Loyola University Chicago 2019-20
U.S. News & World Report Ranking Update

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

The 2019-20 U.S. News rankings shows that Loyola University dropped from 89th to 104th (Table 1). Loyola was ranked 104th with an overall score of 51 (Loyola's score last year was 52). This decrease was predicted by OIE even at the time of the release of last year's rankings. Our rise from 103 in the 2018 survey to last year's position of 89 was mainly due to the increase in the six year graduation rate (that graduation rate was the highest in Loyola's history, 77%, and was generated by a concatenation of factors that were not likely to be repeated, and in fact were not repeated, the next year.). Our graduation rate for the past year was 74% so a decrease in the overall ranking was to be expected. The graph below shows Loyola's actual and predicted graduation rates over the past 10 years. More recently, the actual rates surpassed the predicted rates. In the current report the actual rate was only 4 percent higher than the predicted whereas in 2018 there was difference of 8.

Table 1
Loyola University Chicago Ten-Year Trend

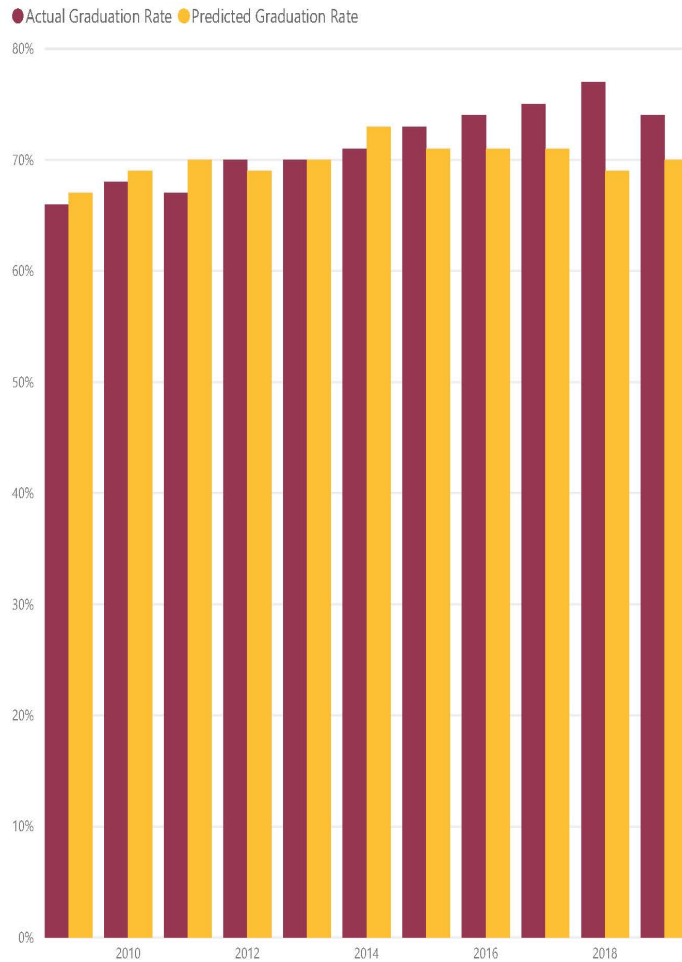| Category	Weight	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 1-Yr.	Change 10-Yr.
National Rank		117	119	106	101	106	99	99	103	89	104	-15	13
Overall Total Score	**100.0%**	39	44	46	48	44	44	48	49	52	51	-1	12
Expert Opinion	**20.0%**												
Peer Assessment Score	**15.0%**	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.2	0.4
HS Counselor Score	**5.0%**				3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9	----	----	----
Outcomes	**35.0%**												
Social Mobility	**5.0%**												
Pell Grant Graduation Rates	**2.5%**									75%	66%	-9	----
Pell Grant Grad Rates Compared with all Other Students	**2.5%**									78%	77%	-1	----
Graduation and Retention	**22.0%**												
Graduation/Retention Rank		102	110	106	101	99	99	100	102	74	112	-38	-10
Freshmen Retention	**4.4%**	84%	85%	85%	86%	86%	86%	86%	85%	84%	84%	0	0
Predicted Graduation Rate		69%	70%	69%	70%	73%	71%	71%	71%	69%	70%	1%	1%
Actual Graduation Rate	**17.6%**	68%	67%	70%	70%	71%	73%	74%	75%	77%	74%	-3%	6%
Over/Underperformance	**8.0%**	-1.0	-3.0	1.0	0.0	-2.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	-4	5
Faculty Res./Compensation	**20.0%**												
Faculty Resources Rank		161	159	115	102	118	116	108	106	109	136	-27	25
% of Classes < 20	**NA**	32%	31%	38%	39%	38%	39%	45%	42%	42%	38%	-4%	6%
% of Classes > 50	**8.0%**	9%	10%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	0%	3%
Faculty Compensation	**7.0%**												
% Faculty with Terminal Degree	**3.0%**									93%	93%	0%	----
Student Faculty Ratio	**1.0%**	15/1	15/1	15/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	0	-1
% Full-Time Faculty	**1.0%**	72%	74%	75%	74%	75%	74%	73%	77%	77%	75%	-2%	3%
Student Excellence	**10.0%**	93	82	87	87	92	88	106	96	94	113	-19	-20
Average ACT	**7.7%**	24-29	25-29	25-29	25-29	24-29	25-29	24-29	24-29	24-29	25-30	1-1	1-1
Fresh Top 10% of HS Class	**2.2%**	32%	34%	32%	35%	37%	34%	34%	34%	37%	37%	0	5%
Acceptance Rate	**NA**	78%	60%	55%	81%	91%	63%	71%	73%	71%	68%	-3%	10%
Financial Resources	**10.0%**												
Financial Resources Rank		133	133	141	130	117	113	112	121	128	140	-12	-7
Alumni Giving	**5.0%**												
Alumni Giving Rank		156	157	132	112	114	139	175	184	168	220	-52	-64
Alumni Giving Rate		9%	9%	10%	12%	11%	9%	6%	6%	6%	6%	0	-3%

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   **Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend**   Numbers in Black=No Trend
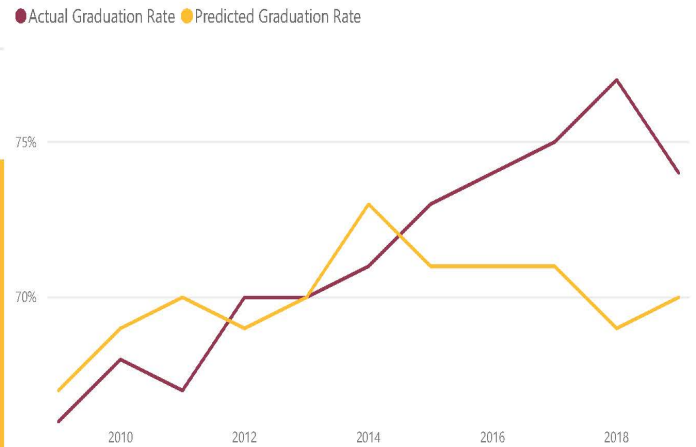
Graph 1
Actual and Predicted Graduation Rates

Actual and Predicted Graduation Rates

● Actual Graduation Rate ● Predicted Graduation Rate

Actual and Predicted Graduation Rates (Detail)

● Actual Graduation Rate ● Predicted Graduation Rate

Graduation/retention rate is the single most impactful factor in the US News ratings (carrying 35% weight); last year our ranking in this scale was 74 (out of 301 schools), this year it is 112 (out of 399). Last year our grad/retention ranking was higher than our overall score, this year it is lower.

Another factor effecting our ranking is that US News added 80 additional schools to the national university rankings. Four of these (Santa Clara, Loyola Marymount, Gonzaga and Elon) ranked higher that Loyola this year.

Another way to view the overall ranking is to consider our percentile rank. The table below shows Loyola's percentile rank among national universities since 2006:

Table 2
Loyola Percentile Rank Among National Universities,
2006-19

Year of Ranking	Loyola Rank	Number of Schools	Percentile
2019	104	399	73.9
2018	89	301	70.4
2017	103	300	65.6
2016	99	298	66.8
2015	99	268	63.1
2014	106	268	60.5
2013	101	270	62.6
2012	106	270	60.8
2011	119	268	55.6
2010	117	260	55.0
2009	119	260	54.2
2008	116	260	55.4
2007	112	258	56.6
2006	112	248	54.8

Despite the decline in numerical ranking, Loyola's percentile ranking among national universities increased from 70.4 to 73.9

The numerical score: US News uses a number of parameters to rank schools; they publish the weights assigned to each factor, but they do not provide details how they convert these factors into a numerical score. This year, Loyola's numerical score dipped from 52 last year to 51; this is the second highest numerical score Loyola has received. Loyola's numerical scores had increased from 36 in the 2010 survey to 49 in the 2018 survey.

Peer Assessment: There are a number of positive results in this year's survey. One of the significant ones is the peer assessment ranking. US News surveys presidents, chief academic officers and deans of admissions who rank universities on a 1-5 scale. Loyola's peer assessment score this year (a category which represents 20% of the overall score) is 3.2, the highest in history (the score was 3.0 last year). This peer assessment score is higher than 20 of the schools which are above Loyola in the overall rankings (including Santa Clara, LMU, Fordham and Gonzaga); there are only four schools ranked below Loyola with higher peer assessment scores.

Social Mobility Index: For the first time this year, US News computes a social mobility index, which measures how well schools graduate students who were Pell recipients. They consider the ratio of Pell students' six year grad rate to the overall grad rate, and give more weight to schools with higher percentages of Pell recipients. Loyola scored 84/399 on this scale. To put this in context, this social mobility scale is higher than every private university that has a higher overall ranking. For another view, consider the social mobility rankings (out of 399) of the other Jesuit institutions included in the national rankings:
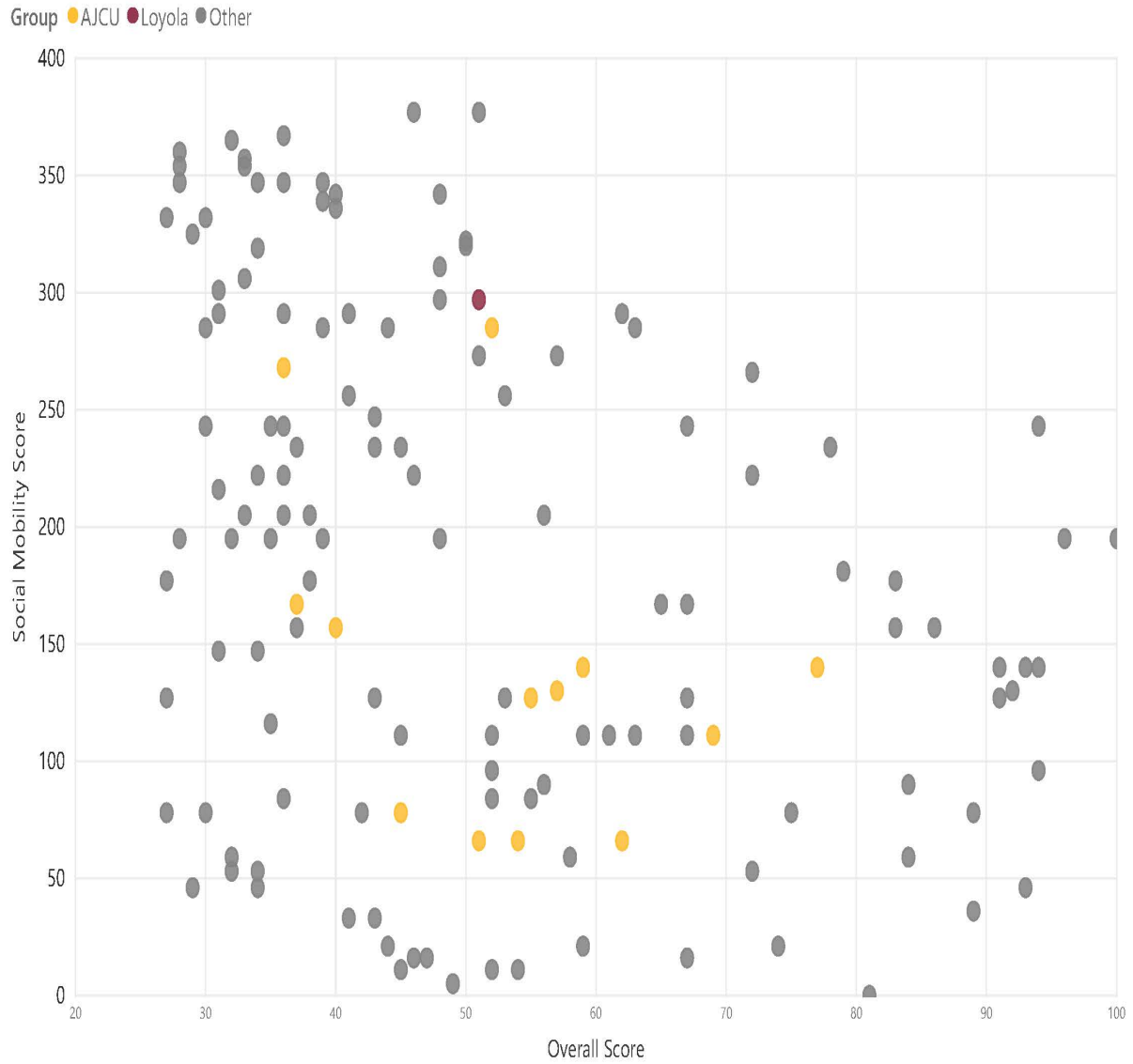
LUC 84
USF 96
Regis 202
LUNO 214
UDM 221
Georgetown 241
LMU 241
Fordham 251
Gonzaga 254
BC 270
SLU 297
Seattle 303
Creighton 315
Marquette 315
Santa Clara 315

These data are one example showing that the individual parameters used in the rankings cannot be considered independently. Scoring high in this index is the result of a relatively high percentage of Pell recipients (compared to other private schools), but a higher percentage of Pell recipients will typically reduce a school's grad/retention rate index.

The graph below displays the relationship between overall national ranking and the social mobility index for all 164 private universities included in the U.S. News national universities survey. The vertical axis plots (381- social mobility rank) for all private schools; the horizontal axis plots the US News computed numerical scores which they use to determine their rankings. We use the (381 – social mobility rank) metric so that going up on the vertical axis is the positive direction; (we used 381 since that is the total number of schools in the national rankings with social mobility indices, 18 of the schools are unranked.). The dot in maroon represents LUC; the yellow dots are the other AJCU schools. The empty region in the upper right means that there are no private schools with high overall scores (i.e. high national ranking) and high social mobility indices. In fact, there are no private schools ranked higher than Loyola that have a higher social mobility rank. (Howard University has the same overall ranking as Loyola and has a social mobility rank of 4).

Graph 2
Social Mobility vs. Overall Score

Social Mobility Score vs. Overall Score
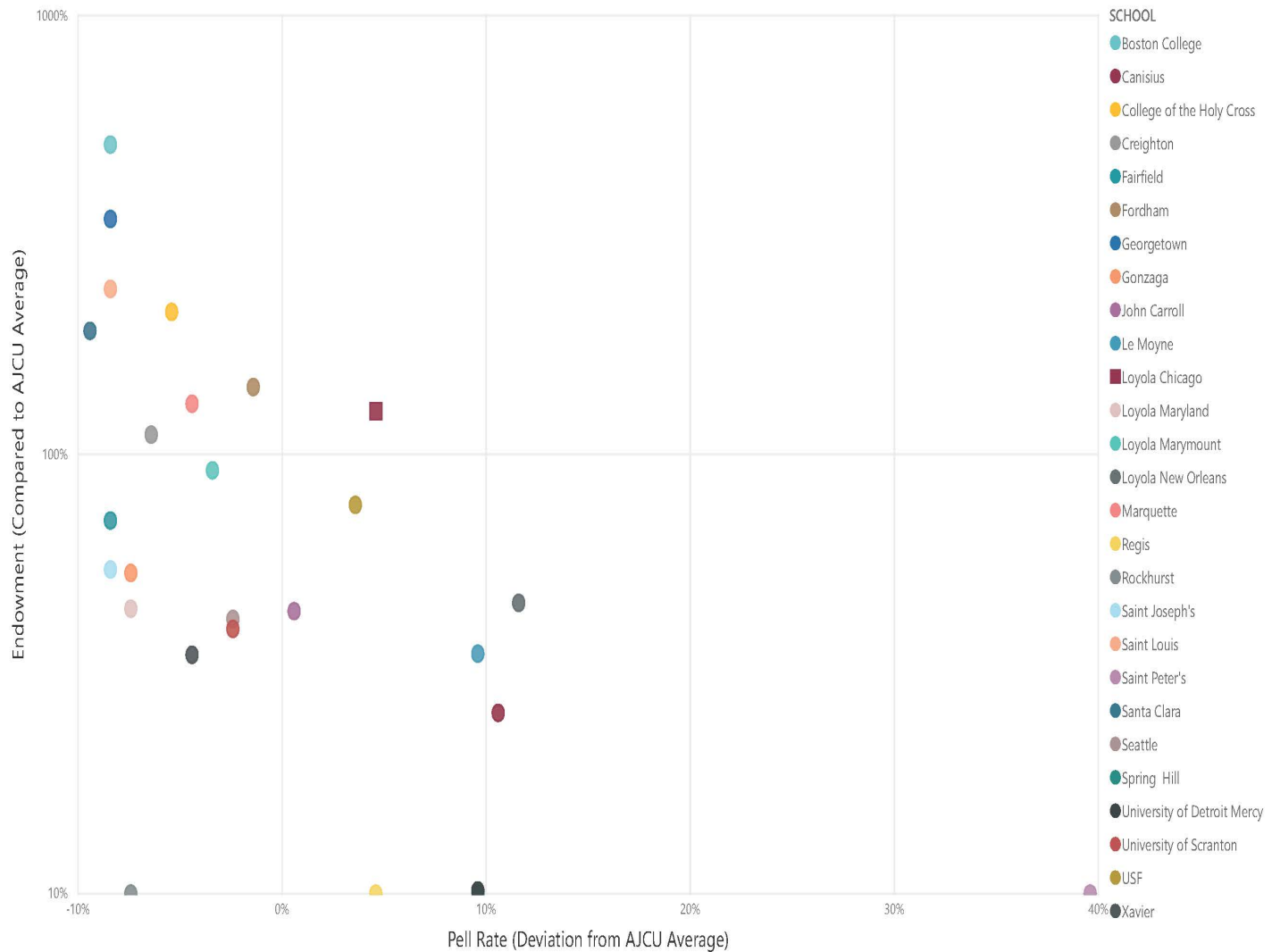
Group ● AJCU ● Loyola ● Other

While not a factor in the US News rankings, the graph below shows another view of Loyola's commitment to educating typically underserved populations. The graph compares endowment (a measure of a school's resources) with its percentage of students receiving Pell awards (a measure of serving students who typically are not able to afford a private university education.) The graph below shows these data for the AJCU institutions. Schools above the 100% horizontal line have endowments greater than the AJCU average endowment; schools to the right of the 0%

vertical line enroll a greater percentage of Pell recipients compared to the AJCU average. Of thje 27 Jesuit institutions in the United States, only Loyola is above average in both parameters.

Graph 3
Endowment (Compared to AJCU Average) by Pell Rate (Deviation from AJCU Average)

Endowment vs. Pell Recipient Rate

Faculty resource rank and financial resources rank: These are two other areas where Loyola's scores decreased this year compared to last year. Faculty resources (20% of the weight) is based on class size (particularly how many classes have enrollments < 20), faculty salary, percentage of faculty who hold the terminal degree in their field, student/faculty ratio,

7

and proportion of faculty who are full time. Loyola's rank in this area decreased to 138 from 109 last year.

The financial resources rank (10% weight) decreased to 140 from 128; this parameter measures spending per student on instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures. Spending on sports, dorms, and hospitals is not included in this parameter.

Selectivity: Including SAT/ACT scores and percentage of students in the top 10% (accounting for 10% weight), Loyola's ranking dropped from 94/301 last year to 113/381 this year.   This year, average test scores increased slightly; the percentage of students in the top 10% of their class remained the same at 37%.

A+ Schools for B students: While the overall rankings dominate attention and discussion, US News produces other lists that are important to consider. One of these, their **A+ Schools for B students** list, ranks Loyola as the 13th (out of 322) qualifying schools. To qualify for this list, schools must be in the top ¾ of their category, have a 75th percentile ACT score less than or equal to 30, a 25th percentile ACT score greater than or equal to 20, and not more than 50% of the class in the top 10% of their high school class (37% for Loyola) and at least 40% of the class in the top 25% of their high schools. Interestingly, Jesuit schools occupy five of the top 13 slots. Loyola's rank in this category improved significantly from last year's 89/226.

Best Undergraduate Teaching: US News also asks a series of supplemental questions of presidents, chief academic officers and deans of admissions who are asked to nominate up to 15 schools in several categories. To be ranked in the best undergraduate teaching category, a school had to receive at least seven nominations. Of the 381 national universities only 95 qualified for listing. On this list, Loyola ranks 49/399 for our reputation in undergraduate teaching. (11 of the 14 Jesuit schools included in the national rankings are on this list).

Service Learning: One of the supplemental questions focused on schools with strong service learning programs. Out of 399 national universities, Loyola placed 19th in terms of most nominations. (Six of the top 20 schools are Jesuit institutions).

Best Value Schools: To determine which colleges and universities offer the best value for students, U.S. News takes into account both quality and cost. Only schools ranked in the top half of their 2020 College ranking categories were considered for this list. Loyola ranked 80th on the list .

Business School Rankings: US News also included rankings of undergraduate business schools as well as subfields within business. The Quinlan School ranks 79th (out of 504) undergraduate business schools (this is the same ranking as last year). The undergraduate program in account ranks 47th; the program in finance is 21st ; the management information systems program ranks 29th, and the supply chain program ranks 15th in the nation.

Top Schools for Veterans: For schools to be considered for the Best Colleges for Veterans list they had to meet several criteria. Among them, they had to be certified for the GI Bill and they had to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Loyola placed in the top half (percentile rank - 82.7), 69th out of the 399 schools in the list.

U.S. News slightly modified their factor weight distribution this year as can be seen in the Appendix. In the measure 'Expert Opinion,' High School Counselor Assessment scores are no longer used. The value for

'Expert Opinion' is now based entirely on Peer Assessment. The weight for 'Expert Opinion' remains at 20%.

The U.S. News 2019-20 ranking results shows some significant changes within Loyola's peer group. Table 3 below shows the U.S. News rankings trend for Loyola's peer members who were classified as "National Universities". Others Peer members classified as "Regional", Liberal Arts, etc. were not included.

Table 3
Loyola University Peer Group National Rankings

Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-19	2018-19
Tulane University	51	50	51	52	54	41	39	40	44	40	11	4
Villanova							50	46	49	46	----	3
Santa Clara										54	----	----
Loyola Marymount										64	----	----
Fordham University	56	53	58	57	58	66	60	61	70	74	-18	-4
American University	79	82	77	75	71	72	74	69	78	77	2	1
Marquette University	75	82	83	75	76	86	86	90	89	84	-9	5
Univ. of San Diego	94	97	92	91	95	89	86	90	85	91	3	-6
University of Denver	86	82	83	91	88	86	86	87	96	97	-11	-1
Univ. of San Francisco	117	119	106	117	106	108	107	110	96	97	20	-1
St. Louis University	86	90	92	101	99	96	96	94	106	97	-11	9
Drexel	86	88	83	97	95	99	96	94	102	97	-11	5
Loyola University	**117**	**119**	**106**	**101**	**106**	**99**	**99**	**103**	**89**	**104**	**13**	**-15**
Creighton University										104	----	----
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.							107	97	102	104	----	-2
Ill Institute of Tech.	111	111	113	109	116	108	103	103	96	117	-6	-21
DePaul University	136	132	134	121	121	123	124	120	119	125	11	-6
Dayton	99	101	115	112	103	108	111	124	127	132	-33	-5
Duquesne University	120	119	120	121	116	115	124	120	119	132	-12	-13
St. John's University	143	152	147	152	145	153	164	165	152	179	-36	-27

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend   Numbers in Black=No Trend

Note: '---' indicates institutions that were in different ranking categories in previous years.

As mentioned before U.S. News added 80 institutions to the National University rankings. As a result, 3 of Loyola's peer group schools were added to the list. They include: Santa Clara, Loyola Marymount, and Creighton. Up until this year, those institutions were in the Regional University rankings. In addition, 3 institutions were added to the peer group previous to the rankings – Drexel, Dayton, and Rochester Institute of Technology. Catholic University was excluded from the peer group.
The 3 new institutions added to the National University list did well in the ranking - Santa Clara 54, Loyola Marymount 64, and Creighton tied with Loyola at 104.

Marked drops since last year were experienced by St. John's (-27), Illinois Institute of Technology (-21), Loyola (-15), and Duquesne (-13).   Other universities that dropped by lesser degrees were DePaul (-6), San Diego (-6), Dayton (-5), and Fordham (-4). On the other hand, increases were experienced by St. Louis (+9), Marquette (+5), Tulane (+4). Villanova (+3) and American (+1) . The majority of the peer group schools experienced drops in their ranking over the past year.

Loyola's 2019-20 overall rank of 104 places Loyola in the middle of its peer group.

Tables 4-7 show Loyola's peer group scores for total score, peer assessment, graduation and retention, and selectivity. These tables are very consistent with the pattern found in Table 2. Nearly every table places Loyola in the middle of its peer group. In terms of Peer Assessment Score, however, Loyola was well in the upper half.

Table 4 shows Loyola's U.S. News Peer Group total score results for the past ten years. Every peer institution in Loyola's Peer Group increased their total score from 2010 to 2019. The range of improvement in total score was from 4 to 14 (average increase of 8.5). Loyola experienced a gain of 12, almost 4 more than the Peer average increase. DePaul had the greatest improvement in ranking from 2010-19 (+14).

Table 4
Peer Group Total Score

Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2010-19	Change 2018-19
Tulane University	56	62	61	61	58	61	64	66	65	67	11	2
Villanova							62	64	63	65	----	2
Santa Clara										62	----	----
Loyola Marymount										59	----	----
Fordham University	53	60	58	60	57	54	59	60	57	57	4	0
American University	47	52	52	53	52	51	54	57	55	56	9	1
Marquette University	48	52	51	53	50	47	51	52	52	54	6	2
Univ. of San Diego	43	48	49	50	47	46	51	52	53	53	10	0
Drexel	45	51	51	49	47	44	49	51	50	52	7	2
University of Denver	45	52	51	50	48	47	51	53	51	52	7	1
Univ. of San Francisco	39	44	46	45	44	41	46	48	51	52	13	1
St. Louis University	45	50	49	48	46	45	49	51	49	52	7	3
Loyola University	**39**	**44**	**46**	**48**	**44**	**44**	**48**	**49**	**52**	**51**	**12**	**-1**

Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-19	2018-19
Creighton University										51	----	----
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.							46	50	50	51	----	1
Ill Institute of Tech.	40	46	45	47	42	41	47	49	51	50	10	-1
DePaul University	34	41	40	43	41	38	43	46	47	48	14	1
Dayton	42	47	44	46	45	41	45	45	45	46	4	1
Duquesne University	38	44	43	43	42	40	43	46	47	46	8	-1
St. John's University	32	37	38	37	35	31	35	37	40	40	8	0

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   **Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend**   **Numbers in Black=No Trend**

Note: '---' indicates institutions that were in different ranking categories in previous years.

Table 5 shows Loyola's U.S. News Peer Group Assessment score results for the past ten years. All of Loyola's peer institutions showed either a slight improvement or no change from 2018 to 2019. Loyola along with Villanova had greatest improvement in Peer Assessment over the past year (+.2). Loyola's Peer Assessment Score of 3.2 is the highest in history. Moreover, from 2010 to 2019 Loyola and University of Denver had the greatest improvement at +.3.

Table 5
Peer Assessment Score

Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2010-19	Change 2018-19
Tulane University	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.2	0.1
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.							3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	----	0.1
Villanova							3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	----	0.2
American University	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.2	0.0
Loyola University	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.2**	**0.3**	**0.2**
Santa Clara										3.1	----	----
Loyola Marymount										3.1	----	----
Drexel	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	----	0.0
Fordham University	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Marquette University	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	0.1	0.1
Creighton										3.0	----	----
St. Louis University	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.1	0.1
DePaul University	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1
Univ. of San Diego	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1
Univ. of San Francisco	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.2	0.1
University of Denver	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.3	0.1

Ill Institute of Tech.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	**0.0**	**0.0**
St. John's University	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	**0.1**	**0.0**
Dayton	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	**----**	**0.1**
Duquesne University	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	**0.0**	**0.1**

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   **Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend**   **Numbers in Black=No Trend**

Note: '---' indicates institutions that were in different ranking categories in previous years.

The peer assessment score comprises a substantial portion of the total weight – 20%. The assessment factor is based on the university's perceived reputation. Loyola has little to no control over how others perceive its reputation. However, it is clearly a factor that can make a difference in determining Loyola's overall rank. The current weighting of the factors used by U.S. News suggests that significant shifts in overall rank may occur with changes in reputation scores.

Table 6 shows Loyola's U.S. News Peer Group Graduation and Retention Rank results for the past ten years. For the 7-year period between 2011 and 2018 Loyola's improved graduation rates increased Loyola's graduation and retention rank from 110th to 74th. From 2018 to 2019, however, Loyola's graduation rate dropped 3% to 74.2%. This resulted in a decline in the graduation and retention rank from 74 to 112 (-38). Other peer institutions showing substantial declines for 2018 to 2019 are St. John's (-54), Illinois Institute of Technology (-38), DePaul (-32), and Duquesne (-29). The most improved rank was for Dayton (from 112th to 92nd).

Table 6
Graduation and Retention Rank

											Change	
Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-19	2018-19
Villanova University							31	30	31	30	----	1
Santa Clara										33	----	----
Tulane University	76	76	85	83	86	74	72	66	74	58	18	16
Loyola Marymount										73	----	----
Fordham University	59	56	63	65	67	70	68	70	85	78	-19	7
Marquette University	65	66	62	59	67	70	60	73	93	78	-13	15
American University	76	71	69	74	73	74	72	70	66	82	-6	-16
Univ. of San Diego	76	82	82	83	82	80	82	83	85	88	-12	-3
Dayton	71	71	78	77	79	80	80	83	112	92	-21	20
Creighton University										95	----	----
University of Denver	81	78	75	77	79	80	89	90	112	98	-17	14
Duquesne University	83	82	85	87	86	87	92	93	74	103	-20	-29
St. Louis University	83	90	91	91	94	99	100	97	112	103	-20	9

Loyola University	102	110	106	101	99	99	100	102	74	112	-10	-38
Ill Institute of Tech.	100	104	106	101	108	111	102	110	74	112	-12	-38
Univ. of San Francisco	108	104	98	101	103	106	113	110	104	122	-14	-18
DePaul University	120	117	119	114	108	106	106	104	95	127	-7	-32
Drexel	120	121	119	118	114	117	125	125	136	127	-7	9
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.							130	127	122	137	----	-15
St. John's University	148	152	155	163	166	165	177	180	155	209	-61	-54

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   **Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend**   **Numbers in Black=No Trend**

Note: '---' indicates prior ranking in terms of Tiers with nor rank

Table 7 shows Loyola's U.S. News Peer Group Selectivity Rank results for the past ten years. The selectivity factor is the combination of ACT/SAT scores (8% of total score), and top 10% of high school class (2% of total score). The majority of the peer group institutions showed a drop in Selectivity Rank over the past year. Loyola dropped from 94 to 113. Other Institutions that also substantially dropped over the past year include DePaul (-30), Dayton (-21), University of San Diego (-15), St. John's (-13), and Duquesne (-13). University of San Francisco had greatest improvement in Selectivity Rank moving from 151st last year to 125th this year (+26).

Table 7
Selectivity Rank

											Change	
Peer Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-19	2018-19
Tulane University	41	42	42	61	76	45	42	37	34	33	8	1
Villanova University							54	45	38	40	----	-2
Santa Clara										65	----	----
Fordham University	72	71	69	64	69	72	71	67	66	70	2	-4
Ill Institute of Tech.	66	66	67	61	64	66	63	60	68	74	-8	-6
St. Louis University	79	75	78	77	71	69	74	76	71	74	5	-3
Loyola Marymount										83	----	----
Rochester Inst. Of Tech.							85	80	80	83	----	-3
University of Denver	74	75	75	81	83	78	76	76	89	83	----	6
American University	56	59	64	64	64	58	79	71	94	90	-34	4
Univ. of San Diego	72	80	69	72	71	72	85	80	80	95	-23	-15
Creighton University										101	----	----
Marquette University	82	80	87	72	81	88	92	96	89	101	-19	-12
Drexel	100	94	98	103	113	117	98	104	112	107	-7	5
Loyola University	**93**	**82**	**87**	**87**	**92**	**88**	**106**	**96**	**94**	**113**	**-20**	**-19**

Univ. of San Francisco	140	152	136	140	113	128	131	148	151	125	**15**	**26**
Duquesne University	146	145	136	137	142	137	151	140	130	143	**3**	**-13**
DePaul University	127	121	118	121	113	128	140	136	143	173	**-46**	**-30**
St. John's University	165	169	213	172	165	164	198	199	177	190	**-25**	**-13**
Dayton	115	116	118	94	107	100	106	172	177	198	**-83**	**-21**

Numbers in Red=Negative Trend   **Numbers in Blue=Positive Trend**   **Numbers in Black=No Trend**

Note: '---' indicates prior ranking in terms of Tiers with nor rank

The table below shows the 2019-20 results for AJCU members. The ranking results for the AJCU remains positive for this year. As can be seen in the table, 7 institutions that were previously in the Regional Universities lists were moved to the National University rankings (. As a result 14 AJCU schools are now in the National Universities list -- 8 of the 14 are ranked in the top 100. In the Regional Midwest rankings John Carrol and Xavier were in the top 5. In the Regional North list 3 AJCU schools were ranked in the top 6. They included Fairfield (3), Loyola College Maryland (4), and Scranton (6). In the National Liberal Arts list Holy Cross climbed from 35th to 27th while Spring Hill remained in the Tier 2.

Table 8
AJCU Peer Group

Category/Institution	Year/Rank	Number of Institutions	Year/Rank	Number of Institutions
National Universities	**2018**	**301**	**2019**	**399**
Georgetown	22		24	
Boston College	38		37	
Loyola Marymount*	---		64	
Fordham	70		74	
Gonzaga*	---		79	
Marquette	89		84	
University of San Francisco	96	-	97	
Saint Louis	106		97	
Loyola University Chicago	**89**		**104**	
Creighton*	---		104	
Seattle*	---		139	
Saint Josephs*	---		147	
Loyola University New Orleans*	---		197	
Regis*	---		202	
Regional Universities (Midwest)	**2018**	**165**	**2019**	**153**
John Carrol	4		2	
Xavier	7		5	
Rockhurst	23		13	
University of Detroit Mercy	25		40	
Regional Universities (North)	**2018**	**187**	**2019**	**170**
Fairfield	1		3	
Loyola College in Maryland	5		4	

University of Scranton	6			6	
Le Moyne	17			14	
Canisius	23			19	
Saint Peters	81			86	
Regional Universities (South)	**2018**	**165**		**2019**	**122**
Wheeling	38			47	
National Liberal Arts Colleges	**2018**	**229**		**2019**	**215**
Holy Cross	35			27	
Spring Hill	Tier 2			Tier 2	

* Institutions Moved to National Universities Rankings List in 2020 Edition.

Table 9 shows additional ranking categories U.S. News uses to supplement the overall rankings. Loyola did well in a number of rankings specifically in the undergraduate business programs. In the overall Best Undergraduate Business Programs ranking Loyola was 79th out of 504 (84.3 percentile). In Accounting Loyola was 47th in the top 73; Finance, 21st in the top 54; Management Information Systems, 29th in the top 35; and Supply Chain, 15th in the top 125. Other areas where Loyola did well include Best Online Bachelor Degree Program, Best Undergraduate Business Programs, Best Value Schools, Best undergraduate Teaching, A+ for B Students, Service Learning, Social Mobility, and Top Schools for Veterans.

Table 9
Undergraduate Rankings 2018-19 VS. 2019-20

Ranked Categories	2018			2019		
	LUC Rank	Total Number of Institutions	Percentile Rank	LUC Rank	Total Number of Institutions	Percentile Rank
National Universities Overall Rank	**89**	**301**	**70.4**	104	399	73.9
Best Online Bachelors Degree Program	14	357	96.1	12	348	96.6
Best Undergraduate Business Programs	79	503	84.3	79	504	84.3
Accounting				47	Top 73	---
Finance				21	Top 54	---
MGMT Information Systems				29	Top 35	---
Supply Chain Management				15	Top 24	---
Best Value Schools	60	145	58.6	80	399	80.0
Campus Ethnic Diversity	104	301	65.4	109	399	72.7
Freshmen Retention rate	140	301	53.5	161	399	59.7
Economic Diversity (% receiving Pell Grants)	163	297	45.1	235	399	41,1
Best Undergraduate Teaching	___	___	___	49	399	87.7
Highest 4-Year Grad Rate (all Schools)	181	1,251	85.5	209	399	47.6

15

A+ Schools for B Students	89	226	60.6	13	322	95.6
Service Learning	___	___	___	19	399	95.2
Social Mobility	___	___	___	84	399	79.0
Top Schools for Veterans	53	105	49.5	69	399	82.7

APPENDICES

2019-20 U.S. News and World Report Rankings Results
Factors and Weights 2019-20

Factor & Sub Factors	Factor Weight	Sub-Factor Weight	Item Weight
EXPERT OPINION	**20%**		
Peer Assessment Score (out of 5) (2-Year Average)		100%	20
OUTCOMES	**35%**		
Social Mobility	**5%**		
Pell Grant Graduation Rates		50%	2.5
Pell Grant Grad Rates compared with All Other Students		50%	2.5
Grad & Retention Rates	**22%**		
Average Freshman Retention Rate		20%	4.4
6-year Graduation Rate		80%	17.6
Graduation Rate Performance	**8%**		
Graduation Rate Performance		*	8
(Relative to the Predicted Graduation Rate)			
FACULTY RESOURCES	**20%**		
Classes with under 50 Students		40%	8
Student to Faculty Ratio		5%	1
Percent of Faculty who are Full-time		5%	1
Faculty Compensation		35%	7
% Faculty with Terminal Degrees		15%	3

STUDENT EXCELLENCE	10%		
Fall Acceptance Rate		N/A	N/A
Freshmen in Top 10% of High School Class		22.5%	2.25
SAT/ACT 25th-75th Percentile		77.5%	7.75
FINANCIAL RESOURCES	**10%**		
Financial Resources Rank		*	10
ALUMNI GIVING	**5%**		
Alumni Giving Rate (2-year Average)		*	5
	100%		**100%**

How U.S. News Calculated the 2020 Best Colleges Rankings

Here's a breakdown of the key college data that goes into the annual rankings.
By **Robert Morse**, **Eric Brooks**, and **Matt Mason**

DECIDING WHERE TO APPLY is tough. But the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings, now in their 35th year, are an excellent resource to tap when doing your research. The rankings compare bachelor's degree-granting institutions from across the U.S. on 15 diverse measures of academic quality. They can help you craft a shortlist of places in which to dig deeper.

To help with that next step, our accompanying directory has statistics used in the rankings calculations – such as average ACT/SAT scores of admitted students, student-faculty ratios and graduation rates. It also lists a bevy of useful information including application requirements, tuition and financial aid, student body characteristics and figures on post-graduate employment. Additionally, our search can generate a group of schools from personalized factors.

Taken together, the rankings, directory and search – combined with college visits, interviews and your own intuition – can be a powerful tool in your quest for the best fit college.

How the Methodology Works

Although our methodology is the product of years of research, we continue to refine our approach based on user feedback, discussions with schools and higher education experts, literature reviews, trends in our own data, availability of new data, and attending and sometimes presenting at professional conferences. Our detailed methodology is transparent in part for use by schools and researchers, but mostly because we believe prospective students will find our rankings more useful if they know what the rankings measure.

We group schools into 10 different ranking categories based on their academic missions. Within each category, the sum of weighted, normalized values across 15 indicators of academic quality determine each school's overall score, and by extension its overall rank.

For display purposes, we transformed overall scores so the top performer scores 100 on a zero to 100 scale. In effect, a school's overall score reflects its distance from the top-performing school in its ranking. Among schools placing outside the top 75% of their rankings, U.S. News made an editorial decision to only display their rankings' bottom quartile ranges.

Only thoroughly vetted academic data from our surveys and reliable third-party sources are used to calculate each ranking factor. This means for better or for worse, we do not factor nonacademic

elements like social life and athletics; we do not conduct unscientific straw polls for use in our computations, and schools' ranks are not manipulated to coddle business relationships.

Grouping Ranked Colleges

To make valid comparisons, schools are grouped by academic mission into 10 distinct rankings.

▫ National Universities offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and emphasize faculty research or award professional practice doctorates.

▫ National Liberal Arts Colleges focus almost exclusively on undergraduate education and award at least 50% of their degrees in the arts and sciences.

▫ Regional Universities offer a broad scope of undergraduate degrees and some master's degree programs but few, if any, doctoral programs. We ranked them in four geographical groups: North, South, Midwest and West.

▫ Regional Colleges focus on undergraduate education but grant fewer than 50% of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. They sometimes predominantly award two-year associate degrees. We ranked them in four geographical groups: North, South, Midwest and West.

To place each school in its ranking, U.S. News strictly maps its categories to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education's Basic Classification system. The U.S. Department of Education and many higher education associations use the Carnegie system to organize or label their data, among other uses. In short, the Carnegie categories are the accepted standard in U.S. higher education.

In February 2019, Carnegie released official updates – called the "2018 Update" – including the Basic system. U.S. News first used this 2018 Update in the 2020 Best Colleges rankings.

Carnegie's 2018 Update reclassified many institutions. Most significantly, it added a professional practice doctoral category into its universe of doctoral universities. Consequently, even though U.S. News' mapping between its ranking categories and Carnegie Classifications was unchanged, many schools are categorized in different U.S. News rankings for the 2020 edition compared with the previous edition. This underscores that the total number of schools ranked in our National Universities ranking increased by more than 25% year-to-year while total ranked Regional Universities decreased by approximately 10% year-to-year.

Schools that are new to their U.S. News ranking categories cannot have their current ranks validly compared with their previous year's rank. Even schools that stayed in the same categories may need to have their ranks contextualized by other institutions having left and entered their categories from different positions.

The Ranking Factors

High school counselor opinion was discontinued as part of expert opinion. Otherwise, there were no changes in weights assigned to each factor for the 2020 edition. There are, however, small differences in how some of the factors were calculated, described below. For a more detailed look at how the rankings are computed on a factor-by-factor level, please see Ranking Criteria and Weights and Morse Code: Inside the College Rankings.

These are the factors and weights used in the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings.

Outcomes (35%)

More than one-third of a school's rank comes from its success at retaining and graduating students within 150% of normal time (six years). It receives the highest weight in our rankings because degree completion is necessary to receive the full benefits of undergraduate study from employers and

graduate schools. We approach outcomes from angles of graduation and retention (22%), graduation rate performance (8%) and social mobility (5%).

Graduation and retention rates: This has two components.
⬛ A four-year rolling average of the proportion of each entering class (fall 2009-fall 2012) earning a degree in six years or less (17.6%).
⬛ A four-year rolling average of the proportion of first-year entering students (fall 2014-fall 2017) 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 2012 entering class. The predicted rates were modeled from admissions data, proportion of undergraduates awarded Pell Grants, school financial resources, proportion of federal financial aid recipients who are first generation, and National Universities' math and science, or STEM, orientations.
The first-generation students variable was new for the 2020 rankings and in effect gives schools more credit for their graduation rates when accomplished with higher proportions of students who were the first in their immediate families to attend college. The data was sourced from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard. Its inclusion improved the model's predictive power.

Social mobility: Measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants (those typically coming from households whose family incomes are less than $50,000 annually, though most Pell Grant money goes to students with a total family income below $20,000). New for the 2020 edition, data sourced from the federal government was used for nonresponders. Also, the below factors (weighted 2.5% each) were computed using two-year averages of fall 2011 and fall 2012 entering cohorts.

⬛ **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.

⬛ **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.

19

U.S. News published a distinct social mobility ranking for all schools. The social mobility ranking is computed from the two ranking factors assessing graduation rates of Pell-awarded students (5% of the rankings total).

Additionally, for benchmarking purposes each schools' ranking factors sections on its directory page includes both its social mobility rank and a distinct outcomes rank. Although the ranks themselves are not used to determine schools' overall rankings, they are displayed to enable prospective students, parents and institutions to make comparisons on related ranking factors. The outcomes rank also includes the two social mobility ranking factors but also average graduation rates, first-year retention rates and graduation rate performance that in total comprise 35% of a school's overall score.

We also changed how the graduation and retention rate benchmark ranking was calculated. It is once again computed from a school's total score in these two ranking indicators: average six-year graduation rate and average first-year retention rate. In the 2019 edition only, it was based on a school's score in these four ranking factors: average six-year graduation rate, average first-year retention rate, Pell Grant graduation rate and Pell Grant graduation rate performance.

Faculty Resources (20%)

Research shows the greater access students have to quality instructors, the more engaged they will be in class and the more they will learn and likely graduate. U.S. News uses five factors from the 2018-2019 academic year to assess a school's commitment to instruction: class size, faculty salary, faculty with the highest degree in their fields, student-faculty ratio and proportion of faculty who are full time.

⬜ **Class size** is the most highly weighted faculty resource measure, at 8%. Schools score better the greater their proportions of smaller classes for fall 2018.

⬜ **Faculty salary** is weighted at 7% and is the average faculty pay plus benefits during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years, adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living. Nonresponders to the faculty salary question for the first time had modified federal government faculty salary data used as the basis for their estimates. Also new for the 2020 rankings, the faculty salary figures were adjusted using open source data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis regional price parities 2017 dataset published in May 2019. These regional price indexes allow comparisons from one metro area to another and measure the differences in price levels across states and metropolitan areas for a given year. They are expressed as a percentage of the overall national price level. The regional price indexes cover all consumption goods and services, including housing rents.

⬜ U.S. News also factors the **proportion of full-time faculty with the highest degree in their fields** (3%), **student-faculty ratio** (1%) and the **proportion of faculty who are full time** (1%).

Expert Opinion (20%)

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 2018 and 2019 directly to schools. Of the 4,815 academics who were sent questionnaires, 43% responded. This response rate is well up from 36% the previous year.

The high school counselor opinion survey was not administered and its ranking factor was dropped from the National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges rankings formulas altogether because U.S. News had greater confidence in its peer assessment data. High school counselor ratings had never been included as a ranking factor in the Regional Universities and Regional Colleges methodology. The high school counselor assessment's 5 percentage point weight in the ranking was added to the peer assessment weight for the National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges rankings formulas, increasing the weight of that indicator in those two categories from 15% to 20% – equal to what is done for Regional Universities and Regional Colleges.

Financial Resources (10%)
Generous per-student spending indicates that a college can offer a wide variety of programs and services. U.S. News measures financial resources by using the average spending per student on instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures in the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. Spending on sports, dorms and hospitals does not count.

A small adjustment for the 2020 rankings: For improved cohort alignment, we adjusted the denominator cohorts a year back so that fiscal year 2018 spending was compared with 2017 enrollment and fiscal year 2017 spending was compared with 2016 enrollment.

For nonresponders, data sourced from the federal government was used – a change from the previous rankings edition.

Student Excellence (10%)
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.

Standardized tests: U.S. News factors admissions test scores for all enrollees who took the mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing portions of the SAT and the composite ACT. We weighted standardized tests at 7.75%.

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 summer 2018. 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%. If the combined percentage of the fall 2018 entering class

submitting test scores is less than 75% of all new entrants, its combined SAT/ACT percentile distribution value used in the rankings was discounted by 15%.

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. It contributes 2.25% toward schools' overall scores.

For Regional Universities and Regional Colleges, we used the proportion of those who graduated in the top quarter of their high school classes. New for this ranking is that high school class standing data from high schools that reported on fewer than 10% of their fall 2018 new entrants received an estimate instead of having their scores discounted. Also new is that colleges that reported high school class standing data on less than 20% of new entrants have their fall 2018 data footnoted. This is a decrease from 50% of new entrants in previous editions.

Alumni Giving (5%)

This is the average percentage of living alumni with bachelor's degrees who gave to their school during 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Giving measures student satisfaction and post-graduate engagement. This year, U.S. News only incorporated data it collected from its own data collection.

Data Sources

Most colleges report the data directly to U.S. News. This year, 91% of ranked institutions returned their statistical information during the spring 2019 data collection window.

We use the most current information available for the rankings. Because we conduct our own data collection, much of what was analyzed and published is a year ahead of other sources. This also means much of our information on schools is not available anywhere else, or at least would require navigating through variegated school websites.

For quality assurance, rankings data that schools reported to U.S. News were algorithmically compared against previous years' submissions to flag large change statistical outliers. Respondents were required to review, possibly revise and verify any flagged data in order to submit their surveys. New for the 2020 edition, they were also instructed to have a top academic official sign off on the accuracy of the data. Schools that declined to do this step could still submit and be ranked but are footnoted on usnews.com. After submitting, U.S. News assessed the veracity of data submitted on a factor-by-factor level, and contacted select schools to confirm or revise data. Schools that did not respond or were unable to confirm their data's accuracy may have had the data in question unpublished and unused in the calculations.

We obtained missing data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (finances, faculty counts and faculty salaries, SAT and ACT scores, and graduation and retention rates). Altogether for the 2020 edition, U.S. News used third-party data for nonresponders on ranking factors that total 17 percentage points greater than was used in the previous edition. U.S. News uses estimates, which are not displayed, in the ranking calculation when schools fail to report ranking indicator data points that are not available from these sources. Missing data are reported as "N/A" on

usnews.com. Schools that refused to fill out the U.S. News survey altogether are footnoted as nonresponders.
In total, U.S. News has collected data on more than 1,900 institutions. While data for all schools appear on usnews.com, just shy of 1,400 schools were ranked.

Unranked Schools
In total, 542 colleges are listed as unranked. This designation most typically owes to one of two main reasons:
⦿ They are in a Carnegie Classification that U.S. News has not included in its ranking categories. These include 190 highly specialized schools in arts, business, engineering, health, medicine and technology.
⦿ They reported not using either SAT or ACT scores in admissions decisions for first-time, first-year, degree-seeking applicants.

Note: Schools with test-optional or test-flexible admissions policies still use these SAT and ACT scores in their admissions process, if prospective students provide them, and those schools are included in the rankings. Many schools not using standardized tests at all primarily administer nontraditional degree-completion programs targeted toward midcareer adults.
Unlike schools that are on usnews.com as unranked, U.S. schools that award bachelor's degrees are excluded entirely from the Best Colleges webpages if they are only nationally accredited or have no accreditation, are branch campuses whose accreditation is through a parent institution or are graduate schools that only award bachelor's degrees through degree-completion programs or as part of master's degree programs.

What else is new?
Separate from the overall rankings and for the first time since 2003 (and first time ever on usnews.com), U.S. News ranked schools on the following programs that have been proven to enhance learning outcomes and a student's academic experience:
⦿ First-Year Experiences
⦿ Co-ops/Internships
⦿ Learning Communities
⦿ Senior Capstone
⦿ Service Learning
⦿ Study Abroad
⦿ Undergraduate Research/Creative Projects
⦿ Writing in the Disciplines

For the past 16 years, U.S. News had only published alphabetized lists of select colleges in these areas. The 2020 rankings are calculated from the number of respondents to the peer reputation survey who recognized schools for having outstanding programs.

In addition to new rankings, also new to many directory profiles this year are enrollment broken out by in-state and out-of-state students, transportation options such as bike-share and car-share programs, ADHD programs and services, Collegiate Athletic Conference affiliation and different kinds of assistance to students without visa or legal status in the U.S.

We also have published data sourced from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard. The data that pertains only to undergraduates receiving federal financial aid include average annual cost broken out by income level, borrowing and debt, student body by income, and proportion of first-generation households. For the first time, data from College Scorecard is used for our Most Debt and Least Debt lists.

More to come....

Check out usnews.com in the coming year, since we may add content to the Best Colleges pages as we obtain additional information. And as you mine these tables for insights – where your SAT or ACT scores might win you some merit aid, for example, or where you will be apt to get the most attention from professors – keep in mind that they provide a launching pad, not an easy answer.

Searching for a college? Get our complete rankings of Best Colleges.