



U.S. News and World Report 2011 Undergraduate Rankings University of Georgia Results

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In the 2011 *U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Rankings*, the University of Georgia (UGA) ranks 56th among national universities together with a group of six other universities: Boston University, Fordham University (NY), Ohio State University-Columbus, Purdue University-West Lafayette (IN), Southern Methodist University (TX), and University of Maryland-College Park. Among public universities, the University of Georgia ranks 18th together with a group of three other universities: Ohio State University-Columbus, Purdue University-West Lafayette (IN), and University of Maryland-College Park.

As compared to the 2010 *U.S. News and World Report*, UGA has moved from 58th to 56th within the ranking for national universities and from 21st to 18th within the ranking for public universities. UGA was also recognized as one of the top national universities whose students have the least debt. In addition, the business program at the University of Georgia ranks 28th together with a group of five other universities: Arizona State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Texas A&M University-College Station, and University of Florida. This year's ranking represents a slight downward movement from last year's (tied for 25th) for UGA's undergraduate business program.

Table 1
UGA's Overall Undergraduate Rankings for Years 2010 & 2011

	2010 Report	2011 Report
National Universities Rank	58	56
Public Universities Rank	21	18
Business Programs	25	28

The *U.S. News and World Report* uses several measures for their undergraduate rankings. These fall into seven categories: peer assessment, graduation and retention rate, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and graduation rate performance. For this year's report (2011), U.S. News has adjusted the weights of two of its categories: peer assessment and graduation rate performance. The former has been adjusted into what U.S. News has labeled as an *undergraduate academic reputation index*. This category has a weight of 22.5% of the final score and encompasses a score for peer assessment (opinions of college presidents, provosts, and deans) with a weight of 15% and a score provided by high school counselors (opinions of high school counselors concerning the schools their graduates attend) with a weight of 7.5%. The weight for the category graduation rate performance has also been adjusted from 5% (previously) to 7.5%.

UGA's 2011 ranking scores as compared to 2010 remain the same for peer assessment and have dropped for faculty resources (measured by class size, faculty salary, proportion with highest degree, and other factors) and financial resources (two-year average spending per student on instruction, research, student services, and related expenditures directed towards education only). However, these ranking scores have improved for graduation and retention, selectivity, and alumni giving. In addition, UGA's graduation rate performance has increased 1 point.

As in recent years, UGA is ranked generally near Ohio State University, University of Maryland, Purdue University, and Texas A&M. Four public institutions ranked near UGA last year fell a few spots this year: University of Pittsburgh, Clemson University, Texas A&M, and University of Minnesota. Additionally, the University of Florida fell out of the top 50, from 47 to 53.

Table 2
UGA Undergraduate Rankings and Weights

	2010		2011	
	Ranking	weight%	Ranking	weight%
Undergrad. Acad. Reputation Index	---		*71	
Peer Assessment Score	3.4	25%	3.4	15%
High School Counselor	---	---	3.9	7.5%
Graduation and Retention Rank	60	20%	52	20%
Faculty Resources Rank	68	20%	74	20%
Selectivity Rank	60	15%	56	15%
Financial Resources Rank	110	10%	115	10%
Alumni Giving Rank	107	5%	102	5%
**Graduation Rate Performance	+5	5%	+6	7.5%

* *New item; 100 equals the highest score*
 ** *Graduation Rate Performance represents the result between predicted graduation rate (75% for both years) and actual graduation rate (80% and 81% respectively)*

An analysis of an eight year trend for UGA rankings, as seen in Table 3, shows that in the 2011 *U.S. News and World Report* UGA has achieved its highest national and public universities (56th and 18th respectively) ranking in eight years. The same achievement holds for the graduation and retention and selectivity rankings (52nd and 56th respectively). However, UGA's rankings for faculty resources, financial resources, and alumni giving are among the lowest as compared to previous years (74th, 115th, & 102nd respectively).

Table 3
U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Rankings
University of Georgia Data

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Overall Rank	58*	58*	58*	60*	59*	58*	**58	**56
Public School Rank	20*	19*	19*	21*	20*	20*	21	**18
Overall score	53	53	54	53	51	51	51	53
Peer assessment	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4
Graduation & Retention Rank	73	65	61	60	61	62	60	52
Avg. freshman retention rate	91%	92%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	94%
Predicted 6-year graduation rate	68%	68%	71%	74%	73%	72%	75%	75%
Actual 6-year graduation rate	70%	72%	74%	74%	77%	78%	80%	81%
Over/Under graduation performance (+/-)	2	4	3	none	4	6	5	6
Faculty Resources Rank	55	58	63	69	74	65	68	74
% of classes under 20	33%	34%	35%	35%	35%	38%	36.6%	36%
% of classes of 50 or more	14%	13%	11%	10%	11%	11%	11.5%	13%
Student/Faculty ratio	13:1	14:1	18:1	18:1	18:1	18:1	18:1	18:1
% of faculty who are full-time	95%	94%	92%	92%	93%	92%	92.7%	92%
Selectivity Rank	64	72	59	60	64	63	60	56
SAT/ACT 25-75th percentile	1110-1300	1120-1300	1130-1320	1130-1330	1130-1320	1130-1310	1130-1320	1130-1330
Freshman in top 10% of HS class	46%	43%	50%	52%	48%	53%	52%	54%
Acceptance rate	65%	75%	62%	65%	58%	54%	55.6%	54%
Financial Resources Rank	86	93	93	104	120	105	110	115
Alumni Giving Rank	71	76	81	86	102	101	107	102
Avg. Alumni giving rate	19%	19%	18%	17%	15%	14%	14%	13%

* Denotes tie

** Denotes more than 2 institutions

In a comparative analysis of UGA’s ranking and the rankings of UGA’s comparator peer institutions (BOR Peers), it was observed that UGA has remained 5th best in both the National and Public categories during the last 4 years (2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007) and that for the 2011 *U.S. News and World Report* it has moved to 3rd place within both of these categories together with University of Maryland-College Park and Ohio State University. Among our BOR peers, three fell several places within the National category and both University of Arizona and North Carolina State fell approximately 20 spaces. Only one peer made a significant gain: University of Missouri went up eight places.

Table 4
U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Rankings
UGA and Peer Comparison Groups for
BOR Peers, National & Public Rankings

BOR Peers	National Universities					Public Universities				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
University of California-Davis	47	42	44	42	39	13	11	12	11	9
University of Florida	47	49	49	47	53	13	17	17	15	17
Univ. of Maryland, College Park	54	54	53	53	56	18	18	18	18	18
Ohio State University	57	57	56	53	56	19	19	19	18	18
UGA	60	59	58	58	56	21	20	20	21	18
University of Iowa	64	64	66	71	72	25	24	26	29	29
Michigan State University	70	71	71	71	79	30	29	30	29	34
North Carolina State Univ.-Raleigh	81	85	83	88	111	36	38	37	39	*
Iowa State University	81	85	89	88	94	36	38	40	39	41
University of Missouri-Columbia	88	91	96	102	94	39	42	45	48	*
University of Arizona	98	96	96	102	120	46	45	45	48	*
University of Kentucky	112	122	116	128	129	-	-	-	64	*
Louisiana State University	3rd tier	3rd tier	-	128	124	-	-	-	64	*

* Not found within the Top 50 Public National Universities

In a comparative analysis within UGA's Aspirational peer institutions, UGA has remained 12th out of 13 universities in the National category (Table 5) and 11th out of 12 universities in the Public category (Table 6) during the last 5 years. Two of our aspirational peers fell several places but remained in the top 50: University of Wisconsin and University of Illinois.

Table 5
U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Rankings
UGA's Comparison Group for
Aspirational Peers – National Rankings

Aspirational Peers	National Universities				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cornell University	12	12	14	15	15
University of California-Berkeley	21	21	21	21	22
University of Virginia	24	23	23	24	25
University of California-L. A.	26	25	25	24	25
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	24	25	26	27	29
Univ.of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	27	28	30	28	30
University of Wisconsin-Madison	34	38	35	39	45
University of Illinois-Urbana	41	38	40	39	47
University of Washington	42	42	41	42	41
University of Texas-Austin	47	44	47	47	45
Pennsylvania State University	47	48	47	47	47
UGA	60	59	58	58	<i>12th</i> 56
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	67	71	61	61	64

Table 6
U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Rankings
UGA's Comparison Group for
Aspirational Peers – Public Rankings

Aspirational Peers	Public Universities				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
University of California-Berkeley	1	1	1	1	1
University of Virginia	2	2	2	2	2
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	2	3	4	4	4
University of California- L. A.	4	3	3	2	2
Univ.of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	5	5	5	5	5
University of Wisconsin-Madison	7	8	7	9	13
University of Illinois-Urbana	10	8	10	9	15
University of Washington	11	11	11	11	11
University of Texas-Austin	13	13	15	15	13
Pennsylvania State University	13	16	15	15	15
UGA	21	20	20	21	<i>11th</i> 18
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	27	29	22	22	23