

RED: Column used for ranking

University of Washington is an outlier, only ranking as low as 50 of National Universities

BOLD: Universities ranked at least 10 points higher globally.

Aqua: University of Washington is an outlier

Characteristics of U.S. best National Universities:

- The list includes 310 universities offering undergraduate, graduate and PhD programs.
- The top 10 are private and five are part of the “Ivy league”.
- 37 of the top 50 are private
- Six are in the top 10 globally.

Characteristics of U.S. National universities ranked 50-59

- Six are public.
- Three are ranked higher globally than nationally and two more had higher U.S. global rankings than national rankings.
- Two of the private universities are not ranked globally.

Characteristics of U.S. best global universities (based on rankings within the U.S.)

- There are 217 U.S. universities in U.S. News Global, with 210 receiving individual ranks.
- Seven of the top ten are private.
- 24 of the top 50 are private
- Eight of the top ten are also in the top 10 in the world.
- Global rankings include medical schools; the med schools are excluded from this list.

Characteristics of U.S. universities ranked 50-59 globally (within the U.S.)

- Eight are public.
- Three are ranked higher globally than nationally and two of these are private.

METHODOLOGY for National Universities

The [methodology](#) for global rankings is research-based and many of the bibliometrics are size dependent, favoring the larger public universities. Over 50% of the top fifty are **public**. Most data for national rankings come from the schools. The national data uses ratios, eliminating the size factor. About 75% of the top 50 are **private**. The following are the major categories for national rankings. Each has additional sub-categories.

- **Graduation and retention rates** (22.5%) including six year graduation rate and the number of students returning after the first year. This favors private universities which can be much more selective in their intake.
- **Undergraduate academic reputation** survey (22.5%) including administrators and high school counselors
- **Faculty resources** [teaching] (20%) including class size (another advantage for smaller private institutions) , faculty salary, and student selectivity
- **Financial resources** (10%) – per student spending
- **Graduation rate performance** [value added] (7.5%)
- **Alumni giving** (5%)