U-MULTIRANK
2021
American Universities in Global Comparison
U-MULTIRANK 2021

U-Multirank is a unique, multidimensional and international ranking of higher education institutions. It compares university performance across teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement. It is the largest and most inclusive ranking showcasing the diversity in higher education around the world. It is not a league table and does not use composite indicators, nor reputation weights. Therefore, there is no one best university in U-Multirank. The performance of a university is presented with individual scores – graded from ‘A’ (very good) to ‘E’ (weak) across the different areas.

U-Multirank’s 2021 edition presents data on 250 American higher education institutions. For the full list of all universities from the United States included in U-Multirank, please visit our website.

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AT A GLANCE: HOW DO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES FARE IN U-MULTIRANK?

- U-Multirank presents data on 250 US universities, which is the highest number among all countries.
- In global comparison, US institutions perform strongest in Research and Knowledge Transfer. 57% of all indicator scores of all US institutions in the Research dimension and 59% in the Knowledge Transfer dimension are ranked in top groups ('A' and 'B' score).
- 59 US institutions received ten or more global top group positions ('A') across all indicators.
- The performance of the US universities is characterised by a combination of high impact of their research (Almost half of all US universities are ranked in the top group ('A') with regard to the percentage of Top-Cited Publications) and strong cooperation with industry: 54% both in Joint Publications with Industrial Partners and Patents Awarded (size-normalised). Their contribution to knowledge transfer is particularly highlighted by the fact, that 61% of all US universities reached an ‘A’ score in Publication Cited in Patents, indicating that their research is highly important to technology development.
- US universities count for 41 entries in our global 'Top 25 Performers' lists; 17 of them are included in Patents Awarded (size-normalised) and 15 of them in the list for Top cited publications.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology received the highest number of ‘A’ (very good) scores on the institutional level for The United States in 2021.

In this section we highlight the universities receiving the highest number of ‘A’ (very good) scores on the institutional level for the respective country. Although the number of ‘A’ scores shows top performance for the respective university, it does not imply one university is the ‘best’ in the country, as each university profile highlights different strengths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American universities with the highest number of overall top scores in 2021</th>
<th>Total ‘A’ scores 2021</th>
<th>Total ‘A’ scores 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>15 ↑</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rockefeller University</td>
<td>14 ↓</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>14 ↑</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>13 ↑</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeastern University United States</td>
<td>13 ↑</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue University - Lafayette</td>
<td>13 ↑</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland, College Park</td>
<td>13 ↑</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The list includes different profiles of institutions: comprehensive universities, as well as business schools and technical universities.
WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE PROFILES OF THE UNITED STATES’ TOP SCORING UNIVERSITIES?

Using our unique sunburst chart, a clear picture is shown of the university’s overall performance (the longer the bar, the higher the score).

*For a list of definitions and calculations of indicators, see our Indicator Book.*
29 American universities have achieved a global Top 25 score in 2021.

**Globally Top Performing American Universities**

In this section, U-Multirank presents the global Top 25 performers in a set of 10 indicators measuring different dimensions of performance. These lists highlight the 25 top-performing universities from around the world with the highest scores.

American universities that have achieved a global Top 25 score are listed under the respective categories:

**Patents awarded (size-normalised)**
- Baylor College of Medicine
- California Institute of Technology
- Case Western Reserve University
- Harvard University
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Stanford University
- The Rockefeller University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- University of Texas South West Medical Center
**Globally Top Performing American Universities**

**Top cited publications**
- California Institute of Technology
- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- The Rockefeller University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago
- University of Pennsylvania
- Yale University

**Research publications (absolute numbers)**
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Washington - Seattle

*For the full lists of all global Top 25 performers, please visit our [website](#).*
Above or below average?

In this section we highlight the overall performance of American universities on the institutional level per U-Multirank dimension.

The below table shows the national breakdown of American universities and how they stand across the spectrum of above average (receiving a score of ‘A’ (very good) or ‘B’ (good)), or below average (receiving a score of ‘D’ (below average) or ‘E’ (weak)). In doing so, U-Multirank offers a clear picture on the countries strengths, and areas for improvement.
If you want to analyse further the performance of the universities in your country you can click the following links.

The below links lead directly to the national results pages where we pre-filtered the universities in your country into one list (for the university as a whole and for the subject areas included in U-Multirank so far). You can use the table to produce national rankings (see image below), or for personalised interactive analyses with the data.

If you’re interested in tailor-made tables (institutional level, subject level, or with a specific focus in mind, such as internationalisation), please contact us, at info@umultirank.org. These links are also accessible via your country’s ‘Study in’ page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Teaching &amp; Learning</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Knowledge Transfer</th>
<th>International Orientation</th>
<th>Regional Engagement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester University</td>
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<td>MIT</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
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<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
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<td>Northeastern University, Boston</td>
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<td>Columbia University</td>
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<td>Sloan School of Medicine, MIT</td>
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<td>University of Wisconsin, College Park</td>
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<td>Dartmouth College</td>
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<td>Yale College of Medicine</td>
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U-Multirank’s National University Rankings 2021-2022 – United States
- Institutional Rankings
- Pharmacy (updated)
- Psychology (updated)
- Social Work (updated)

U-Multirank’s Subject Rankings 2021-2022 – United States
- Agriculture (NEW)
- Veterinary Science (NEW)
- Dentistry (updated)
- Medicine (updated)
- Nursing (updated)

* To view, select the respective study subject, then select either ‘filter by country’, or ‘go straight to the comparison’.

Press materials:
- Advanced press release (includes graphics and tables for download in Appendix)
- FAQ
- Overview Infographic 2021
U-Multirank is a multidimensional, user-driven approach to international ranking of higher education institutions. It compares the performances of higher education institutions – in short: universities – in the five dimensions of university activity:

(1) teaching and learning, (2) research, (3) knowledge transfer, (4) international orientation and (5) regional engagement.

The U-Multirank web tool enables comparisons at the level of the university as a whole and at the level of specific study programmes. Based on empirical data, U-Multirank compares institutions with similar institutional profiles ("like-with-like") and allows users to develop their own personalised rankings by selecting indicators in terms of their own preferences.

Based on the results of a feasibility study covering 150 universities which was carried out in 2010/11, the European Commission decided to fund the implementation of U-Multirank. This roll out is carried out by a consortium led by Professor Frans van Vught of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente in the Netherlands and Professor Frank Ziegele of the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in Germany as well as the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) from Leiden University and Fundacion CYD. U-Multirank is funded by the European Commission, the Bertelsmann Foundation and Banco Santander. The consortium also works closely with a range of national ranking partners and stakeholder organisations.

The work of the U-Multirank consortium is overseen by an Advisory Board.