

U.S. News Education Rankings: Inside the Online Degree Program Ranking

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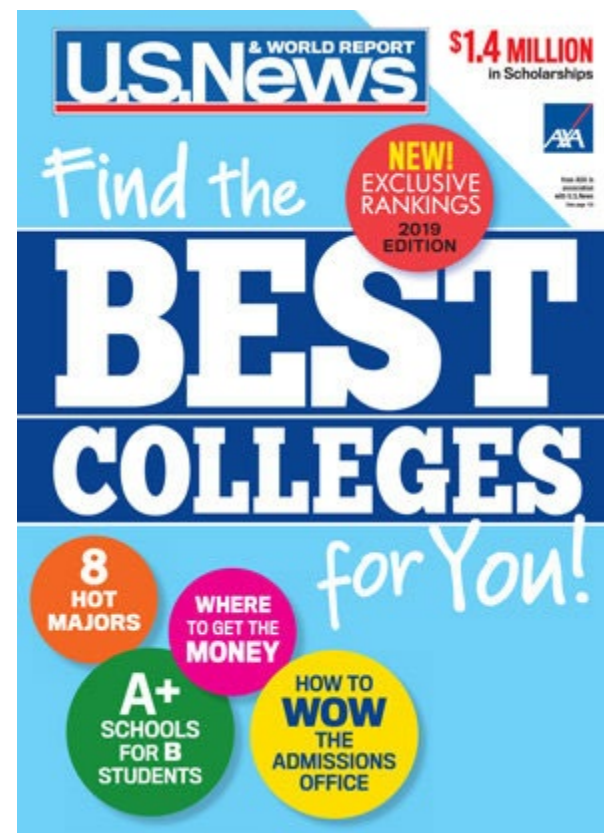
IREG 2021 Conference

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Most Recent Rankings

- Best Online Programs –January 2021
- Best Graduate Schools –March 2021
- Best High Schools: April 2021
- Best Colleges: September 2021
- Best Elementary/ Best Middle Schools: October 2021
- Best Global Universities: October 2021



Best Online Programs

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 US DEPT OF EDUCATION -NCES DATA

The number of reported students enrolled in postsecondary education in the United States decreased by 651,774 students, more than 3 percent, from fall 2019 to fall 2020 –preliminary data.

Best Online Programs

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 US DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION -NCES DATA**

- Enrollment in distance postsecondary education increased from fall 2019 to fall 2020, with 44 percent of students in 2020 enrolled exclusively in distance education compared to 17 percent in 2019.

Best Online Programs

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 US DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION -NCES DATA**

- Moreover, about 73 percent of students were enrolled in some distance education courses in 2020, compared to about 37 percent in 2019.

Best Online Programs

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
NCES DATA**

What does this online ed data mean in USA context

- “The preliminary data show that enrollment in distance education had begun to accelerate even before the coronavirus pandemic,” said Ross Santy, an associate commissioner at NCES who oversees the IPEDS collection.
- “The increase in enrollment for distance education was among the largest changes that we observed in this data collection.”

Best Online Programs

U.S. News starting doing Online degree Program rankings in 2012.

Why?

- Online education was rapidly expanding in the U.S. to serve needs of working adults.
- Nine Years ago no publication or ranker was assessing the quality of online education
- U.S. News took up the challenge which meant creating statistical survey definitions and metrics for online programs that didn't exist previously

Best Online Programs

ADULT LEARNERS typically value degrees that are affordable, can be completed in reasonable time, have strong academic foundations and help advance their careers.

Best Online Programs

- U.S. News defines a distance education program as follows, along the same lines as the U.S. Department of Education's [definition](#):
- *A program for which all the required coursework for program completion is able to be completed via distance education courses that incorporate internet-based learning technologies. Distance education courses are courses that deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor synchronously or asynchronously.*

Best Online Programs

The U.S. News online ranking tailored toward non-traditional students.

- Typical user is employed, earned college credit, aged twenties through forties.

Best Online Programs

Rankings use distance ed. program-level data U.S. News collects directly from schools.

- Assesses whether programs have credentialed faculty, engaging pedagogy and can support their students.

Best Online Programs

U.S. News is the only publication and ranking that conducts comprehensive, in-depth assessments of online degree programs in which students enroll.

Best Online Programs

There are other online program rankings in the U.S. that use U.S. Department of ED school wide data which applies to entire school and doesn't apply to the online programs. These are lead-generation sites

Best Online Programs

The USNEWS online rankings aren't of individual online courses, online certificates or MOOCS.

Best Online Programs – 2021 Edition

Eight distinct rankings of distance education degree-granting programs:

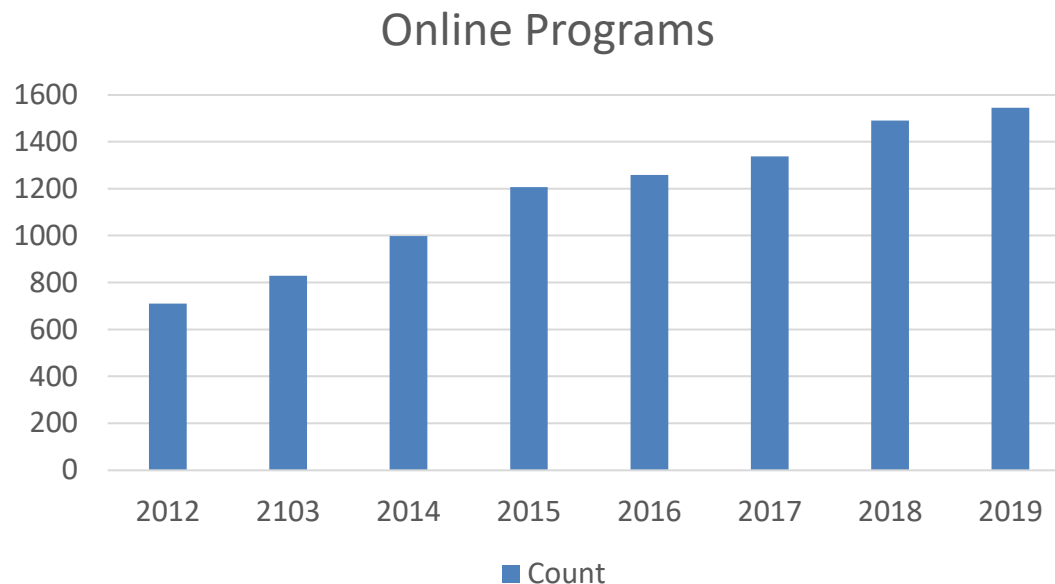


Best Online Programs – 2021 Edition

- Degree-granting programs delivered primarily through distance education.
 - Bachelor's (degree completion), MBA, Non-MBA Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Information Tech, Criminal Justice.
 - Best Online Programs: Business and psychology were U.S. News's first baccalaureate-level discipline-specific rankings. Were derived from fall 2020 peer ratings.
- Ranking tailored toward non-traditional students.
 - Typical user is employed, earned college credit, aged twenties through forties.

Best Online Programs – 2021 Edition

- Opt-in survey collected on most programs ever on usnews.com = **1641**



Schools must submit survey to be ranked and listed on website. Contact your U.S. News data collector or else official@usnews.com to ensure your institution's online program is visible for 2021.

The 15 ranking factors and weights used in Best Online Bachelor's Programs Rankings:

Ranking indicator	Weight
Peer Reputation	20%
Graduate Indebtedness (% with debt & mean indebtedness)	12.5%
Graduation Rates – (3,4,5,or 6 year depends on new entrant profile)	10.5%
Best Practices (course delivery)	10.5%
Terminal Degree Faculty (%)	8%
Support Services	6.25%
Technological Infrastructure	6.25%
Preparedness to Teach Distance Learners (faculty course delivery practices)	6%
Assessments (administered & results made public)	5.25%
Class Size	5.25%
Faculty with Master's or Higher (%)	4%
Retention (one-year rates)	3.5%
Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty (%)	2%

Top Ranked Online Bachelor Programs 2021

Rank	Institution	State	Score
1	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-- Worldwide	FL	100
2	University of Illinois--Chicago	IL	98
3	University of Florida	FL	96
4	Ohio State University--Columbus	OH	95
4	Oregon State University	OR	95
6	Arizona State University	AZ	94
7	University of Arizona	AZ	93
8	CUNY School of Professional Studies	NY	92
8	University at Buffalo--SUNY	NY	92
10	Colorado State University--Global Campus	CO	91
10	Medical University of South Carolina	SC	91
10	Pennsylvania State University--World Campus	PA	91
10	University of Georgia	GA	91

Best Online Programs-MBA Methodology

- **Engagement (28 percent):** Quality online MBA programs promote participation in courses, allowing students opportunities to readily interact with their instructors and classmates, as is possible in a campus-based setting. In turn, instructors are not only accessible and responsive, but they are also tasked with helping to create an experience rewarding enough that students stay enrolled and complete their degrees in a reasonable amount of time.
- **Student Excellence (25 percent):** MBA student bodies entering with proven aptitudes, ambitions and accomplishments can handle the demands of rigorous coursework. Furthermore, online degrees that schools award judiciously will have greater legitimacy in the job market.
- **Expert Opinion (25 percent):** A survey of high-ranking academic officials at MBA programs helps account for intangible factors affecting program quality that statistics do not capture. Also, employers may hold in high regard MBAs earned from programs that academics respect.
- **Faculty Credentials and Training (11 percent):** Strong online MBA programs employ instructors with academic credentials that mirror those of instructors for campus-based programs, and they have the resources to train these instructors to teach distance learners.
- **Student Services and Technologies (11 percent):** MBA programs that incorporate diverse online learning technologies allow greater flexibility for students to take classes from a distance. Outside of classes, strong support structures provide learning assistance, career guidance and financial aid resources commensurate with quality campus-based programs.

Top Ranked Online MBA programs 2021

1	Carnegie Mellon University	PA	100
1	University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill	NC	100
3	Indiana University--Bloomington	IN	98
4	University of Southern California	CA	96
5	University of Florida	FL	94
6	Arizona State University	AZ	93
7	Pennsylvania State University--World Campus	PA	92
7	University of Texas--Dallas	TX	92
9	Rice University	TX	90
10	Lehigh University	PA	89
10	University of Arizona	AZ	89
10	University of Maryland--College Park	MD	89
10	University of Mississippi	MS	89
10	University of Washington	WA	89
10	University of Wisconsin MBA Consortium	WI	89

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