
University of Missouri	216	206	-10	86	84	-2	141	136	-5
University of Nebraska	267	255	-12	40	44	4	164	107	-57
University of South Carolina	198	206	8	176	168	-8	164	147	-17
Virginia Tech	146	255	109	32	54	22	141	136	-5
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	247	268	21	157	176	19	190	192	2
Purdue University	100	83	-17	40	44	4	59	56	-3
University of Georgia	61	72	11	49	66	17	81	76	-5
University of Florida	42	48	6	29	33	4	30	34	4
University of Minnesota	231	278	47	144	159	15	115	98	-17
University of Wisconsin - Madison	84	107	23	56	54	-2	107	98	-9

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Graduation and Retention Rank	2022 Graduation and Retention Rank	Change	2023 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	2022 Predicted 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	2023 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	2022 Actual 6-Year Graduation Rate	Change	Predicted minus Actual
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	136	130	-6	78%	76%	2%	72%	71%	1%	-6%
Comparable Peers										
Auburn University	86	93	7	77%	76%	1%	81%	78%	3%	4%
Clemson University	57	61	4	84%	83%	1%	85%	85%	0%	1%
Iowa State University	110	114	4	70%	71%	-1%	76%	75%	1%	6%
Louisiana State University	192	175	-17	70%	69%	1%	69%	70%	-1%	-1%
North Carolina State University	57	65	8	80%	80%	0%	85%	85%	0%	5%
University of Alabama	136	130	-6	77%	77%	0%	72%	72%	0%	-5%
University of Kentucky	178	175	-3	72%	71%	1%	68%	66%	2%	-4%
University of Missouri	136	141	5	73%	73%	0%	73%	73%	0%	0%
University of Nebraska	192	163	-29	70%	69%	1%	66%	67%	-1%	-4%
University of South Carolina	100	100	0	75%	74%	1%	78%	78%	0%	3%
Virginia Tech	54	54	0	78%	78%	0%	87%	86%	1%	9%
Aspirational Peers										
Michigan State University	84	82	-2	74%	73%	1%	82%	82%	0%	8%
Purdue University	73	75	2	78%	78%	0%	83%	83%	0%	5%
University of Georgia	41	43	2	82%	81%	1%	88%	87%	1%	6%
University of Florida	32	33	1	83%	84%	-1%	91%	89%	2%	8%
University of Minnesota	66	75	9	82%	81%	1%	84%	84%	0%	2%
University of Wisconsin	39	39	0	85%	84%	1%	89%	89%	0%	4%

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

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	2022 Average Freshmen Retention Rate	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	88%	87%	1%
Comparable Peers			
Auburn University	92%	91%	1%
Clemson University	94%	93%	1%
Iowa State University	88%	88%	0%
Louisiana State University	84%	84%	0%
North Carolina State University	94%	94%	0%
University of Alabama	88%	87%	1%
University of Kentucky	86%	85%	1%
University of Missouri	88%	88%	0%
University of Nebraska	82%	84%	-2%
University of South Carolina	89%	89%	0%
Virginia Tech	93%	93%	0%
Aspirational Peers			
Michigan State University	92%	92%	0%
Purdue University	92%	93%	-1%
University of Georgia	95%	95%	0%
University of Florida	97%	97%	0%
University of Minnesota	93%	93%	0%
University of Wisconsin	95%	95%	0%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Social Mobility Rank	2022 Social Mobility Rank	Change	2023 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Pell	Change	2023 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell	2022 6-Year Graduation Rate for Non-Pell	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	250	192	-58	60%	61%	-1%	77%	75%	2%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	432	380	-52	66%	66%	0%	83%	80%	3%
Clemson University	403	365	-38	75%	74%	1%	87%	87%	0%
Iowa State University	361	312	-49	66%	63%	3%	78%	78%	0%
Louisiana State University	384	335	-49	57%	57%	0%	73%	73%	0%
North Carolina State University	250	211	-39	79%	81%	-2%	86%	86%	0%
University of Alabama	435	385	-50	55%	56%	-1%	76%	76%	0%
University of Kentucky	372	297	-75	55%	53%	2%	72%	71%	1%
University of Missouri	372	327	-45	61%	62%	-1%	75%	76%	-1%
University of Nebraska	303	242	-61	54%	57%	-3%	71%	70%	1%
University of South Carolina	361	335	-26	71%	68%	3%	80%	80%	0%
Virginia Tech	339	275	-64	83%	80%	3%	87%	87%	0%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	296	265	-31	72%	70%	2%	85%	85%	0%
Purdue University	326	275	-51	76%	77%	-1%	85%	85%	0%
University of Georgia	250	202	-48	83%	81%	2%	89%	89%	0%
University of Florida	75	55	-20	89%	86%	3%	91%	90%	1%
University of Minnesota	270	220	-50	78%	78%	0%	86%	86%	0%
University of Wisconsin	384	343	-41	86%	83%	3%	90%	89%	1%

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

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Pell / Non-Pell Diff.	2022 Pell / Non-Pell Diff.	2023 vs 2022 Difference
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	17%	14%	3%
Comparable Peers			
Auburn University	17%	14%	3%
Clemson University	12%	13%	-1%
Iowa State University	12%	15%	-3%
Louisiana State University	16%	16%	0%
North Carolina State University	7%	5%	2%
University of Alabama	21%	20%	1%
University of Kentucky	17%	18%	-1%
University of Missouri	14%	14%	0%
University of Nebraska	17%	13%	4%
University of South Carolina	9%	12%	-3%
Virginia Tech	4%	7%	-3%
Aspirational Peers			
Michigan State University	13%	15%	-2%
Purdue University	9%	8%	1%
University of Georgia	6%	8%	-2%
University of Florida	2%	4%	-2%
University of Minnesota	8%	8%	0%
University of Wisconsin	4%	6%	-2%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Graduate Indebtedness Rank	2022 Graduate Indebtedness Rank	Change	2023 Graduating Students who Borrowed	2022 Graduating Students who Borrowed	Change	2023 Average Federal Indebtedness	2022 Average Federal Indebtedness	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	115	107	-8	48%	48%	0%	\$19,810	\$20,308	-\$498
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	101	76	-25	38%	37%	1%	\$20,468	\$21,127	-\$659
Clemson University	122	107	-15	45%	46%	-1%	\$20,817	\$21,047	-\$230
Iowa State University	210	192	-18	56%	56%	0%	\$22,161	\$22,564	-\$403
Louisiana State University	115	98	-17	43%	44%	-1%	\$20,713	\$21,205	-\$492
North Carolina State University	141	136	-5	48%	48%	0%	\$20,403	\$21,102	-\$699
University of Alabama	141	115	-26	45%	44%	1%	\$21,029	\$21,781	-\$752
University of Kentucky	248	228	-20	50%	51%	-1%	\$24,216	\$24,953	-\$737
University of Missouri	141	136	-5	49%	50%	-1%	\$20,432	\$21,275	-\$843
University of Nebraska	164	107	-57	54%	54%	0%	\$20,245	\$20,951	-\$706
University of South Carolina	164	147	-17	52%	51%	1%	\$21,083	\$21,833	-\$750
Virginia Tech	141	136	-5	45%	45%	0%	\$20,912	\$21,638	-\$726
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	190	192	2	47%	49%	-2%	\$22,679	\$23,421	-\$742
Purdue University	59	56	-3	37%	39%	-2%	\$18,511	\$18,783	-\$272
University of Georgia	81	76	-5	39%	40%	-1%	\$19,241	\$20,390	-\$1,149
University of Florida	30	34	4	27%	30%	-3%	\$16,360	\$17,746	-\$1,386
University of Minnesota	115	98	-17	51%	53%	-2%	\$18,985	\$19,524	-\$539
University of Wisconsin	107	98	-9	38%	40%	-2%	\$20,206	\$21,644	-\$1,438

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

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Faculty Resources Rank	2022 Faculty Resources Rank	Change	2023 Classes Under 20	2022 Classes Under 20	Change	2023 Classes of 50 or More	2022 Classes of 50 or More	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	198	141	-57	28.0%	38.0%	-10%	16.0%	14.0%	2%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	182	176	-6	36.0%	35.0%	1%	16.0%	16.0%	0%
Clemson University	267	157	-110	32.0%	38.0%	-6%	17.0%	17.0%	0%
Iowa State University	314	239	-75	32.0%	35.0%	-3%	24.0%	19.0%	5%
Louisiana State University	247	255	8	42.0%	37.0%	5%	16.0%	22.0%	-6%
North Carolina State University	198	216	18	39.0%	37.0%	2%	17.0%	18.0%	-1%
University of Alabama	198	255	57	46.0%	36.0%	10%	17.0%	22.0%	-5%
University of Kentucky	182	176	-6	38.0%	40.0%	-2%	14.0%	14.0%	0%
University of Missouri	216	206	-10	43.0%	41.0%	2%	17.0%	15.0%	2%
University of Nebraska	267	255	-12	34.0%	35.0%	-1%	17.0%	18.0%	-1%
University of South Carolina	198	206	8	40.0%	44.0%	-4%	14.0%	13.0%	1%
Virginia Tech	146	255	109	38.0%	28.0%	10%	19.0%	24.0%	-5%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	247	268	21	24.0%	24.0%	0%	17.0%	26.0%	-9%
Purdue University	100	83	-17	38.0%	44.0%	-6%	20.0%	19.0%	1%
University of Georgia	61	72	11	47.0%	46.0%	1%	11.0%	11.0%	0%
University of Florida	42	48	6	55.0%	53.0%	2%	10.0%	9.0%	1%
University of Minnesota	231	278	47	37.0%	36.0%	1%	19.0%	20.0%	-1%
University of Wisconsin	84	107	23	46.0%	47.0%	-1%	22.0%	24.0%	-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
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Faculty Compensation Rank	2022 Faculty Compensation Rank	Change	2023 % Full-Time Faculty	2022 % Full-Time Faculty	Change	2023 % Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	2022 % Faculty with Ph.D or Terminal Degree	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	55	49	-6	94.4%	95.5%	-1.1%	84%	86%	-2%
Comparable Peers									
Auburn University	89	62	-27	94.4%	94.8%	-0.4%	89%	89%	0%
Clemson University	73	73	0	90.6%	91.4%	-0.8%	83%	87%	-4%
Iowa State University	120	110	-10	94.1%	94.3%	-0.2%	91%	93%	-2%
Louisiana State University	130	110	-20	94.6%	95.2%	-0.6%	83%	86%	-3%
North Carolina State University	130	110	-20	94.8%	94.7%	0.1%	91%	92%	-1%
University of Alabama	85	66	-19	90.8%	90.6%	0.2%	82%	86%	-4%
University of Kentucky	111	96	-15	84.4%	87.1%	-2.7%	89%	93%	-4%
University of Missouri	120	117	-3	92.7%	93.5%	-0.8%	85%	87%	-2%
University of Nebraska	102	85	-17	93.1%	93.4%	-0.3%	81%	80%	1%
University of South Carolina	89	100	11	82.6%	83.4%	-0.8%	81%	88%	-7%
Virginia Tech	52	55	3	96.2%	96.4%	-0.2%	87%	90%	-3%
Aspirational Peers									
Michigan State University	73	55	-18	95.1%	95.4%	-0.3%	89%	90%	-1%
Purdue University	49	45	-4	95.7%	95.9%	-0.2%	98%	99%	-1%
University of Georgia	66	66	0	94.0%	94.8%	-0.8%	94%	95%	-1%
University of Florida	52	60	8	94.8%	95.1%	-0.3%	91%	93%	-2%
University of Minnesota	97	96	-1	86.3%	87.7%	-1.4%	85%	78%	7%
University of Wisconsin	34	41	7	94.5%	94.9%	-0.4%	89%	91%	-2%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings

2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Student/Faculty Ratio	2022 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	22:1
North Carolina State University	15:1	15:1
University of Alabama	19:1	20:1
University of Kentucky	16:1	16:1
University of Missouri	18:1	18:1
University of Nebraska	16:1	16:1
University of South Carolina	18:1	18:1
Virginia Tech	13:1	14:1
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	16:1	16:1
Purdue University	14:1	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	18:1	17:1

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Student Excellence Rank	2022 Student Excellence Rank	Change	2023 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2022 ACT 25th-75th Percentile	2023 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	2022 Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	79	81	2	25-31	25-31	35%	41%	-6%
Comparable Peers								
Auburn University	100	86	-14	24-30	25-31	31%	34%	-3%
Clemson University	64	64	0	25-32*	25-31*	55%	53%	2%
Iowa State University	160	168	8	21-28	22-28	22%	14%	8%
Louisiana State University	119	133	14	23-29	23-28	26%	24%	2%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	58	69	11	27-32	27-32	47%	47%	0%
University of Alabama	104	91	-13	21-31	23-31	41%	45%	-4%
University of Kentucky	124	124	0	22-29	22-29	35%	33%	2%
University of Missouri	91	107	16	23-30	23-30	33%	35%	-2%
University of Nebraska	131	137	6	22-28	22-28	31%	30%	1%
University of South Carolina	107	113	6	23-30*	20-29*	30%	28%	2%
Virginia Tech	124	137	13	25-31*	24-30*	n/a	29%	0%
Aspirational Peers								
Michigan State University	152	158	6	22-28*	22-28*	23%	27%	-4%
Purdue University	68	70	2	24-32*	24-32*	48%	48%	0%
University of Georgia	52	56	4	27-33*	25-31*	59%	56%	3%
University of Florida	33	36	3	28-33*	27-33*	83%	82%	1%
University of Minnesota	68	64	-4	27-32	25-31	41%	49%	-8%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	57	59	2	28-32	27-32	49%	51%	-2%

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

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings
2022-2023 Comparison

UTK Peers	2023 Alumni Giving Rank	2022 Alumni Giving Rank	Change	2023 Average Alumni Giving Rate	2022 Average Alumni Giving Rate	Change
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	86	84	-2	10.4%	10.7%	-0.3%
Comparable Peers						
Auburn University	56	60	4	12.9%	13.9%	-1.0%
Clemson University	34	28	-6	17.5%	20.2%	-2.7%
Iowa State University	86	84	-2	10.3%	11.0%	-0.7%
Louisiana State University	94	78	-16	9.5%	11.3%	-1.8%
North Carolina State University	86	84	-2	10.3%	10.8%	-0.5%
University of Alabama	29	28	-1	18.8%	20.5%	-1.7%
University of Kentucky	130	108	-22	7.2%	9.1%	-1.9%
University of Missouri	86	84	-2	10.0%	10.8%	-0.8%
University of Nebraska	40	44	4	15.2%	15.8%	-0.6%
University of South Carolina	176	168	-8	6.0%	6.3%	-0.3%
Virginia Tech	32	54	22	17.6%	14.2%	3.4%
Aspirational Peers						
Michigan State University	157	176	19	6.5%	5.8%	0.7%
Purdue University	40	44	4	15.3%	15.9%	-0.6%
University of Georgia	49	66	17	14.0%	13.0%	1.0%
University of Florida	29	33	4	18.9%	17.6%	1.3%
University of Minnesota	144	159	15	7.0%	6.8%	0.2%
University of Wisconsin	56	54	-2	13.2%	14.2%	-1.0%

Alumni Giving 3%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 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>	115	53	59	171	198	79	132	86
Comparable Peers								
Auburn University	97	42	61	116	182	100	179	56
Clemson University	77	31	64	87	267	64	141	34
Iowa State University	127	61	57	146	314	160	167	86
Louisiana State University	176	87	53	216	247	119	248	94
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	72	29	65	65	198	58	115	86
University of Alabama	137	64	56	216	198	104	286	29
University of Kentucky	137	64	56	249	182	124	63	130
University of Missouri	121	56	58	185	216	91	179	86
University of Nebraska	151	72	55	227	267	131	167	40
University of South Carolina	115	53	59	127	198	107	219	176
Virginia Tech	62	23	67	53	146	124	141	32
Aspirational Peers								
Michigan State University	77	31	64	81	247	152	95	157
Purdue University	51	18	70	72	100	68	105	40
University of Georgia	49	16	71	42	61	52	121	49
University of Florida	29	5	78	4	42	33	47	29
University of Minnesota	62	23	67	81	231	68	49	144
University of Wisconsin - Madison	38	10	74	53	84	57	51	56

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 Peer Rankings Comparison

UTK Peers
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>
Comparable Peers
Auburn University
Clemson University
Iowa State University
Louisiana State University
North Carolina State University - Raleigh
University of Alabama
University of Kentucky
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of South Carolina
Virginia Tech
Aspirational Peers
Michigan State University
Purdue University
University of Georgia
University of Florida
University of Minnesota
University of Wisconsin - Madison

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 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>	53	59	3.3	136	78%	72%	-6%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	42	61	3.3	86	77%	81%	4%
Clemson University	31	64	3.4	57	84%	85%	1%
Iowa State University	61	57	3.2	110	70%	76%	6%
Louisiana State University	87	53	2.9	192	70%	69%	-1%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	29	65	3.3	57	80%	85%	5%
University of Alabama	64	56	3.2	136	77%	72%	-5%
University of Kentucky	64	56	3.2	178	72%	68%	-4%
University of Missouri	56	58	3.2	136	73%	73%	0%
University of Nebraska	72	55	3.2	192	70%	66%	-4%
University of South Carolina	53	59	3.2	100	75%	78%	3%
Virginia Tech	23	67	3.7	54	78%	87%	9%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	31	64	3.6	84	74%	82%	8%
Purdue University	18	70	3.9	73	78%	83%	5%
University of Georgia	16	71	3.7	41	82%	88%	6%
University of Florida	5	78	3.8	32	83%	91%	8%
University of Minnesota	23	67	3.7	66	82%	84%	2%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	10	74	4.1	39	85%	89%	4%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 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>	88%	115	48%	\$19,810	250	60%	77%
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	92%	101	38%	\$20,468	432	66%	83%
Clemson University	94%	122	45%	\$20,817	403	75%	87%
Iowa State University	88%	210	56%	\$22,161	361	66%	78%
Louisiana State University	84%	115	43%	\$20,713	384	57%	73%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	94%	141	48%	\$20,403	250	79%	86%
University of Alabama	88%	141	45%	\$21,029	435	55%	76%
University of Kentucky	86%	248	50%	\$24,216	372	55%	72%
University of Missouri	88%	141	49%	\$20,432	372	61%	75%
University of Nebraska	82%	164	54%	\$20,245	303	54%	71%
University of South Carolina	89%	164	52%	\$21,083	361	71%	80%
Virginia Tech	93%	141	45%	\$20,912	339	83%	87%
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	92%	190	47%	\$22,679	296	72%	85%
Purdue University	92%	59	37%	\$18,511	326	76%	85%
University of Georgia	95%	81	39%	\$19,241	250	83%	89%
University of Florida	97%	30	27%	\$16,360	75	89%	91%
University of Minnesota	93%	115	51%	\$18,985	270	78%	86%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	95%	107	38%	\$20,206	384	86%	90%

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 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>	28.0%	16.0%	17:1	55	94.4%	84.0%	25-31
Comparable Peers							
Auburn University	36.0%	16.0%	20:1	89	94.4%	89.0%	24-30
Clemson University	32.0%	17.0%	16:1	73	90.6%	83.0%	25-32*
Iowa State University	32.0%	24.0%	18:1	120	94.1%	91.0%	21-28
Louisiana State University	42.0%	16.0%	22:1	130	94.6%	83.0%	23-29
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	39.0%	17.0%	15:1	130	94.8%	91.0%	27-32
University of Alabama	46.0%	17.0%	19:1	85	90.8%	82.0%	21-31
University of Kentucky	38.0%	14.0%	16:1	111	84.4%	89.0%	22-29
University of Missouri	43.0%	17.0%	18:1	120	92.7%	85.0%	23-30
University of Nebraska	34.0%	17.0%	16:1	102	93.1%	81.0%	22-28
University of South Carolina	40.0%	14.0%	18:1	89	82.6%	81.0%	23-30*
Virginia Tech	38.0%	19.0%	13:1	52	96.2%	87.0%	25-31*
Aspirational Peers							
Michigan State University	24.0%	17.0%	16:1	73	95.1%	89.0%	22-28*
Purdue University	38.0%	20.0%	14:1	49	95.7%	98.0%	24-32*
University of Georgia	47.0%	11.0%	17:1	66	94.0%	94.0%	27-33*
University of Florida	55.0%	10.0%	17:1	52	94.8%	91.0%	28-33*
University of Minnesota	37.0%	19.0%	17:1	97	86.3%	85.0%	27-32
University of Wisconsin - Madison	46.0%	22.0%	18:1	34	94.5%	89.0%	28-32

* Converted from SAT scores

USNWR Best Colleges Rankings 2023 Peer Categories Comparison

UTK Peers	Freshmen in Top 10% of Class	Average Alumni Giving Rate
<i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	35%	10.4%
Comparable Peers		
Auburn University	31%	12.9%
Clemson University	55%	17.5%
Iowa State University	22%	10.3%
Louisiana State University	26%	9.5%
North Carolina State University - Raleigh	47%	10.3%
University of Alabama	41%	18.8%
University of Kentucky	35%	7.2%
University of Missouri	33%	10.0%
University of Nebraska	31%	15.2%
University of South Carolina	30%	6.0%
Virginia Tech	n/a	17.6%
Aspirational Peers		
Michigan State University	23%	6.5%
Purdue University	48%	15.3%
University of Georgia	59%	14.0%
University of Florida	83%	18.9%
University of Minnesota	41%	7.0%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	49%	13.2%

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
2023 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	151	194	176	137	115	121	97	137	67	49	29	13	176
Public School Rank	53	72	100	87	64	53	56	42	64	26	16	5	-	87
Overall Score	59	55	51	53	56	59	58	61	56	66	71	78	88	53
Outcomes Rank	171	227	270	227	249	127	185	116	216	65	42	4	25	216
Graduation and Retention Rank	136	178	232	171	178	100	136	86	136	66	41	32	17	192
Social Mobility Rank	250	403	339	421	372	361	372	432	435	209	250	75	326	384
Graduate Indebtedness Rank	115	141	154	141	248	164	141	101	141	59	81	30	17	115
Faculty Resource Rank	198	125	216	247	182	198	216	182	198	355	61	42	16	247
Faculty Compensation Rank	55	120	139	102	111	89	120	89	85	40	66	52	19	130
Student Excellence Rank	79	160	140	166	124	107	91	100	104	68	52	33	11	119
Financial Resources Rank	132	115	219	187	63	219	179	179	286	95	121	47	11	248
Alumni Giving Rank	86	144	24	36	130	176	86	56	29	46	49	29	14	94
Expert Opinion Score (Out of 5)	3.3	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.3	2.9
Predicted 6 year Graduation Rate	78%	70%	65%	72%	72%	75%	73%	77%	77%	80%	82%	83%	96%	70%
Actual 6 Year Graduation Rate	72%	68%	60%	70%	68%	78%	73%	81%	72%	83%	88%	91%	93%	69%
Over/Under Performance	-6%	-2%	-5%	-2%	-4%	3%	0%	4%	-5%	3%	6%	8%	-3%	-1%
Average Freshman Retention Rate	88%	87%	82%	85%	86%	89%	88%	92%	88%	93%	95%	97%	97%	84%
% of Classes Under 20	28%	52%	46%	38%	38%	40%	43%	36%	46%	25%	47%	55%	61%	42%
% of Classes of 50 or More	16%	12%	14%	16%	14%	17%	14%	16%	17%	28%	11%	10%	10%	16%
Student-Faculty Ratio	17:1	16:1	17:1	19:1	16:1	18:1	18:1	20:1	19:1	19:1	17:1	17:1	8:1	22:1
ACT Low/High	25-31	21-29	21-30	21-28	22-29	23-30*	23-30	24-30	21-31	23-30*	27-33*	28-33*	34-35	23-29
Freshman in Top 10% of HS Class	35%	25%	26%	25%	35%	30%	33%	31%	41%	60%	59%	83%	91%	26%
Average Alumni Giving Rate	10.4%	6.8%	19.8%	16.0%	7.2%	6.0%	10.0%	12.9%	18.8%	14.7%	14.0%	18.9%	23.8%	9.5%

* 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
2023 Rankings (#115)								
Creighton University	146	-1%	91%	79%	146	84	105	80
Fairfield University	96	5%	90%	83%	136	114	121	40
Loyola University Chicago	146	0%	86%	74%	165	114	167	253
Rutgers University--Newark	65	14%	86%	66%	146	326	115	253
University of South Carolina	127	3%	89%	78%	198	107	219	176
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	171	-6%	88%	72%	198	79	132	86
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

U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best Colleges Rankings

Appendix B: Methodology

U.S. News 2023 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 is comprised of seven different outcome measures related to schools' success at enrolling, retaining and graduating students from diverse backgrounds with manageable debt.

Graduation and Retention

- **Graduation rates (17.6%)** is a four-year rolling average of the proportion of each entering class (fall 2012-2015) earning a bachelor's degree in six years or less.
- **First-year retention rates (4.4%)** is a four-year rolling average of the proportions of first-year entering students (fall 2017-fall 2020) who returned the following fall.

Graduation rate performance (8%) compares each college's six-year graduation rates with what we predicted for their fall 2014 and fall 2015 entering classes, based on each school's characteristics. The more a school's actual graduation rate exceeded its predicted graduation rate, the more it exceeded expectations – and scored higher on this indicator. The predicted rates were modeled from its students' socioeconomic backgrounds – namely those awarded Pell Grants and who were first in their families to attend college, as well as admissions data, school financial resources, and National Universities' math and science orientations.

Social mobility (5%) measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants – typically from households earning less than \$50,000 annually. 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 graduation rates (2.5%)** incorporate six-year bachelor's degree-seeking graduation rates of Pell Grant students from the fall 2015 and 2014 entering classes, adjusted to give much more credit to schools with larger Pell student proportions.
- **Pell graduation performance (2.5%)** compares each school's six-year bachelor's degree-seeking graduation rate among Pell recipients with its six-year graduation rates among non-Pell recipients, then adjusts to give significantly more credit to schools who enrolled 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 from the fall 2015 and fall 2014 entering classes.

Graduate indebtedness (5%) is a prime concern of students who must weigh the benefits of their college degree with the affordability of attending college itself. Both factors incorporated federal loans and co-signed loans to eventual graduates, and excluded students who transferred in, money borrowed at other institutions, parent loans and students who did not graduate with a bachelor's degree.

- **Graduate indebtedness average (3%)** assesses each school's average accumulated federal loan debt among its 2020 and 2021 bachelor's degree graduating classes of borrowers by comparing their amounts to those among ranked schools in their U.S. News ranking category.

- **Graduate indebtedness proportion (2%)** is the percentage of graduates from the 2020 and 2021 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 other schools in their U.S. News ranking category.

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 comprising 20% of a school's overall rank from the 2021-2022 academic year to assess a school's commitment to instruction.

- **Class size (8%)** has schools scoring better with greater proportions of smaller classes for fall 2021. The current methodology reverts to using only the most recent year of data, following last year's edition that introduced a two-year average to downweight the influence of fall 2020 data when distance learning was temporarily much more prevalent.
- **Faculty salaries (7%)** assesses the average salaries, excluding benefits, for full-time instructional professors, associate professors and assistant professors for 2021-2022, using definitions from the American Association of University Professors. Salary data was adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis regional price parities indexes, published in December 2021. Average salary values are computed only for the 2021-2022 academic year, and not as a two-year average like in the previous edition.
- **Faculty with terminal degree (3%)** is the proportion of full-time equivalent instructional faculty with doctorate or highest degree in their field or specialty during the 2021-2022 academic year. Assessing part-time faculty in addition to full-time faculty – in which part-time faculty were weighted as one-third of full-time faculty in equivalency – is a change from previous editions when only full-time faculty were assessed. This was done to be more comprehensive, because in recent years there has been a large increase in part-time faculty instructors.
- **Student-faculty ratio (1%)** is the ratio of undergraduate students to instructional faculty.
- **Proportion of faculty who are full-time (1%)** compares the counts of full-time faculty to part-time faculty who are teaching courses.

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.

Each year, top academics – presidents, provosts and deans of admissions – rate the academic quality of peer institutions with which they are familiar on a scale of 1 (marginal) to 5

(distinguished). We take a two-year weighted average of the ratings. The 2022-2023 Best Colleges rankings factor in scores from both 2022 and 2021.

The very small proportion of schools that received fewer than 10 cumulative ratings (exclusively regional institutions in the 2022-2023 edition) receive assigned values equaling the lowest average score among schools that received at least 10 ratings.

U.S. News collected the most recent data by administering peer assessment surveys to schools in spring and summer 2022. Of the 4,838 academics who were sent questionnaires on the overall rankings in 2022, 34.1% responded – unchanged from 2021. The peer assessment response rate for the National Universities category was 43.6% and the National Liberal Arts category was 49.7%.

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 2020 and 2021 fiscal years. Expenditures were compared with fall 2019 and fall 2020 full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate enrollment, respectively. The continued two-year average of scores hedges against instability toward schools' budgets that may have been introduced in the 2020 fiscal year by reaction to the coronavirus pandemic.

Student Excellence (7 percent)

Selective admissions enables talented, hard-working students to share a learning environment with their academic peers and enables instructors to design rigorous classes. Two indicators of student excellence comprised 7% of the ranking.

Standardized tests (5%): 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. 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 would weigh twice as heavily as its SAT scores toward this ranking factor.

Many test centers closed in 2020 out of concern for public health, while supply and demand for taking the SAT and ACT plummeted, especially among applicants from low-income backgrounds. For fair comparisons, the following methodology changes were adopted this edition:

- By default, we assessed schools on their fall 2021 SAT/ACT scores if and only if they were reported on at least half their new entrants.
- For schools not meeting the first condition, we assessed them on their fall 2020 SAT/ACT scores (scaled to fall 2020 percentile distributions) if and only if they were reported on at least half their fall 2020 new entrants. These entering students' testing

period predated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the majority of institutions being included in the first two bullets.

- For schools reporting SAT/ACT on less than 50% of both their fall 2021 and fall 2020 entering classes – including test-blind schools – we did not assess them on standardized tests at all. Instead, for those schools we increased the weights of two other ranking factors that have historically correlated with standardized testing: high school class standing and average graduation rate.

For this edition, we also discontinued our prior practice of discounting schools for reporting SAT/ACT scores on too few new entrants. Schools were either assessed on their test scores or they were not. However, we continued our practice of discounting school's percentile scores by 15% if they failed to confirm that their reported scores included all students who submitted scores from these categories: athletes, international students, minority students, legacies, those admitted by special arrangement and those who started in the summer term.

At the time of this publication, U.S. News will not commit to its approach for next edition's rankings.

High school class standing (2%) is the proportion of enrolled fall 2021 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. A higher proportion of students from either the top 10% or top 25% of their high school class scores better than lower proportions in the rankings because students who earned high grades in high school can be well-suited to handle challenging college coursework. Colleges reporting high school class standing based on less than 20% of their entering classes were scored on the previous year's high school class standing data if it was reported on at least 20% of new entrants. Otherwise, values based on less than 20% reporting were discounted. Values based on less than 10% are not used in the rankings at all, in which case the schools get an assigned value for ranking purposes.

Alumni Giving (3 percent)

This is the average percentage of living alumni with bachelor's degrees who gave to their school during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Giving measures student satisfaction and post-graduate engagement.