

U.S. | U.S. EDUCATION NEWS

## Top Colleges in the Western U.S. for Diversity

Cal State Northridge heads this list from the WSJ/College Pulse ranking

Dec. 13, 2023 10:00 am ET



Defence Base on campus. Photo by Andrew H. Johnson for WSJ/College Pulse ranking. PHOTO: GREG GORDON FOR WSJ

California State University-Northridge ranks highest for diversity among colleges in the Western U.S. in the WSJ/College Pulse 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. ranking.

Cal State Northridge, ranked third in the country for diversity, is followed by two other California State University campuses that are tied for ninth nationally for diversity—Sacramento and Fresno. Two more Cal State campuses—Los Angeles and Long Beach—also made the top 10 colleges in the West for diversity.

Diversity accounts for 10% of schools' overall scores in the WSJ/College Pulse ranking. Diversity is measured on the basis of student satisfaction with, and frequency of, opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds, based on our student survey, together with data from the U.S. Education Department around ethnic diversity among students and faculty, inclusion of students with lower family earnings, inclusion of students with disabilities, and the proportion of international students.

EXPLORE THE WSJ/COLLEGE PULSE RANKINGS



See our full overall ranking and explore other rankings focused on student experiences, social mobility and salary impacts.

Student outcomes—including measures of graduation rates, graduates' salaries and how those salaries offset the cost of attaining an undergraduate degree at each school—account for 70% of the overall score. The learning environment—including students' evaluations of their school's learning facilities and learning opportunities and how well it prepares them for a career, as well as how strongly they would recommend the school—accounts for 20%.

Critically, our ranking emphasizes how much each school boosts outcomes beyond what would be expected for its students. A complete

explanation of the methodology accompanies the full overall ranking table, as well

as separate rankings for Student Experience, Salary Impact and Social Mobility, all at [wsj.com/collegerankings](https://www.wsj.com/collegerankings).

Cal State Northridge is ranked No. 53 overall nationally, with Cal State Sacramento at No. 71 and the Fresno campus at No. 80. Among the top 10 Western schools for diversity, the University of La Verne has the highest overall national rank, at No. 33.

You can see the schools ranked highest for diversity in the [Midwest here](#), in the [South here](#) and in the [Northeast here](#). For more on Western colleges, you can see the region's [top small, midsize and large colleges here](#), its [top public and private schools here](#), the Western colleges [most highly recommended by their students here](#) and the [top liberal-arts colleges in the region here](#).

—Gerard Yates

For questions or comments, contact Harry Carr, The Wall Street Journal's Rankings Editor, at [harry.carr@wsj.com](mailto:harry.carr@wsj.com).

---

### Top Colleges in the West for Diversity

	COLLEGE	DIVERSITY RANK: NATIONAL	OVERALL NATIONAL RANK
1	California State University-Northridge	3	53
2	California State University - Sacramento	9	71
2	California State University - Fresno	9	80
4	University of California - Merced	12	59
4	San Francisco State University	12	129
6	University of La Verne	15	33
7	Portland State University	16	125
8	University of California - Riverside	19	181
9	California State University - Los Angeles	21	87
10	California State University - Long Beach	22	120

Regions are as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Ties are listed in order of each college's overall national rank.

Source: WSJ/College Pulse 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. ranking