



How is UH Mānoa Ranked in 2015? Decode Rankings to Understand Our University Better.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has received global recognition for its research excellence in recently released international rankings. For example, the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), which is based at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, ranks UH Mānoa in the range of 66-78 in the U.S., and 151-200 globally. This is out of the 1,200 best research universities that are eligible for ranking, among a total of 23,729 universities in the world as of July 2015, according to webometrics website. The Taiwan-based NTU ranking analyzes and ranks the scientific paper performances of the world. Out of more than 4,000 research institutions considered by NTU, UH Mānoa is ranked 186 in the world, and 71 in the U.S.

Other popular international rankings, such as the U.K.-based QS Ranking and Times Higher Education's Ranking, ranked UH Mānoa between 200 and 350 among all universities in the world, and in the range of 60 and 70 among universities in the U.S. As the best-known university ranking agency in the U.S., *U.S. News and World Report* released its new global ranking, which ranked UH Mānoa 314 in the world, and 104 in the U.S. See the graph below for a summary of how UH Mānoa was ranked globally in 2015.

UH MĀNOA IS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE BEST NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES



Ranking	Global	U.S.
Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)	151-200	66-78
NTU Ranking (Taiwan)	186	71
TIMES World University Ranking (UK)	201-250	67
QS World University Ranking (UK)	327	65
U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings (US)	314	104

Prestigious International Ranking (2015)

In the U.S., people are more familiar with the U.S. News & World Report's best colleges ranking, and often refer to this ranking as the USNWR. However, this specific ranking is only one of many university rankings that USNWR conducts. The best colleges ranking focuses more on the undergraduate student experience. Measures such as student selectivity and alumni giving play an important role in their ranking methodology. To a public university like UH Mānoa that has a mission to make the college

experience more accessible to Hawaiian residents, certain measures of USNWR’s best colleges ranking do not put Mānoa in a fair position to compete with universities that only admit the best performing students. However, among international rankings, measures are more focused on research excellence, using hard data such as research publications and citations. This explains why USNWR ranks Mānoa 161 in the recently released best colleges ranking, and 104 in its own global university ranking.

Different rankings use different methodologies, and each contribute only one perspective of how universities can be ranked. It is recommended to talk about the university’s performance in various rankings, instead of focusing on changes in one specific ranking. Considering Mānoa’s mission of advancing research to serve public good, and its need to attract students and talent globally, it is recommended that the international rankings are more appropriate to use as benchmarking tools, rather than the USNWR best colleges ranking that the media and public are more familiar with.

Other than a university’s overall rankings, rankings at the program and discipline levels also provide important references for students who are seeking education in specific areas. UH Mānoa has many programs that are ranked highly in the world. For example, Physics is ranked 48th globally in the ARWU ranking; Geosciences is ranked 13 in the NTU rankings Linguistics and Earth & Marine Sciences are both ranked in the range of 51-100 in the QS ranking.

Comparing to 2014, UH Mānoa has made improvements of its world and U.S. ranking in most international rankings, please see the following comparison table for more detailed information:

Major International Rankings 2014 vs. 2015

Major International Rankings	Global		U.S.	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
ARWU (Shanghai Ranking)	151-200	151-200	65-77	66-78
NTU Ranking	203	186	80	71
TIMES Higher Education	251-275	201-250	81	67
QS	324	327	68	65
U.S. News Best Global University	321	314	107	104

Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO) has conducted research and developed training to allow for the accurate and effective use of ranking results for community engagement purposes. MIRO surveyed university stakeholders and used information gathered to design trainings and reports to better address common ranking related questions and concerns. MIRO also surveyed major ranking organizations in order to gain a deeper and more thorough understanding of their research methodologies and guiding philosophies. Responses from the ranking organizations have been made public through MIRO’s ranking webpage (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/rankings/>). This unique information and insight was then applied to help address UHM stakeholders’ needs. In addition, MIRO collaborated with key stakeholders to develop strategies and guidelines for sharing ranking information and using ranking results. Such diligent efforts are made to help raise institutional awareness of ranking information, and develop capabilities for its effective use.