

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE RANKINGS



Evelyn Alexander

Founder of Magellan
College Counseling

HOW REVOLUTION PREP **HELP STUDENTS**

OUR **PROGRAMS**



Private Tutoring



Small Group Courses



A+ Habits



Homework Help

OUR **RESOURCES**

revolutionprep.com/resources



Practice Exams



Webinars & Presentations



Videos



Blog Post

HOUSEKEEPING

- One hour webinar
- Submit questions throughout the session using the QA icon the bottom menu of your screen
- Questions will be answered at the end of the session
- Follow-up opportunities after event



This topic is **VERY RELEVANT** to what we learned just a few weeks ago, which was based on people being desperate to get their kids into schools that are ranked highly – without any regard for whether those schools were a good **FIT** for them.

YELP

Sometimes 5 stars, sometimes 1 star.

Why?



WHAT DO THE RANKINGS **CONSIDER?**

20%

"Expert opinion"

College administrators and high school counselors are surveyed for their opinion of colleges' reputation (*lower factor than last year*)

- Kind of like asking the CEOs of *Wendy's, McDonald's, Burger King, White Castle, Hardees* and *Carl's Jr.* to rank themselves and each other. Could bias creep in? (Yep, you betcha!)
- US News reports 35.5% response rate from academic experts, college presidents, provosts, admissions deans and DOES NOT REPORT the response rate for high school counselors.

22%

Graduation and retention rates (*slightly lower factor than last year*)

10%

"Student excellence"

(*includes test scores & class rank but not acceptance rate*)

8%

Graduation rates – whether or not the school outperforms or underperforms US News' expected graduation rate (*slightly higher factor than last year*)

WHAT DO THE RANKINGS **CONSIDER?**

20%

Faculty resources

10%

Average spending per student

5%

Alumni donations – percentage of alumni who give

5%

Social mobility – graduation and retention rates of Pell Grant recipients

“You want colleges to understand that a test score does not define you. Similarly, I’d assert that selecting a school on a number is equally myopic.”

– Rick Clark, *Georgia Tech*

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE RANKINGS?

- Type and quality of educational experience
- Information specific to academic departments
- Whether the college has things that are important to you and your child
- Feedback from *How your child feels on that campus*



WHAT OTHER FACTORS

SHOULD YOU
CONSIDER?

- College location
- College size – including class size and access to professors
- Learning style
- Academic enrichment opportunities
- Student Life and engagement



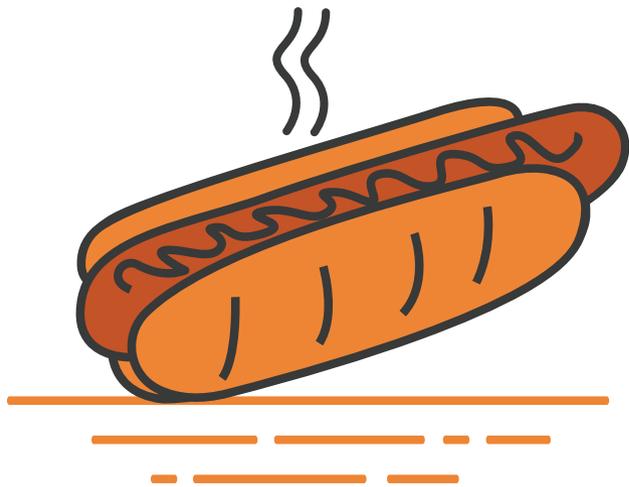
YOU can create your own rankings by looking at all of these factors, and deciding which are most important to you.

Do your own research
and find
the campuses
that have
**what you want and
need to be happy
and successful.**



Finding colleges that **FIT** is the best way to ensure you achieve your goals, both in college and beyond.

And finding colleges that **FIT** will help you write better supplemental essays
– which will actually help you be more competitive.



FINAL FOOD METAPHOR

- College rankings are like hot dogs.
- Now that you know what's in them – do you want them to drive your college search?
- Or do you want to come up with your own (healthier) criteria?

ANY
QUESTIONS





www.revolutionprep.com