

FROM: John Milton, Director of
Institutional Research and Assessment
TO: Interested Parties
RE: 2022 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges

September 12, 2021

I. Executive Summary

The U.S. News and World Report ranking of American colleges/universities was released on September 13, 2021. In our category of Western Regional Universities, we are now ranking 53rd out of 127 schools that were ranked. This represents a drop of one place from the prior reporting year where we ranked 52nd out of 123. We maintained our awards as a “*Best Value School*” and “*A+ School for B Students*” institution.

II. TMUS Ranking in 2022 U.S. News Best Colleges:

The 2022 edition of U.S. News Best Colleges was released on September 14, 2021. The published edition will be available in news stores on early October.

This year, TMUS is in 53rd place in the Western Regional Universities category. This is a drop from last year’s ranking of 52nd. This group includes 127 institutions in the 15 state Western region of the United States. This category is much more competitive than when we were ranked as a Regional College. TMUS did receive a “*2021 Best Value Schools*” in the Western Regional Universities category. Additionally, we achieved an award as a “*2021 A+ Schools for B Students*” recognizing our success in graduating students that are less prepared than the average student.

While there is much controversy about the value and fairness of the U.S. News Rankings, this survey provides us with a very large amount of quantitative data that can provide valuable insight into how TMUS compares with other similar institutions regarding several important indicators. It gives us a snapshot of how TMUS compares with the other 126 universities in the Western Region and the 659 institutions nationally that are in the “*Regional Universities*” based on the Carnegie classification system. Since this grouping contains many institutions that vary widely from TMUS in terms of mission, size, and programs, a “*Christian Peer Group*” of 12 institutions was developed to provide more focused comparisons with schools that are more like TMUS. Participants include Bob Jones University, Biola, and Cedarville University.

Figure 1 below presents a summary of TMUS rankings in relation to the 127 institutions in the U.S. News Western Regional Universities category, and regarding the 12 institutions in a Christian Peer Group. For each of the data dimensions provided in the U.S. News survey, Figure 1 lists the TMUS value that appeared in the survey for that dimension, the average value for that dimension for the Western Regional Universities and Christian Peer comparison groups, and TMUS’ rank compared to our peer group.

Fig. 1: TMUS Rankings Compared to All Regional Universities & Christian Peer Group

U.S. News Rating Item	TMUS Value	Avg. Value – All Regional Universities	Avg. Value – Christian Peer Group	TMUS Rank vs. Christian Peer Group
Acceptance Rate	60%	78%	59%	7 of 12
Freshmen in top 25% of H.S. class	70%	49%	62%	3 of 12
Avg. Fresh. -to-Soph. Retention Rate	84%	76%	78%	3 of 12
Graduation Rate (6-Year)	64%	54%	62%	6 of 12
Student-to-Faculty Ratio	11:1	16:1	12:1	2 of 12
Classes with less than 20 Students	72%	49%	54%	1 of 12
Classes with more than 50 Students	7%	5%	4%	11 of 12
Percent of Alumni Giving	6%	5%	5%	3 of 12

III. Additional Observations

A few observations can be made based on the complete information provided in the 2022 edition of *U.S. News Best Colleges* and on the data summary in Figures 1 above.

- The ranking methodology used by U.S. News places significant weight (22.5%) on the “Peer Assessment Score” made by presidents and provosts from institutions within the same ranking category. We were rated near last place in the “Peer Assessment Score” with a score of 2.3. This compares with an average of 3.1 in our category.
- The percent of classes with more than 50 students is higher (7%) which places us down in our Christian peer group. Perhaps consideration should be given to limiting the student enrollments in general education courses to no more than 49 students. Conversely, we have the highest percentage of classes under 20.
- Our Student to Faculty ratio declined from 12:1 to 11:1. Lower class sizes often result in greater student satisfaction.