

**Date:** March 28, 2014

**Subject:** How does UW Seattle look compared to other top public research universities?

The University of Washington has a long tradition of comparing itself to peers on a number of dimensions using data collected from institutions nationwide. In this brief, we attempt to pull together comparisons on a broad array of dimensions and to discuss where UW Seattle ranks compared to other top public research universities.

Before beginning, it is important to note that comparisons based on the available data are, by their nature, somewhat limited. Most comparisons use data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Although IPEDS has done an excellent job of defining data elements so that institutions report their information in the most comparable way possible, differences in business processes and practices and differences in institutions' data systems make it unlikely that two institutions report data in exactly the same way. As a result, this type of peer comparison should be viewed as suggestive rather than definitive.

Traditionally, we have published peer comparison information about faculty salaries and funding per student full-time equivalent (FTE), but periodically we also make other comparisons. Here we provide a broader range of comparisons. The comparative measures for UW Seattle and other top public research universities are shown in Table 1.<sup>1</sup>

While all of these institutions are top public research universities, there are still a number of substantive differences in the role each institution plays in its state, the types of students they serve, the disciplines they emphasize, some aspects of delivery, and, of course, both funding and faculty salaries.

### **The Institution's Role in the State**

Public higher education has evolved differently in each state, and this historical path, along with enormous differences in states' populations, lead to important differences among institutions.

The availability of different types of postsecondary institutions in a state can provide very different contexts for a top research institution. Among other things, this context affects which students a particular institution serves as well as its share of all postsecondary education in the state. The reliance on two-year institutions, the availability of private institutions, and the number of other public institutions in a state are all important factors in this regard.

#### *Percentage of public undergraduate enrollments that are in two-year colleges*

These top research universities are found in states that range between 33 to 65 percent of public undergraduate FTE<sup>2</sup> enrollments occurring in two-year colleges. Washington State ranks near the top with 63 percent of enrollments in

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<sup>1</sup> Top public research universities are identified using the most recent US News Best College rankings. The top 25 institutions (actually 27 because of ties) are included in this comparison.

<sup>2</sup> FTE enrollments are used in this comparison since community college students are more likely to enroll on a part-time basis, so headcount enrollment comparisons between the sectors can be confusing.

two-year colleges; among states that are home to top public universities, only California and Illinois have higher proportional two-year college enrollments than Washington.

*Percentage of four-year institution enrollments that are in private institutions*

States also vary on the relative importance of public and private four-year institutions. The peer universities reside in states where anywhere from 17 percent to 48 percent of four-year enrollment occurs in private non-profit institutions.<sup>3</sup> In Washington State, 23 percent of undergraduate students are enrolled in a private four-year institution.

*Percentage of bachelor's degrees awarded by public four-year institutions awarded by this top institution*

Depending on the size of the state and the development of different types of public four-year institutions, these top research institutions may award only a small portion of the state's public bachelor's degrees (as in California, where a given campus may account for only five percent of all degrees) or they may award a much larger portion (as in Connecticut, where the University of Connecticut accounts for half the state's degrees). On average, a top public institution awards 12 percent of public bachelor's degrees in its state. The University of Washington Seattle awards 36 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded by public four-year institutions in Washington, ranking third-highest among these peers. The reliance on a single top research university in the state to produce such a high proportion of degrees is an important aspect of the UW's context.

## **Funding and Faculty Salaries**

*Funding per FTE student*

There has been a national trend over recent decades in which state appropriations per student have fallen and the price to students and their families (in tuition) has increased. While this trend has occurred nationally, the extent to which the funding burden rests on students, as opposed to the state, varies dramatically between these institutions. As shown in Table 1, UW Seattle has one of the lowest<sup>4</sup> levels of state appropriations per FTE student, and is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> of 27 in total state and tuition funding per FTE.

*Faculty salaries*

Given the UW's relatively low funding per FTE, it is probably not surprising that mean faculty salaries at UW also lag behind those of peers. In fact, the overall funding per FTE of UW Seattle would have to increase 12.4 percent to equal the mean funding levels of the top public institutions, and the average salary for all ranks would need to increase 3.9 percent to equal the peer mean.

## **Access and Affordability**

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<sup>3</sup> Note that for-profit institutions are not included in these calculations.

<sup>4</sup> Note that the funding per FTE figures presented here are somewhat different than those published elsewhere by the UW, as—given the nature of these peer institutions—it seems appropriate to separate out the numbers for UW Seattle (we typically present funding per FTE figures for all three campuses combined). It should be noted that one of the institutions with lower state funding per FTE—Penn State—does some instruction below the bachelor's level (that is, it awards some associates degrees). This would lead us to expect a somewhat lower required funding level.

*Pell Grant recipients*

Access to higher education at top institutions is currently an issue of great concern. One measure of access is the percentage of undergraduates attending an institution who receive Pell Grants. UW Seattle is right at the mean rate of top public institutions with 25 percent of undergraduates receiving Pell Grants.

*Net price*

UW Seattle has the second-lowest net price of all the top research universities, at \$9,395, which is substantially below the mean of \$14,867. It should be noted that net price is calculated for the population of resident students who receive some scholarship, grant, or waiver aid from federal, state, or institutional sources. As a result, an institution can keep its net price low by keeping its tuition rate low, by devoting more resources to financial aid, or by concentrating financial resources on aid to lower-income students. Differences in net price, then, can reflect differences in both the amount of aid awarded and the extent to which aid is spread across a broad income range.

**Success, Quality and Composition***Graduation rates*

One commonly-used measure of student success is the six-year graduation rate. The UW has a six-year graduation rate in line with those of peers. The graduation rate at UW Seattle is 80 percent, just below the mean of 82 percent.

*Class size*

The percentage of classes with fewer than 20 students is one measure of the ability of students to, for example, receive individualized attention and interact with faculty. At peer institutions, from 18 to 63 percent of classes have fewer than 20 students (with a median of 40 percent). Here too, the UW looks to be quite similar to peers with 38 percent, ranking 17<sup>th</sup> of 27.

*Student-to-faculty ratio*

UW has a student-to-faculty ratio of 12 to 1, much lower than that of the other top research public institutions. However, while this metric is a good indication of the availability of faculty to students, it can be subject to reporting idiosyncrasies. In particular, while the number of students can be counted with some certainty, institutions' decisions to include or exclude particular faculty in their counts can affect the reported student-to-faculty ratio without reflecting a true difference in student experience.

*Graduate and professional education*

The experience of students at a large research institution, as well as the funding required to provide high quality education, is in part a function of the relative proportion of graduate and undergraduate students. UW Seattle ranks 6<sup>th</sup> of 17 in terms of the percentage of enrollment represented by graduate and professional students and at 32 percent is substantially above the peer mean of 26 percent.

*Research expenditures*

While all the peer institutions considered are public research institutions, they vary greatly in how much they spend on research. UW Seattle has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest research expenditure among top public institutions. Its total research budget of \$855 million is well above the peer mean of \$520 million.

Table 1. Comparative measures, top public universities

University	% Public UG FTE Enrollment in Two-Year Institutions <sup>1</sup>	% 4-Year Enrollments in Private Non-Profit Sector <sup>2</sup>	% Bachelor Degrees in State from University <sup>3</sup>	State Appropriations per FTE <sup>5</sup>	Tuition and Fee Revenue per FTE <sup>5</sup>	State Appropriations & Tuition and Fee Revenue per FTE <sup>5</sup>
Clemson University	48%	26%	21%	\$ 4,592	\$ 13,949	\$ 18,542
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	44%	20%	9%	\$ 9,564	\$ 10,883	\$ 20,447
Ohio State University-Main Campus	44%	32%	26%	\$ 5,853	\$ 10,862	\$ 16,716
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	33%	48%	24%	\$ 3,927	\$ 22,645	\$ 26,572
Purdue University-Main Campus	35%	29%	24%	\$ 7,499	\$ 14,423	\$ 21,922
Rutgers University-New Brunswick	50%	25%	23%	\$ 8,953	\$ 13,457	\$ 22,410
Texas A & M University-College Station	55%	17%	10%	\$ 9,684	\$ 9,120	\$ 18,803
University of California-Berkeley	64%	22%	7%	\$ 7,486	\$ 16,348	\$ 23,834
University of California-Davis	64%	22%	6%	\$ 10,332	\$ 12,934	\$ 23,266
University of California-Irvine	64%	22%	5%	\$ 7,853	\$ 12,830	\$ 20,684
University of California-Los Angeles	64%	22%	6%	\$ 10,112	\$ 14,430	\$ 24,542
University of California-San Diego	64%	22%	5%	\$ 8,121	\$ 12,935	\$ 21,056
University of California-Santa Barbara	64%	22%	5%	\$ 5,614	\$ 12,940	\$ 18,554
University of Connecticut	41%	45%	50%	\$ 19,287	\$ 10,521	\$ 29,808
University of Florida	60%	28%	15%	\$ 11,026	\$ 6,694	\$ 17,720
University of Georgia	44%	20%	22%	\$ 10,349	\$ 9,617	\$ 19,966
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	65%	47%	24%	\$ 7,367	\$ 13,077	\$ 20,444
University of Maryland-College Park	46%	20%	32%	\$ 11,538	\$ 11,020	\$ 22,559
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	45%	21%	17%	\$ 5,728	\$ 18,457	\$ 24,185
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	51%	31%	39%	\$ 11,812	\$ 13,439	\$ 25,251
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	55%	28%	15%	\$ 20,708	\$ 11,326	\$ 32,034
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	33%	48%	11%	\$ 3,868	\$ 14,753	\$ 18,621
The University of Texas at Austin	55%	17%	10%	\$ 6,285	\$ 10,164	\$ 16,449
University of Virginia-Main Campus	45%	34%	13%	\$ 5,456	\$ 16,608	\$ 22,064
University of Wisconsin-Madison	40%	25%	31%	\$ 9,716	\$ 10,191	\$ 19,907
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	45%	34%	17%	\$ 6,963	\$ 10,783	\$ 17,745
<i>Peer mean</i>			12%	\$ 8,614	\$ 12,866	\$ 21,480
<b>University of Washington-Seattle Campus</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>\$ 4,636</b>	<b>\$ 14,465</b>	<b>\$ 19,102</b>
<b>UW rank</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey, 2011-12

<sup>2</sup> The Private For-Profit Sector is excluded from this calculation. (Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment, Fall 2012)

<sup>3</sup> Source: IPEDS Completions Survey (2011-12)

<sup>4</sup> The University of Pittsburgh does not provide allocation factors for distributing revenue by campus. Revenue reallocated according to campus percentage of total system-wide FTE.

<sup>5</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Finance Survey and IPEDS 2011-12 12-Month Enrollment Report

<sup>6</sup> Source: Academe (2012-13 AAUP Faculty Salary Survey)

<sup>7</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Financial Aid Survey

<sup>8</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Graduation Rate Survey (Cohort of Freshmen Entering in 2006)

<sup>9</sup> Source: US News 2012-13 data collection

Table 1 (continued). Comparative measures, top public universities

University	Average Professor Salary <sup>5</sup>	Average Associate Professor Salary <sup>6</sup>	Average Assistant Professor Salary <sup>6</sup>	Average Salary - All Ranks <sup>6</sup>	% UG receiving Pell grants <sup>7</sup>	Average net price <sup>7</sup>	Six-year grad rate <sup>8</sup>
Clemson University	\$ 123,600	\$ 88,500	\$ 78,300	\$ 89,500	18%	\$ 16,251	76%
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	\$ 142,600	\$ 95,400	\$ 89,700	\$ 116,397	20%	\$ 9,116	80%
Ohio State University-Main Campus	\$ 136,900	\$ 92,000	\$ 85,100	\$ 110,335	24%	\$ 19,998	78%
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	\$ 138,700	\$ 94,300	\$ 82,500	\$ 113,518	19%	\$ 22,560	85%
Purdue University-Main Campus	\$ 127,700	\$ 89,300	\$ 80,400	\$ 100,500	22%	\$ 12,969	69%
Rutgers University-New Brunswick	\$ 151,000	\$ 101,200	\$ 81,700	\$ 112,800	31%	\$ 15,922	77%
Texas A & M University-College Station	\$ 122,200	\$ 84,500	\$ 75,600	\$ 88,400	22%	\$ 12,417	80%
University of California-Berkeley	\$ 158,900	\$ 107,300	\$ 94,700	\$ 137,523	33%	\$ 16,178	91%
University of California-Davis	\$ 133,000	\$ 91,400	\$ 81,600	\$ 116,181	43%	\$ 14,877	82%
University of California-Irvine	\$ 140,400	\$ 92,600	\$ 82,400	\$ 117,187	40%	\$ 12,856	83%
University of California-Los Angeles	\$ 167,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 88,800	\$ 142,474	36%	\$ 14,857	90%
University of California-San Diego	\$ 142,500	\$ 92,800	\$ 88,700	\$ 122,543	46%	\$ 13,408	86%
University of California-Santa Barbara	\$ 140,600	\$ 86,800	\$ 77,200	\$ 120,968	37%	\$ 13,144	79%
University of Connecticut	\$ 136,800	\$ 91,900	\$ 73,900	\$ 101,400	21%	\$ 16,357	81%
University of Florida	\$ 122,500	\$ 81,100	\$ 71,000	\$ 95,085	32%	\$ 13,619	84%
University of Georgia	\$ 109,400	\$ 80,900	\$ 76,200	\$ 88,700	25%	\$ 12,674	80%
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	\$ 141,700	\$ 91,100	\$ 87,400	\$ 113,115	20%	\$ 16,495	84%
University of Maryland-College Park	\$ 138,100	\$ 96,800	\$ 85,200	\$ 104,900	19%	\$ 14,402	81%
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	\$ 148,700	\$ 101,100	\$ 88,800	\$ 121,313	16%	\$ 14,490	90%
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	\$ 134,300	\$ 88,500	\$ 81,800	\$ 98,100	23%	\$ 14,516	70%
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	No data	No data	No data	No data	21%	\$ 11,092	88%
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	\$ 135,900	\$ 91,500	\$ 75,800	\$ 91,700	18%	\$ 21,641	78%
The University of Texas at Austin	\$ 144,000	\$ 92,800	\$ 86,000	\$ 117,733	28%	\$ 15,844	80%
University of Virginia-Main Campus	\$ 143,200	\$ 93,800	\$ 82,900	\$ 115,738	12%	\$ 12,672	93%
University of Wisconsin-Madison	\$ 118,800	\$ 91,100	\$ 77,500	\$ 102,787	16%	\$ 15,317	83%
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$ 122,100	\$ 85,000	\$ 73,200	\$ 89,400	18%	\$ 17,375	80%
<i>Peer mean</i>	<i>\$ 137,871</i>	<i>\$ 91,847</i>	<i>\$ 81,483</i>	<i>\$ 108,901</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>\$ 14,867</i>	<i>82%</i>
<b>University of Washington-Seattle Campus</b>	<b>\$ 123,153</b>	<b>\$ 88,209</b>	<b>\$ 84,067</b>	<b>\$ 104,843</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$ 9,395</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>UW rank</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey, 2011-12

<sup>2</sup> The Private For-Profit Sector is excluded from this calculation. (Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment, Fall 2012)

<sup>3</sup> Source: IPEDS Completions Survey (2011-12)

<sup>4</sup> The University of Pittsburgh does not provide allocation factors for distributing revenue by campus. Revenue reallocated according to campus percentage of total system-wide FTE.

<sup>5</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Finance Survey and IPEDS 2011-12 12-Month Enrollment Report

<sup>6</sup> Source: Academe (2012-13 AAUP Faculty Salary Survey)

<sup>7</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Financial Aid Survey

<sup>8</sup> Source: IPEDS 2011-12 Graduation Rate Survey (Cohort of Freshmen Entering in 2006)

<sup>9</sup> Source: US News 2012-13 data collection

Table 1 (continued). Comparative measures, top public universities

University	%Classes with fewer than 20 students <sup>9</sup>	Student-faculty ratio <sup>9</sup>	Grad/professional students as % of enrolled students <sup>1</sup>	Total research expenditures <sup>4,5</sup>
Clemson University	51%	18:1	20%	\$ 143,763,968
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	41%	18:1	33%	\$ 658,329,625
Ohio State University-Main Campus	30%	19:1	24%	\$ 489,586,183
Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	39%	17:1	14%	\$ 575,371,826
Purdue University-Main Campus	38%	14:1	23%	\$ 267,692,280
Rutgers University-New Brunswick	38%	14:1	22%	\$ 280,545,780
Texas A & M University-College Station	18%	22:1	21%	\$ 546,155,685
University of California-Berkeley	63%	17:1	28%	\$ 688,658,270
University of California-Davis	37%	17:1	21%	\$ 672,535,316
University of California-Irvine	46%	19:1	19%	\$ 346,630,928
University of California-Los Angeles	50%	16:1	30%	\$ 911,599,962
University of California-San Diego	38%	19:1	20%	\$ 907,798,856
University of California-Santa Barbara	49%	17:1	13%	\$ 222,694,270
University of Connecticut	47%	17:1	31%	\$ 154,775,115
University of Florida	49%	21:1	34%	\$ 608,785,000
University of Georgia	39%	18:1	24%	\$ 351,828,579
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	42%	19:1	27%	\$ 494,566,698
University of Maryland-College Park	36%	18:1	29%	\$ 434,091,626
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	46%	16:1	36%	\$ 817,397,000
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	40%	18:1	34%	\$ 733,539,768
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	36%	14:1	37%	\$ 505,247,633
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	39%	14:1	36%	\$ 565,370,292
The University of Texas at Austin	34%	18:1	23%	\$ 549,382,795
University of Virginia-Main Campus	54%	16:1	34%	\$ 344,879,795
University of Wisconsin-Madison	46%	17:1	28%	\$ 930,926,633
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	29%	16:1	23%	\$ 330,247,903
<i>Peer mean</i>			26%	\$ 520,476,992
<b>University of Washington-Seattle Campus</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>12:1</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>\$ 854,729,945</b>
<b>UW rank</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey, 2011-12

<sup>2</sup> The Private For-Profit Sector is excluded from this calculation. (Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment, Fall 2012)

<sup>3</sup> Source: IPEDS Completions Survey (2011-12)

<sup>4</sup> The University of Pittsburgh does not provide allocation factors for distributing revenue by campus. Revenue reallocated according to campus percentage of total system-wide FTE.

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