

2021: Best Colleges - Finance Survey

Introduction

BEST COLLEGES

Data Collection

U.S. News has begun collecting data for the 2021 edition of Best Colleges. The U.S. News surveys ask about many aspects of your institution that are important to potential college applicants across the country, other educational intuitions and the public at large.

Survey Deadline: June 1st, 2020

There are 3 steps in the U.S. News data collection process:

Step 1: Data - Fill in as much of the survey as possible.

Step 2: Assessment - After filling in your data, navigate to the 'Main Survey Assessment' section. The assessment runs a comparison between your current data and the data submitted last year. The assessment will identify potential errors between the two years of data. For more information please go to the main assessment section.

Step 3: Verification - After reviewing the assessment and fixing any remaining errors, navigate to the section titled "Verification". This is where the survey submission takes place. Please take some time to review your survey data one last time. When you are ready, you **must** select the check box, fill out the identification information (which must be from the Dean or equivalent official who has signed off on the data) and hit the red "Submit Survey" button. **Failure to check the verification box and have the Dean or equivalent official fill out their information may be noted when the data are published and/or may result in the school not being ranked.**

Important Icons

* The red asterisk located next to a few question numbers indicated that the question is mandatory. If the question is not answered you will be unable to submit the survey. All assessment flags are mandatory and must be addressed.

✘ The red x indicates that you have not filled out the question correctly. There will be a line of text that accompanies the icon letting you know what the exact problem is. Once the issue is corrected, the x will disappear. All failed validations must be fixed before the survey can be submitted.

🛡 The gold shield indicates that the question has been used in past U.S. News Best Colleges rankings calculations or is under consideration for future use.

❓ The question mark indicates a tip on how to answer that particular question.

☑ The checkbox indicates the assessment section of the survey.

⬆️ The upward arrow indicates the verification section of the survey. This is where the submission button is located.

USNEWS to IPEDS Key

Public using GASB

Tuition and Fees - Refer to Finance Survey, Part B, Line 01

Investment Income - Refer to Finance Survey, Part B, Line 17

Value of Endowment assets- Refer to Finance Survey, Part H, Line 2

Instructional Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 01

Research Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 02

Public Service Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 03

Academic Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 05

Student Services Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 06

Institutional Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 07

Scholarship and Fellowship Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 10

Auxiliary enterprises - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 11

Hospital Services - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 12

Independent Operations Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 13

Other expenses and deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 14

Total expenses & Deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part C, Line 19

Private, not for profit & Public using FASB

Value of Endowment assets- Refer to Finance Survey, Part H, Line 2

Instructional Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 1

Research Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 2

Public Service Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 3

Academic Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 4

Student Services Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 5

Institutional Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 6

Auxiliary enterprises - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 7

Net grant aid to students - Refer to finance survey, Part E, Line 8

Hospital Services - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 9

Independent Operations Expenditures - efer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 10

Other expenses and deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 12

Total expenses & Deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 13

Private, for Profit

Instructional Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 01

Research Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 02a

Public Service Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 02b

Academic Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 03a

Student Services Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 03b

Institutional Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 03c

Auxiliary enterprises - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 04

Net grant aid to students - Refer to finance survey, Part E, Line 05

Hospital Services - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 10

Other expenses and deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 06

Total expenses & Deductions - Refer to Finance Survey, Part E, Line 07

Entering Data

To move between fields, you may either click on the field you wish to move to or press the Tab key until you reach that field. To move between individual pages of the survey, click on the "Next" or "Previous" links at the bottom of the page. You may also click on the section links listed in the index on the right-hand side of the screen and go to any page in the survey.

Saving Data

Saving data happens when a few actions are taken. One, you select the 'Next' button at the bottom of the page. Two, you select and navigate to another section in the question index. Three, you hit the 'Save' button at the bottom of a page. If you plan on leaving the survey before completion, please hit the save button before exiting the survey.

Getting Help

If you have questions or encounter problems while you are completing the survey, click the "Help" button on the top right-hand side of the screen. This will direct you to the data collector assigned to your institution.

The Common Data Set

U.S. News is again using questions from the Common Data Set (CDS). The CDS initiative is a collaborative effort among data providers in the higher education community and publishers as represented by the College Board, Thomson Peterson's, and U.S. News & World Report. We hope that this effort to standardize data definitions makes it easier to complete our questionnaire.

For easy reference, all CDS items are noted throughout the Main and Financial Aid surveys. The CDS does not cover any of the questions on the Finance survey. Please note that some of the questions used in the Best Colleges rankings are unique to the U.S. News survey and are not included on the CDS. After you have submitted your CDS, you will have an opportunity to submit information for these questions.

All CDS submissions must be received by May 19th 2020 in order to allow enough time for data entry and processing in-house. Please contact your data collector for more information.

New Questions

Main Statistical Survey

Financial Aid Survey

Questions Used in the Best Colleges Ranking

The questions or question areas listed below are the data points that are used in the U.S. News Best Colleges ranking calculations. More details on the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings can be found here:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings>
(<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings>).

Please note: The primary factor used to determine whether a school will be eligible to be ranked in the 2021 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings is question 64: Does your institution make use of SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Test scores in admission decisions for first-time, first-year, degree-seeking applicants?

The answer to this question must be "Yes" in order for a school to be ranked in the 2021 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings. A school that answers "No" will not be included in the rankings and will be listed as an "Unranked School." Test optional schools should answer question 64 as Yes. Only schools that don't use SAT or ACT test at all in admission should answer as No.

If you have questions on the Best Colleges ranking methodology, which schools qualify to be ranked or unranked, U.S. News publications or how these statistical surveys are used in the rankings, contact official@usnews.com (<mailto:rmorse@usnews.com>).

Ranking Indicators

Main Statistical Survey

- 2019 Fall enrollment: 28-30
- 2018 Fall enrollment: 33-35
- 2017 Fall enrollment: 38-40
- Six-Year Graduation rates: 45, 46, 50
- First-Year Freshman Retention rates: 51, 52
- Applications and acceptances: 54
- SAT and ACT scores and testing polices: 66, 67, 78-83, 89
- SAT/ACT score reporting inclusion for all scores: 90
- SAT/ACT score reporting inclusion for all students: 91
- High school class standing: 93
- Undergraduate alumni giving: 168 - 170
- Total number of instructional faculty (current year): 171 all three columns
- Total number with doctorate or other terminal degree (current year): 171 full-time column
- Total number of instructional faculty (last year): 171 all three columns.
- Total number with doctorate or other terminal degree (last year): 171 full-time column
- Student to faculty ratio: 173
- Full-time faculty salaries: 175
- Class sections: 176

Note: Not all last year's ranking indicators listed above are used in the calculation. Some are used only when current year data is not provided.

Finance Survey

- All expenditure questions from both years. This information is used to compute the financial resources per student variable in the Best Colleges rankings.

Diversity Rankings

- Uses column labeled "Degree-Seeking Undergraduates" in question 43, Enrollment by Racial & Ethnic Category) from the Main statistical survey.

Best Values Rankings

- Estimated expenses for a typical full-time undergraduate students: question 11 (both residents columns)
- Need-Based Aid for full-time undergraduate students: question 15 only current year actual or estimated is accepted In state/Out-of-state student aid awarded: question 44-46 (public institutions only)
- Percentage of students with need whose need is fully met: question 15h and 15i

Best Colleges for Veterans

- Military enrollment: 138
- G.I. Bill certified: 139
- Yellow Ribbon participant: 140
- In-state tuition for active servicemen: 10 (financial aid survey)

Important Notice: U.S. News in its discretion will attempt to do cross-checking of data from what information schools have submitted on their Fall 2019 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics survey that appears on the U.S. Department of Education's College Navigator web site <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>) or can be downloaded from the IPEDS website, provided that the schools are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the data that they submit. If you need more details on how the cross-checking or missing data fill-ins will work, contact official@usnews.com (<mailto:rmorse@usnews.com>).

On behalf of the data collectors, reporters, and editors here at U.S. News and our many appreciative readers, thank you for your time and effort.

Kenneth Hines, Director, Data Projects

Eric Brooks, Senior Data Analyst

Robert Morse, Chief Data Strategist

U.S. News & World Report

General Information

Best College Finance Survey Contacts

The contacts below receive all communication (URL for the survey, passwords, user names, etc.) regarding the Best Colleges finance survey for your institution. Please review and if an update is necessary, please contact your data collector and they will assist you.

Name

Adri Foster

Job Title

Data Coordinator

Email

fosterav@mailbox.sc.edu

Phone

8037779790

Survey Contact

Name

Job Title

Email

Phone

Survey Contact

Name

Job Title

Email

Phone

Survey Contact #4:

Name

Title

Email

Phone

Accounting Standard

1.) Please select which accounting standard your institution used in Fiscal Year 2019 *

This data is rolled over from last year.

- GASB standard
- Public institution using FASB reporting standards
- No Answer

Current Year Finance Data

For U.S. News to IPEDS key, see the Introduction section.

1.) Institutional Control: Pub

2.) Tuition and Fees: (FY 2019)

\$ 496771903

3.) Investment Income: (FY 2019)

\$ 23796443

4.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2019)

\$ 610300856

5.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 440228775

6.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 165732197

7.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 60471118

8.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 95640963

9.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 64833230

10.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2019)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 75706850

11.) Scholarship and Fellowship Expenditures: (FY 2019)

\$ 25982759

12.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2019)

\$ 190430041

14.) Hospital Services: (FY 2019)

\$ 0

15.) Independent operations: (FY 2019)

\$ 0

16.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2019)

\$ 54243769

17.) Total expenses and deductions: (FY 2019):

\$ 605961535

Last Year Finance Data

18.) Tuition and Fees: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 477833456

19.) Investment Income: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 3972021

20.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 641469049

21.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 423761384

22.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 148336993

23.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 67405713

24.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 87633101

25.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 60243864

26.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation. This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 88989116

27.) Scholarship and Fellowship Expenditures: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 21960512

28.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 182642604

30.) Hospital Services: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 0

31.) Independent operations: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

0

32.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

32717975

33.) Total expenses and deductions: (FY 2018)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 1113691262

Respondent Information

34.) Respondent Information

Name

Adri Foster

Title

Data Coordinator

Phone Number

803 777-9790

Phone Extension

International Phone Number (if applicable)

Email

fosterav@mailbox.sc.edu

Assessment

The following section contains a brief analysis of the total expenses submitted on this year's Finance statistical survey. All flagged data (identified by the red asterisk *) must be addressed in order to submit your survey. To acknowledge that the flagged data is in fact correct, please select the confirmation checkbox associated with item in question. Once every flagged assessment item has been either confirmed or corrected, please proceed to the verification section.

Making Data Changes – If you notice an incorrect current year value please go back into the survey and correct the data point. The question numbers are listed for your reference. Changing last year's data must be done through your data collector. Please contact them with the updated information and a brief description as to why it needs changing. We will analyze the requested changes on a case by case basis and get back to you.

Below is a list of some terminology you may encounter:

Large Change - For the question(s) indicated, the data submitted for the current year are significantly larger or smaller than the data supplied for the previous year. If the data supplied are correct as entered, please check the box. If the data is incorrect, please go back into the survey and supply new data.

Missing - No information has been submitted for this indicator. If the question does not apply to your institution, or if you cannot supply the data requested, please check the box. If you can supply the missing data, please go back into the survey and enter the new data. If you wish to add in missing previous year data, please contact your data collector with that information.

High Value - The data submitted are significantly higher than the norm. Please either correct the figure or verify that the data are correct as submitted.

35.) Instructional Expenditures (Question 5, Question 21):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

440228775 423761384

36.) Research Expenditures (Question 6, Question 22):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

165732197 148336993

37.) Public Service Expenditures (Question 7, Question 23):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

60471118 67405713

38.) Academic Support Expenditures (Question 8, Question 24):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

95640963 87633101

39.) Student Services Expenditures (Question 9, Question 25):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

64833230 60243864

40.) Institutional Support Expenditures (Question 10, Question 26):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

75706850 88989116

The Institutional Support Expenditures you entered for the Current Year represents a large change compared to the value entered for Last Year. Either update the Current Year value, contact your Data Collector to update Last Year's value, or confirm that this is correct. *

I confirm that the Current and Last Year's Total Expenses are correct.

Verification

40.)

After reviewing the assessment and fixing any remaining errors, navigate to the section titled "Verification". This is where the survey submission takes place. Please take some time to review your survey data one last time. When you are ready, you **must** select the check box, fill out the identification information (which must be from the Dean or equivalent official who has signed off on the data) and hit the red "Submit Survey" button. **Failure to check the verification box and have the President, Provost, Dean, VP of Finance or what your institution considers an equivalent position fill out their information may be noted when the data are published and/or may result in the school not being ranked.**

If you have any questions about your verification or this procedure, please contact Keke Ellis at kellis@usnews.com or 202-955-2048

On behalf of U.S. News and its many readers, thank you for the time and effort you have given to supply and verify this Information.

I verify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information on this survey is accurate, and accurately describes my institution.

40.) Title of Verifying Administrator:

President

Provost

Dean

Other top official

40.) Administrator's Identification:

Name:

Dr. Cheryl Addy

Title:

Vice Provost and Dean of The Graduate School

Date:

6/15/2020

40.) Name of institution:

University of South Carolina

I hereby confirm that the senior administrator identified above has authorized me to complete this verification on their behalf.

40.) Your Identification:

Adri Foster, Data Coordinator

41.) Verification Date:

6/15/2020