

## U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges, 2023 edition – WSU Results

Changes in methodology, combined with small drops in performance, resulted in a decline in some of WSU's scores in the U.S. News & World Report 2022-2023 Best Colleges Rankings.

The U.S. News Best Colleges ranking category measuring outcomes accounts for 40% of the total score. Although the actual graduation rate was up slightly, the under-performance for WSU between the predicted graduation rate and the actual graduation rate was -7 and our graduation and retention rate rank dropped by 31 places. There is no indication that U.S. News & World Report modified its model to adjust for COVID-19 or other variables.

U.S. News added approximately 49 more schools this year to the rankings which may have had an impact on WSU's slight drop to a score of 3.1 in the Peer Expert Opinion. This category makes up 20% of an institution's score.

Finally, the faculty resources rank dropped by 125 positions. The biggest impact of this drop was the updated methodology WSU employed to report our faculty salaries. This is the first year we incorporated career-track faculty in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) faculty salary survey. We are now able to include career-track faculty salaries thanks to better data as the title changes for these faculty have become more fully implemented. The inclusion of these new data led to lower reported average annual salaries. One of our strategic plan goals is employee recruitment and retention: We are committed to increasing the hiring and retention of exceptional faculty and staff—who represent diversity in all its forms—to advance research and the educational experience.

There are some positive measures. The numbers show that in the last year, WSU's faculty-student ratio improved, WSU expended more dollars per FTE student and the percentage of full-time faculty increased. Retention rates went up, and our graduates emerged with less federal debt than many of their peers.

For a detailed historical scorecard, additional information on changes and impact, and U.S. News' How We Ranked the 2022-2023 Best Colleges, see <https://ir.wsu.edu/u-s-news-and-world-report/>

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