

U.S. News and World Report Analysis - 2004

The 2004 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings were released August 22. The following summarizes Drake's ranking in the Midwestern Universities-Master's category.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
2002	3
2003	5
2004	5

In 2004, Creighton, Valparaiso, Bradley, and John Carroll, in that order, ranked ahead of Drake. This analysis attempts to provide some insight into the rankings.

To begin with, note that Master's institutions' final scores are based on several measures. The analysis proceeds by looking at each measure.

Peer Assessment

This factor accounts for 25 percent of the final score. Presidents, provosts, and directors of admission were asked to rate each school's academic programs on a scale from 1 (marginal) to 5 (distinguished). Drake continues to do well in this category.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Drake Ranking</u>	<u>Tied with</u>
2002	1	(Creighton)
2003	1	(Creighton & Valparaiso)
2004	1	(Creighton)

Retention Rate

Although called retention, this category also includes graduation rates and accounts for 25 of an institution's final score. Within that 25 percent, retention of first-year students represents 20 percent of the score. The six-year graduation rate represents 80 percent of the score. A four-year average is used for both first-year student retention and the six-year graduation rate. The following table shows Drake's scores for the past three years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>EFR Retention</u>	<u>Six Year Graduation</u>
2002	82%	66%
2003	82%	66%
2004	82%	68%

While the retention rate for the class that entered the fall of 2001 improved to 83 percent, the four-year average still comes out to 82 percent. For the graduation rate, however, the increase to 68 percent is the result of a steady increase the past three years in the proportion of students graduating in six years. (Note that 73 percent of the students that entered the fall of 1996, the last year in the measurement for the rate, graduated within six years.)

How do Drake's numbers compare to the schools that ranked ahead of us? The table below reports the results for 2004. Drake's numbers are slightly below those of the other four schools.

<u>University</u>	<u>EFR Retention</u>	<u>Six Year Graduation</u>
Creighton	86%	69%
Valparaiso	86%	73%
Bradley	86%	68%
John Carroll	86%	76%
Drake	82%	68%

Faculty Resources

The faculty resource category makes up 20 percent of the final score and is determined as follows:

- % classes under 20 (30%)
- % classes 50+ (10%)
- Faculty compensation (35%)
- Professors highest degree (15%)
- Student-faculty ratio (5%)
- % faculty full-time (5%)

The table below shows Drake's scores along with those of the school ranked one through four.

<u>University</u>	<u>% classes under 20</u>	<u>% classes 50 or more</u>	<u>stu/fac ratio</u>	<u>% FT faculty</u>	<u>Fac Resource rank</u>
Creighton	50	4	14/1	89	8
Valparaiso	52	3	13/1	87	12
Bradley	50	4	14/1	84	10
John Carroll	44	0	13/1	83	14
Drake	38	10	14/1	86	59

Drake's percent of full-time faculty members and student to faculty ratio is within the range of scores for the other institutions. Drake clearly has less favorable scores for classes with fewer

than 20 students and classes with 50 or more. Most noticeable, however, is the huge difference in the faculty resources ranking. We clearly do not compare favorably to the four universities ahead of us in the rankings. (The salary increases for FY04 are not reflected in the above numbers and should have some, probably relatively small, effect in the 2005 rankings.)

(Note that no data are reported for percent of faculty with highest degree. Faculty salaries are not reported. Faculty resource rank appears to be a composite score of all items in this category.)

Student Selectivity

Student selectivity accounts for 15% of the final score and is determined as follows:

- Test Scores (50%)
- Top 10% of High School Class (40%)
- Acceptance rate (10%)

The table below shows the Drake scores along with those of the schools ranked ahead of us in 2004.

<u>University</u>	<u>SAT/ACT 25th-75th Percentile</u>	<u>EFR in Top 10% H.S. Class</u>	<u>Acceptance rate</u>
Creighton	24-29	69%	90%
Valparaiso	23-29	68%	84%
Bradley	23-29	68%	67%
John Carroll	21-26	61%	87%
Drake	22-28	69%	86%

Since Drake's scores compare favorably to the other schools, it is unlikely that this category accounts for Drake's ranking.

Financial Resources

Financial resources is defined as the “average spending per student on instruction, research, student services, and related educational expenditures during the 2001 and 2002 fiscal years” (Morse and Flanigan, 2004, page 3) and accounts for 10 percent of the final score.

<u>University</u>	<u>Financial resources Rank</u>
Creighton	1
Valparaiso	4
Bradley	19
John Carroll	19
Drake	15

While Drake’s ranking is significantly lower than that of Creighton and Valparaiso, it is slightly better than that of Bradley and John Carroll.

Alumni Giving

Giving by alumni accounts for 5 percent of the institutional score. The rationale for using alumni giving in the calculation is that it is an indirect measure of satisfaction. The table below shows the scores for Drake and the four institutions that ranked ahead of us.

<u>University</u>	<u>Alumni giving rank</u>	<u>Alumni giving rate</u>
Creighton	9	32%
Valparaiso	23	24%
Bradley	16	29%
John Carroll	45	17%
Drake	49	16%

Except for John Carroll, Drake’s scores are significantly below those of the institutions that ranked ahead of us in the 2004 rating.