Education

# ASU on top as most innovative school in latest US News Best Colleges report



Arizona State University campus in Tempe

PROVIDED BY LANETERRALEVER

By Jeff Gifford – Digital Editor, Phoenix Business Journal
Sep 24, 2024

> ▶ Listen to this article    4 min    ⑊|⑊

Arizona State University has made it to a full decade of being regarded as the nation's most innovative university, according to the 2025 annual Best Colleges national rankings by U.S. News & World Report.

Winning the category for the 10th straight year, ASU remains the only university to hold the top spot since the innovation ranking was introduced by the magazine. This year, ASU was followed in the top five by Georgia Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University and Georgia State University.

In the overall university rankings, however, ASU slipped from No. 105 last year to No. 121 this year. That means it fell behind No. 109 University of Arizona, which jumped up six spots since last year to become the new leading school in the Grand Canyon State.

Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff came in at No. 244, and Grand Canyon University appeared in the No. 392-434 range.

When the list is narrowed down to public universities only, U of A clocks in at No. 52, ASU at No. 61 and NAU at 135.

Besides its innovation ranking, ASU tied for No. 7 in the nation for undergraduate teaching in the U.S. News Best Colleges report. That was a jump from No. 13 in that category last year. ASU was also No. 3 for first-year college experience.

"Receiving the top innovation ranking from our peers for a decade is significant, as it affirms that our enterprise-wide innovation mindset is deeply tied to our institutional identity," said ASU President Michael M. Crow in a statement. "ASU works hard to find and act on every opportunity at every level of teaching, discovery and operations to collaborate and manifest better solutions. We are proud of the variety and scope of impact we are making."

## University of Arizona nursing makes big gains

Among undergraduate degree programs, ASU had 13 top-20 placements, all coming from the W.P. Carey School of Business and the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. They were led by a No. 2 ranking for supply chain management and logistics at the Carey School.

At Tucson-based U of A, the top-ranked undergraduate program was at management information systems at the Eller College of Management, which was No. 2 in the nation. U of A's nursing program made a huge 48-place jump to land at No. 19 overall.

"I am happy to see the University of Arizona's position improve across so many different categories," said U of A President Robert C. Robbins, in a statement. "As one of the nation's top public universities, we believe it is our mission to provide a top-notch learning environment for a growing and diverse student population, while supporting the world's best researchers and educators across a variety of subjects."

U of A was also ranked No. 12 among all colleges and universities that are designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Nationally, the 2025 U.S. News Best Colleges overall rankings were led by Princeton University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Stanford University and Yale University.

In other recent higher education rankings, both ASU and U of A were included in the top 1% of global universities in May by the Center for World University Rankings. The schools also both landed in the top 10% on U.S. News' own global list. In April, both universities' business schools climbed in the U.S. News graduate schools list. And before that, the Global Employability University Ranking & Survey ranked ASU No. 34 globally for the second consecutive year.