

# Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **US News and World Report – Best Colleges Rankings 2020 September 18, 2019**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, *US News and World Report* (USNWR) released updated *Best Colleges* rankings. Because of the reclassification of the university by Carnegie, Drake finds itself on an entirely new ranking list. Drake is now part of the National University list, vying for ranking among 402 different schools, including elite private and large public institutions. This categorization is different from what was expected based on earlier conversations with USNWR staff, which suggested that the rankings would follow Drake's new Carnegie classification of Doctoral and Professional, with fewer institutions included.

For this first-time ranking, Drake tied for 130 with University of Kansas. Additional lists on which Drake appeared were "Best Value Schools" (68<sup>th</sup> nationally), the "A+ Schools for B Students" (unranked list), "Undergraduate Business Programs" (195<sup>th</sup> for Top Programs), and "Best Colleges for Veterans" (91<sup>st</sup> nationally).

In addition, Drake appeared on several ranking lists for its Graduate and Professional schools/colleges. These include:

- #183 in Best Education Schools (tie)
- #122 in Best Law Schools (tie)
  - #98 in Clinical Training (tie)
  - #98 in Environmental Law (tie)
  - #107 in Health Care Law (tie)
  - #110 in Intellectual Property Law (tie)
  - #129 in International Law (tie)
  - #20 in Legal Writing (tie)
  - #120 in Trial Advocacy (tie)
- #47 in Pharmacy (tie)
- #199 in Best Public Affairs Programs (tie)
- #37 in Rehabilitation Counseling (tie)

#### Overall Rank

Drake achieved 130<sup>th</sup> place among 381 national institutions (note that several institutions are not ranked). When limited to national private schools, Drake ranks 72<sup>nd</sup> of 172 institutions. Table 1 displays institutions ranked closely to Drake, excluding the public institutions on the list. The National list includes many ties throughout.

Table 1: Drake and closely ranked private institutions.

2020	
Rank	Institution
104	Creighton University (NE)
104	Loyola University Chicago
104	Howard University (DC)
104	Rochester Inst. of Technology (NY)
117	Clarkson University (NY)
117	Illinois Institute of Technology
121	University of Tulsa (OK)
125	DePaul University (IL)
125	Chapman University (CA)
125	Simmons University (MA)
125	University of the Pacific (CA)
130	Drake University (IA)
132	Duquesne University (PA)
132	University of Dayton (OH)

### Subcategory Ranks

The factors that contribute to the *US News and World Report* rankings are listed in table 2, along with either Drake’s rank or measurement unit on each. *USNWRT* changed its methodology for 2020, creating new subcategories and changing the impact of some preexisting categories. This methodology aligns with their shift 3 years ago to emphasize outcomes over other measures.

Historical information is not included in this year’s report because longitudinal comparisons are not appropriate given the change in 2020 methodology and the difference in ranking scores with a larger comparison group.

Below table 2 are breakdowns of the categories.

Table 2: Summary of *US News* Component Rankings

Evaluative Area	Percent item Contributes to Overall Ranking	Ranking or Measurement Unit 2020
Outcomes	35%	
Graduation and Retention Rank	22%	98
Graduation Rate Performance	8%	-2
Social Mobility Rank	5%	365
Faculty Resources Rank	20%	95
Expert Opinion	20%	2.8
Financial Resources Rank	10%	148
Student Excellence Rank	10%	95
Alumni Giving Rank	5%	115

**Graduation/Retention** rank is determined in multiple ways. Factors included are a four-year average first-to-second year retention rate and a four-year rolling average of students earning a degree within 6 years. Table 3 provides data on retention and six-year graduation rate. USNWR used the graduation rate for bachelor’s degrees only – meaning our PharmD completers were not included in this rate. (We would average 77.5% if they used this.) Using this metric seems to be a change from past years when the Common Data Set’s graduation rate was utilized.

Table 3 – Average Retention and Graduation Rates

US News Reporting Year	Average First-year Retention Rate	Average Graduation Rate
2020	88%	76%

**Graduation Rate Performance** – Drake underperformed by 2 percent to US News’ expectations on its graduation rate (expected 80%, actual 78%). This scale measures the difference between

the six-year graduation rate for the Fall 2012 cohort and US News' predicted graduation rate. Table 4 shows Drake's historical performance on this measure.

Table 4 – Predicted and Actual Graduation Rates

US News Reporting Year	Predicted Graduation Rate	Actual Graduation Rate	Difference
2020	80% (12 cohort)	78%	-2
2019	80% (11 cohort)	79%	-1
2018	78% (10 cohort)	78%	
2017	76% (09 cohort)	75%	-1
2016	76% (08 cohort)	78%	2
2015	75% (07 cohort)	73%	-2

**Social Mobility** is a new subcategory which measures the graduation rate of students who received Pell Grants. Institutions with larger Pell Grant populations receive an adjustment to their scores. Drake's Pell Graduation rate was 67% for Cohort 2012. Table 5 is Drake's longitudinal Pell Grant recipients' 6-year Graduation rate.

Table 5 – 6-year Graduation Rate of Pell Grant Recipients

US News Reporting Year	Cohort	Graduation Rate
2020	2012	67%
2019	2011	64%

Drake's **Faculty Resources** rank is 95<sup>th</sup> nationally. The Faculty Resources rank is comprised of: class size index (proportion of undergraduate classes with <20, 20-29, 30-39, and 40-49 students), faculty compensation, proportion of faculty with the highest degree in the field, student-faculty ratio, and proportion of full-time faculty.

Drake's **Expert Opinion** is comprised of our Peer Assessment Score. The current score of 2.8 out of 5 is lower than last year's score of 3.9. This is most likely due to the new pool of peers in the National category who would score Drake.

**Financial Resources** - Drake is 148<sup>th</sup> nationally this year. The Financial Resources rank includes the 2-year average of per student spending on instruction, research, student services, and related educational expenditures.

**Student Excellence** - Drake placed 95<sup>th</sup> for Student Excellence nationally. The Student Excellence rank includes: SAT/ACT test scores (25<sup>th</sup> – 75<sup>th</sup> percentile = 24 – 30) and first-year students in the top 10% of High School Class (39%).

**Alumni Giving Rate** – Drake’s alumni giving rate dropped from 12% the previous 3 years to 10% this year. This subscale is based on the 2-year average of living alumni who received a bachelor’s degree and gave to Drake.

**Carnegie Classification Institutions** – Among the institutions within our new classification of Doctorate-Professional, Drake lands 11<sup>th</sup> of the 123 schools ranked by US News.

Table 6 shows these schools and how institutions compare in some of the major categories.

Table 6: Top 11 Schools within Doctorate-Professional Carnegie Classification

School	Public/Private	Overall Score	Peer Assessment Score	Average first year retention rate	Actual graduation rate	2020 USNWR Rank
Northeastern University (MA)	private	67	3.5	97%	88%	40
Pepperdine University (CA)	private	63	3.4	91%	83%	50
Santa Clara University (CA)	private	62	3.1	95%	91%	54
Purdue University--West Lafayette (IN)	public	61	3.8	92%	81%	57
Gonzaga University (WA)	private	55	3.1	94%	86%	79
Elon University (NC)	private	54	3.0	90%	83%	84
University of San Francisco	private	52	3.0	84%	75%	97
Creighton University (NE)	private	51	3.0	89%	79%	104
Simmons University (MA)	private	48	2.4	83%	80%	125
University of the Pacific (CA)	private	48	2.6	84%	68%	125
Drake University (IA)	private	47	2.8	88%	78%	130

**Benchmark Institutions** – Below, table 7 compares Drake with our benchmark institutions and how all are ranked in the key categories. Please note the differences in rankings can be explained by which area an institution is ranked. It is important to note that the scale of

rankings is relative to the size of the USNWR category for the institutions, which makes comparison across groups impossible. All our Benchmark Institutions, save Butler, are in the National category with Drake.

Table 7 – Benchmark Institutions

	US News Overall Score	Graduation and Retention Rank	Graduation Rate Performance	Social Mobility Rank	Faculty Resource Ranks	Expert Opinion	Financial Resource Ranks	Student Excellence Rank	Alumni Giving Rate	Overall Rank
<b>Drake University</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>130</b>
Butler University	100	1	-1	129	13	4.0	3	2	23%	1 – Midwest Regional
Creighton University	51	95	1	315	110	3.0	103	101	13%	104
DePaul University	48	127	10	84	160	3.0	231	173	6%	125
Elon University	54	69	3	370	64	3.0	164	122	24%	84
Gonzaga University	55	48	8	254	182	3.1	164	95	14%	79
Loyola Marymount University	59	73	9	241	54	3.1	93	83	20%	64
Loyola University Chicago	51	112	4	84	136	3.2	140	113	6%	104
Marquette University	54	78	8	315	110	3.1	123	101	14%	84
Santa Clara University	62	33	11	315	58	3.1	76	65	19%	54
Texas Christian University	52	78	3	370	85	2.9	148	83	18%	97
University of St. Thomas	45	98	4	270	147	2.5	174	125	12%	139
University of Tulsa	49	122	-13	376	36	2.7	83	57	19%	121
Valparaiso University	43	150	2	254	194	2.8	200	163	14%	153
Villanova University	51	30	6	214	110	3.4	110	40	29%	46

Pell Grant recipient graduation rate is an area that merits a deeper inspection. Table 8 displays both the rank and graduation rate. Drake’s 67% graduation rate is below the average (73%) for our peers. The

ranking for this category is not solely dependent upon the graduation rate, but includes the number of Pell recipients. This is why a higher graduation rate does not necessarily merit a better ranking.

Table 8 – Social Mobility Rank and Pell Grant Graduation Rate

	Social Mobility Rank	Pell Grant 6-year Graduation Rate
<b>Drake University</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>67%</b>
Butler University*	129	70%
Creighton University	315	70%
DePaul University	84	66%
Elon University	370	79%
Gonzaga University	254	78%
Loyola Marymount University	241	80%
Loyola University Chicago	84	66%
Marquette University	315	76%
Santa Clara University	315	88%
Texas Christian University	370	76%
University of St. Thomas	270	71%
University of Tulsa	376	58%
Valparaiso University	254	59%
Villanova University	214	94%

\* Butler University is ranked from a Regional List and not the National List like the rest of our peers.