### Outcomes: 40%
Graduate indebtedness; social mobility; graduation rate performance; graduation and retention rates.

Graduate indebtedness looks at the proportion of bachelor’s degree graduates who took out federal loans and the average amount they borrowed.

Social mobility credits schools for enrolling a high proportion of Pell Grant students and then graduating them at high rates that are close to those of non-Pell Grant students. The proportion of students receiving Pell Grants is an indicator of economic diversity.

Graduation rate performance measures how well schools are graduating their students based on U.S. News predictions, which consider a school’s financial resources, admissions data and socioeconomic backgrounds of entering students.

Graduation and retention rates measure the percentage of first-year students returning to campus and graduating within six years.

### Faculty Resources: 20%
Class size; undergraduate student-faculty ratio; proportion of instructional faculty who are full time; percent of full- and part-time instructional faculty with the highest degrees in their field; and full-time instructional faculty salaries.

The more satisfied students are with their professors, the more they will learn, studies show.

### Expert Opinion: 20%
The opinions of presidents, provosts and admissions deans of peer institutions.

These experts are in the best position to judge a school’s undergraduate academic quality.

### Financial Resources: 10%
The average spending per student on things that go directly toward educating undergrads, such as instruction, research and student services.

Spending on dorms, food services and other noneducational areas are not counted.

### Student Excellence: 7%
ACT/SAT scores when applicable; proportion of first-year students who were in the top 10% of their high school classes for National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges, or in the top 25% for Regional schools.

To put more emphasis on outcomes, U.S. News dropped acceptance rate from the methodology in the 2019 edition and removed yield rate (the percentage of accepted students who enroll) in the 2004 edition.

### Alumni Giving: 3%
Percentage of living alumni with bachelor’s degrees who gave to their schools during a given year. The monetary amount donated does not factor into the rankings.

An indirect measure of graduates’ satisfaction and continued engagement with their schools.