Changes in USNWR procedures:
1. National Universities pool increased to 440 from 391 (some changes in Carnegie classification, some due to change in the treatment of test scores—test-blind now ranked); Note that USNWR now ranks institutions regardless of survey participation.

Impact: 10 of the 49 ranked ahead of WSU (Fairfield, CSU Long Beach, James Madison, Bradley, CSU Fullerton, Xavier (OH), Stockton, CSU San Bernardino, La Salle, Springfield Coll (MA)); almost 150 additional participants in reputation surveys (President, Provost, and Admissions Director at each institution).

2. Introduced 2-year averages for Social Mobility (Pell 6-yr Grad Rate and Pell GR / Non-Pell GR)

Impact: Both measures were down slightly this year, so averaging improves WSU’s position slightly (Year over year we are down 2% on GR, down 5.2% on performance, while 2yr averaged we are up 0.3% and 1.1% respectively).

3. Introduced 2-year averages for Student Debt data (average Federal debt at graduation, and % completers with Federal debt)

Impact: Both measures improved this year, so averaging reduces impact (year over year we are up 6.1% (debt load down $1,299), up 3.4% on grads with debt (2% fewer), while 2yr averaged we are up only 2.6% and 3.4% respectively).

4. Calculated Terminal Degree % based on Faculty FTE rather than FT Faculty

Impact: Minor; if metric remained FT, would have declined 0.2%; if metric were FTE both years would have declined 0.5%. Note that PT Faculty with terminal degrees dropped sharply from Fall 20 to Fall 21 (50.2% to 43.6%) due to long-standing data issues exacerbated by the Workday implementation. For comparison, 19 Land Grant institutions averaged 90% of FT faculty with a terminal degree and 88% of faculty FTE; PT faculty with a terminal degree averaged 61% for that group (ranging from Illinois at 100% to OK State at 36%).

5. Stopped applying severe penalties for insufficient SAT/ACT response rate, in response to widespread adoption of test-optional policies.

Impact: WSU received significantly fewer test scores (11% of Fall 2021 cohort submitted SAT, down from 85% Fall 2020), which triggered (at 50%) USNWR to use Fall 2020 cohort scores; further review of test-score policies is expected.

Changes in WSU performance/reporting (ordered by the effect on rank):

1. Peer reputation is heavily weighted by USNWR, so even minor shifts are of concern. WSU has been stable at about 3.1 (62%) for several years, except for 3.2 (64%) the last cycle, so down 3.1% (on 20% of total score).

2. Average Faculty Salary: For Fall 2021, WSU included career-track instructional faculty in our AAUP reporting for the top 3 ranks. This resulted in a drop in the reported average salary of 8.5% (on 7% of the total score)

3. Graduation Performance is the difference between the actual 6-year graduation rate (AGR) and USNWR’s predicted graduation rate (PGR) derived from specific metrics they previously collected about the Fall 2015 entering class. Their model, frequently adjusted, generally includes measures of selectivity (SAT average and High School class rank) and resources (usually $/FTE). The 2015 cohort was, on those metrics, a somewhat more capable class, so the
PGR is somewhat higher. Although the actual graduation rate was up slightly, the difference between PGR and AGR was slightly larger (-7% on 8% of the total score).

4. The Class Size Index is a normatively weighted measure of the size of classes delivered, constructed by multiplying the percentage of classes less than 20 students by 1, the percentage with 50 or more students by 0, and the groups in between (20-29, 30-39, 40-49) by selected values between 0 and 1. USNWR treats those values as proprietary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fall</th>
<th>2-9</th>
<th>10-19</th>
<th>20-29</th>
<th>30-39</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>50-99</th>
<th>100+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>2625</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>2410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most significant shift in class size from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021 was a drop of 33% in classes of 2-9 students, from 409 to 274, outpacing the overall decline in the number of classes of 8.2%. Overall, our estimate of the index dropped 3.2% on 8% of the total score).

5. Undergraduate Alumni/ae Giving is a 2-year average percentage of all undergraduate alumni/ae of record who donated to the institution that year. Performance was 10.06% FY2019 and 9.92% FY2020, down to 8.56% with continued market uncertainty for FY2021, so change in the 2-yr average (-7.9%) is better than year-to-year change (-13.8%).

6. Graduation Rate is the most heavily weighted single metric aside from reputation; it is also very slow to move as a four-year average of the six-year grad rate, so policy and circumstance in Fall 2012 is still part of this year’s ranking. Year-to-year, the 59.5% rate for the Fall 2015 cohort is up 1.7%, but the Fall 2011 cohort rate was 62.4%, so the 4-yr average is down 1.2% (on 17.6% of the total score).

7. Technically, there was no change in WSU’s reported percentage of the entering cohort graduating in the top 10% of their High School classes. USNWR has treated this as 0% for several years. OSPI does not include class rank as part of their standard transcript, so WSU has not included it in the transcript data regularly collected. For a decade or so, IR surveyed several hundred Washington high schools for their class rank by GPA data, from which we estimated the class rank of our cohort, but declining response rates and data privacy issues made that ineffective, so WSU has not responded on this item for four years: 0% on 2% of the total score.