About the Rankings

Unlike other academic rating systems, the US National Research Council seeks to assess programs' excellence based on "the characteristics faculty value most": whereas commercially-available rankings tend to assign a high level of statistical importance to such factors as the size of a school's endowment, percentage of alumni donors, or total number of applications, the NRC follows a formula based on the rate of faculty publication, the frequency with which those publications are cited by other scholars, and the number of awards and grants received. Click here to learn more.