

PRINT SURVEY

2017 Best Colleges - Finance Survey

Introduction

BEST COLLEGES

Data Collection

U.S. News has begun collecting data for the 2018 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 institutions, and the public at large.

U.S. News's statistical data collection system has been redesigned. As a result of this redesign, the surveys themselves now have significantly more validation built-in as part of the initial data entry process. This validation is intended to make the entering of incorrect or incomplete data more difficult. Also, new this year, U.S. News has changed the way we do the assessment and verification stage. The assessment and verification processes are now incorporated as separate steps in the data collection process and will no longer be done via paper. U.S. News hopes these improvements will make the data collection process shorter and easier.

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, please select the check box, fill out the identification information and hit the red 'Submit Survey' button.

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 is used in the Best Colleges rankings calculation.

❓ 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 - Refer 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 5th, 2017 in order to allow enough time for data entry and processing in-house. Please contact your data collector for more information.

New Questions:

Main

- Contact Information - new questions added
- 60: Admission policy if SAT/ACT not required
- 89 - 90: Maximum AP accepted for credit
- 123: Military enrollment
- 166 - 170: Graduate career data
- 228: Campus carry policy
- 268 - 270: Honors college/program

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 2018 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings is question 58: 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 2018 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 58 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 Bob Morse, Chief Data Strategist, at rmorse@usnews.com (<mailto:rmorse@usnews.com>).

Main Statistical Survey

- 2016 Fall enrollment: 27-30
- 2015 Fall enrollment: 31-33
- 6-Year Graduation rates: 37, 38, 43
- Freshman retention rates: 44 & 45
- Freshman applications and acceptances: 47
- SAT and ACT scores and testing polices: 58, 59, 68-72, 74, 78
- SAT/ACT score reporting inclusion for all students: 79
- High school class standing: 81
- Undergraduate alumni giving: 150-152
- Total number of instructional faculty (current year): 153 all three columns
- Total number with doctorate or other terminal degree (current year): 153 full-time column
- Total number of instructional faculty (last year): 154 all three columns.
- Total number with doctorate or other terminal degree (last year): 154 full-time column
- Student to faculty ratio: 155-156
- Faculty salaries: 157
- Class sections: 159

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 37, Enrollment by Racial & Ethnic Category) from the Main statistical survey.

Best Values Rankings

- Estimated expenses for a typical full-time undergraduate students: question 10 (both residents columns)
- Need-Based Aid for full-time undergraduate students: question 14 only current year actual or estimated is accepted In state/Out-of-state student aid awarded: question 43-45 (public institutions only)

Best Colleges for Veterans

- Military enrollment: 123
- G.I. Bill certified: 124
- Yellow Ribbon participant: 125
- In-state tuition for active servicemen: 9 (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 2016 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 Bob Morse at rmorse@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.

Matthew Mason, Data Collection Manager

Robert J. 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. If a change is needed, please contact your data collector and they will assist you.

Name

Adri Foster

Job Title

Data Coordinator

Email

FOSTERA@mailbox.sc.edu

Phone

8037779790

Survey Contact

Name

Job Title

Email

Phone

Survey Contact

Name

Job Title

Email

Phone

Accounting Standard

1.) Please select which accounting standard your institution used in Fiscal Year 2016 *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Your Institutional Control is

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 2016)

\$ 410832288

3.) Investment Income: (FY 2016)

\$ 10300209

4.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2016)

\$ 527444177

5.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 383598496

6.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 143623367

7.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 70855966

8.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 89977895

9.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 55496684

10.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 80157428

11.) Scholarship and Fellowship Expenditures: (FY 2016)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 15731794

12.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2016)

\$ 161660670

14.) Hospital Services: (FY 2016)

\$ 0

15.) Independent operations: (FY 2016)

\$ 0

16.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2016)

\$ 0

17.) Total expenses and deductions: (FY 2016):

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

\$ 1001102300

Last Year Finance Data

18.) Tuition and Fees: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 381810874

19.) Investment Income: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 5631173

20.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 534948281

21.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 360457041

22.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 142666790

23.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 70445845

24.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 97304728

25.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 59254633

26.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 65220259

27.) Scholarship and Fellowship Expenditures: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 12642718

28.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 162144037

30.) Hospital Services: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$

31.) Independent operations: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

32.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

33.) Total expenses and deductions: (FY 2015)

This data is rolled over from last year.

\$ 970136051

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.) Total Expenses (Question 17, Question 33):

Current Year: **Last Year:**

1001102300 970136051

Verification

35.)

The data verification is the final opportunity you have to make changes to your statistical data before it is published in U.S. News products and/or distributed by U.S. News, or used in the Best Colleges ranking calculations. Please review this survey carefully, paying particular attention to any blank fields on your survey. A blank field may indicate that data were not submitted or that the response submitted did not pass our system error checks.

If all data are accurate and no changes are needed, please select the verification check box, fill out the identification information and hit the 'Submit Survey' button.

If you have any questions about your verification or this procedure, please contact Andrew Jackwin at ajackwin@usnews.com or 202-955-2642

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.

35.) Identification:

Name:

Adri Foster

Title:

Data Coordinator

Date:

05/23/2017

Thank you for participating in Best Colleges 2017 Data Collection. Please take the opportunity to print your survey for record keeping purposes.

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.