



### How is UH Mānoa Ranked in 2016? 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, ranked UH Mānoa 71 in the U.S., and 151-200 globally. According to the ranking's website, "ARWU considers every university that has any Nobel Laureates, Fields Medalists, Highly Cited Researchers, or papers published in Nature or Science. In addition, universities with significant amount of papers indexed by Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE) and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) are also included. In total, more than 1200 universities are actually ranked and the best 500 are published on the web."

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 328 in the world, and 104 in the U.S. See the graph below for a summary of how UH Mānoa was ranked globally in 2016.

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



Ranking	In the world	In U.S.
Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)	151-200	71
TIMES World University Rankings (UK)	201-250	69
QS World University Rankings (UK)	343	67
US News Global Universities (US)	328	104

**Prestigious International Ranking**

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 ranked Mānoa 169 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, Earth Sciences is ranked 17 globally in the ARWU ranking; Geosciences is ranked 28 in the USNWR's best global universities rankings; Linguistics and Earth & Marine Sciences are both ranked in the range of 51-100 in the QS ranking.

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.