PRINT SURVEY

2026 Best Colleges - Finance Survey

Please Read Instructions

2026 BEST COLLEGES

Finance Data Collection

Welcome. *U.S. News* is collecting data for the 2026 edition of Best Colleges, including finance data in this survey.

Report the same data for each field your institution reported to IPEDS. There are no exceptions unless your institution mistakenly reported inaccurate information (i.e. a tabulation error) to IPEDS -- for which your school has since submitted a correction to IPEDS, or will in the near future. The guidance in this paragraph overrides any previous correspondences in past years between U.S. News and individual schools.

Consequently, institutions with multiple campuses must divide and report their individual campus' finance data corresponding with their campus-specific IPEDS reporting, for all campuses that U.S. News surveys.

Because different finance forms are now mostly aligned, there is no longer a breakdown between public, private and for-profit fields in this survey. The IPEDS figures your institution reports will incorporate any form-specific reporting guidance from the federal government.

Why U.S. News Collects These Data: U.S. News is returning to collecting these data directly from schools to have these data directly in-hand. No determination has been made at the time this survey was first administered whether data sourced from this survey or data sourced from IPEDS, or which fiscal year(s) data, will be used in the rankings computations.

Email official@usnews.com (mailto:official@usnews.com) with questions.

Survey Deadline: June 13th, 2025

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

Step 1: Data - Complete as much of the survey as your data and history allow.

Step 2: Assessment - After filling in your data, navigate to the 'Finance Survey Assessment' section. The assessment runs a comparison between the two fiscal years of data your school reported. **If large changes are flagged, please explain the change in the text box provided. In the case of a large year-to-year change, the survey will not submit without providing an explanation.** 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 carefully review your survey data one last time. When you are ready, you **must** select the check box, fill out the identification information (which must include the Dean or equivalent senior administrator who has verified the data) and hit the red "Submit Survey" button. **Failure to check the verification box and have the Dean or equivalent senior administrator fill out their information may be noted when the data are published and/or may result in the school not being ranked. Once the "Submit Survey" button is selected, your submission is final and will be published.**

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: private || proprietary || public

5/16/2025 There were some incomplete information with the mapping provided on 5/7/2025 and some questions have been removed. Please report endowment and expenditures.

Value of Endowment assets- Refer to Finance Survey: Part H, Line 02 || Part H, Line 02
Instructional Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 01 || Part E-1, Line 01 || Part C-1, Line 01
Research Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 02 || Part E-1, Line 02a || Part C-1, Line 02
Public Service Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 03 || Part E-1, Line 02b || Part C-1, Line 03
Academic Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 04 || Part E1, Line 03a || Part C-1, Line 05
Student Services Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 05 || Part E1, Line 03b || Part C-1, Line 06
Institutional Support Expenditures - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 06 || Part E-1, Line 03c || Part C-1, Line 07
Auxiliary Enterprises - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 07 || Part E-1, Line 04 || Part C-1, Line 11
Hospital Services - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 9 || Part E-1, Line 10 || Part C-1, Line 12
Other Expenses and Deductions - Refer to Finance Survey: Part E-1, Line 12 || Part E-1, Line 06 || Part C-1, Line 14

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 automatically 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 to contact a U.S. News survey research associate.

Questions Used in the Best Colleges Ranking

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)
From this survey, all flagged expenditure questions from both years may be used in the rankings. This information may be used with enrollment data to compute the financial resources per student variable in the Best Colleges rankings.
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).
If you have questions or feedback about the Best Colleges rankings methodologies or other education rankings and publications, contact official@usnews.com (mailto:official@usnews.com).
U.S. News will likely reveal the 2026 Best Colleges release date, and possibly other updates, a few weeks before publication on the Morse Code blog (https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-rankings-blog). The 2026 rankings and data will be published online and in print in the fall of 2025.
On behalf of the data team and staff here at U.S. News and our many appreciative users, **thank you for your time and effort.**
Eric Brooks, Principal Data Analyst
Kenneth Hines, Director of Data Projects
Bob Morse, Chief Data Strategist

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 statistical survey for your institution.
- The survey contacts shown below reflect the names submitted in the Finance Statistical Contact Verification Survey in late March/early April of 2025. If your school did not submit this survey then the contact information from last year's data collection cycle was used.
- 4 contacts is the maximum allowed for this survey.
- Survey contacts can only be updated by contacting usnews-data-collection@usnews.com.

Survey Contact 1

Name

Sylvia James

Job Title

Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration

Email

sdjames@uw.edu

Phone

Survey Contact 2

Name

Alice Few

Job Title

Email

few@uw.edu

Phone

Survey Contact 3

Name

UW Institutional Reporting

Job Title

Director

Email

instres@uw.edu

Phone

Survey Contact 4

Name

Title

Email

Phone

Latest Year Finance Data

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

1.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2024)

$ 111318070

2.) A small number of institutions requested and received permission from IPEDS to report FY 2024 figures aggregated among multiple campuses, while providing a percentage allocation for each campus. If this applied to your institution, report the percentage allocation on a 1-99 scale (no decimals) of the campus being reported on in this survey. If this does not apply, leave the field blank.

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

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3.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 25866135

4.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 27893061

5.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 6617717

6.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 18690800

7.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 1000239

8.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2024)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 7657360

9.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2024)

$ 8315461

11.) Hospital Services: (FY 2024)

$ 71253544

12.) Independent operations: (FY 2024)

$ 0

13.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2024)

$ 0

15.) Do all your data in this section match what your school reported in the IPEDS finance survey? If no, please explain exactly which data are different and any additional context.

- (selected) Yes
- No, the data reported to IPEDS had a mistake
- No Answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

Prior Year Finance Data

16.) Value of Endowment assets: (FY 2023)

$ 98371454

17.) A small number of institutions requested and received permission from IPEDS to report FY 2023 figures aggregated among multiple campuses, while providing a percentage allocation for each campus. If this applied to your institution, report the percentage allocation on a 1-99 scale (no decimals) of the campus being reported on in this survey. If this does not apply, leave the field blank.

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

2

18.) Instruction Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 36996824

19.) Research Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 22842278

20.) Public Service Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 3324002

21.) Academic Support Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 16888127

22.) Student Services Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 1328991

23.) Institutional Support Expenditures: (FY 2023)

This question is used in the Rankings calculation.

$ 7194974

25.) Auxiliary enterprises: (FY 2023)

$ 16052779

27.) Hospital Services: (FY 2023)

$ 52757521

28.) Independent operations: (FY 2023)

0

29.) Other expenses and deductions: (FY 2023)

0

31.) Do all your data in this section match what your school reported in the IPEDS finance survey? If no, please explain exactly which data are different and any additional context.

- (selected) Yes
- No, the data reported to IPEDS had a mistake
- No Answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

Respondent Information

32.) Respondent Information

Name

Davina Spencer

Title

Director

Email

instres@uw.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 are 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.

Below is a list of some terminology you may encounter:

Large Change - For the questions(s) indicated, the data submitted for the latest year are significantly larger or smaller than the data supplied for the prior year. If the data supplied are correct as entered, please include an explanation in the text box provided. 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 need more space to explain than that provided, email us at usnews-data-collection@usnews.com.

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.

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
25866135	36996824

33.) The Instructional 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 or explain the large change below. If you need to update last year's value contact usnews-data-collection@usnews.com (mailto:usnews-data-collection@usnews.com). *

This is correct. These numbers reflect what was reported in our financial statements and likely due to categorization changes based on moving to a new Workday Financials System of record.

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
27893061	22842278

34.) The Research 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 or explain the large change below. If you need to update last year's value contact usnews-data-collection@usnews.com (mailto:usnews-data-collection@usnews.com) *

This is correct. These numbers reflect what was reported in our financial statements and likely due to categorization changes based on moving to a new Workday Financials System of record.

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
6617717	3324002

35.) The Public Services 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 or explain the large change below. If you need to update last year's value contact usnews-data-collection@usnews.com (mailto:usnews-data-collection@usnews.com). *

This is correct. These numbers reflect what was reported in our financial statements and likely due to categorization changes based on moving to a new Workday Financials System of record.

35.) The Public Service 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 or explain the large change below. If you need to update last year's value contact usnews-data-collection@usnews.com (mailto:usnews-data-collection@usnews.com). *

This is correct. These numbers reflect what was reported in our financial statements and likely due to categorization changes based on moving to a new Workday Financials System of record.

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
18690800	16888127

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
1000239	1328991

37.) The Student Services 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 or explain the large change below. If you need to update last year's value contact usnews-data-collection@usnews.com (mailto:usnews-data-collection@usnews.com) *

This is correct. These numbers reflect what was reported in our financial statements and likely due to categorization changes based on moving to a new Workday Financials System of record.

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

Current Year:	Last Year:
7657360	7194974

Verification/Submission

38.)

The final step prior to survey submission is what we call “Verification”. Please share the survey responses with a senior administrator such as a President, Provost, Dean (or what your institution considers an equivalent position) for their final approval. When ready, you must fill in all of the information below, including both check boxes, both sets of identification, institution name and the verification date. After the information is entered, hit the red “Submit Survey” button. **Failure to check the verification box and have the President, Provost, Dean or other equivalent senior administrator verify the data and fill out their information may be noted when the data are published and/or may result in the school not being ranked. Once the "Submit Survey" button is selected, your submission is final and will be published.**
If you have any questions about your institution's verification or this procedure, please contact usnews- data-collection@usnews.com.
On behalf of *U.S. News* and its many users, thank you for the time and effort you have given to supply and verify this information.

- [x] I verify that the information on this survey is accurate, and accurately describes my institution.

38.) Title of Verifying Administrator:

- [ ] President
- [ ] Provost
- [ ] Dean
- [x] Other senior administrator

38.) Administrator’s Identification:

Name:

Erin Guthrie

Title:

Assoc. Vice President, Institutional Data & Analysis Officer

Date:

06/12/2025

38.) Name of institution:

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

38.) Identification of Person Submitting Survey:

Name:

Davina Spencer

Title:

Director, Institutional Reporting

39.) Verification Date:

06/12/2025