

Getting Past the NRC Rankings

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Objectives

1. Brief review of Range of Rankings
2. Getting the big picture during the embargo period
3. Communicating the results internally
4. Preparing to face the media
5. Some questions



Overall Rating AND Dimensional Measures

- Student Treatment and Outcomes
- Diversity
- Scholarly Productivity of Program Faculty

Dimensional Measures add information
to the overall rankings

The Twenty Key Variables

- Publications
- Citations (exc. Humanities)
- Percent faculty with grants
- Awards per faculty
- Percent 1st Yr. Full Support
- Percent 1st Yr. National Fellowship
- Percent Completing in 6 yrs. or less (8 yrs. for humanities)
- Median Time to degree
- Students with Academic Plans
- Collects Outcomes data
- Percent Faculty Minority
- Percent Faculty Female
- Percent Students Minority
- Percent Students Female
- Percent Students International
- Percent Interdisciplinary
- Average GRE-Q
- Number of PhDs 2002-2006
- Student Workspace
- Student Health Insurance
- Student Activities

Dimensional Rankings for Our Sample Program

- Overall Measure: 45-56
- Research Activity: 21-31
- Student Support and Outcomes: 74-87
- Diversity of the Academic Environment: 64-77

Overall Rankings Grid

Select UR programs	NRC Taxonomy	# ranked	Rank			Percentile		
			High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid
History	History	137						
Musicology	Music	63						
Biophysics	BCH, BPH, Struc Bio	159						
Neuroscience	Neurosci & Neurobio	94						
Biomed Eng	Bio Med Engineering	74						
Physics	Physics	160						
Political Science	Political Science	105						
Clinical Psych	Psychology	236	45	56	51	81	76	79
...						
<i>NRC Sample:</i>								
Economics overall	Economics	117	45	56	51	62	52	57
Economics research	Economics	117	21	31	26	82	74	78



Questions:

1. To rank or not to rank?
2. “Range of Rankings” only?
3. Individual variable comparisons?
4. Program "neighbors?"
5. When are neighbors not neighbors?
6. Reporting the findings to university officials?
7. PR/media communications?
8. The "other" dimensional measures?
9. Other measures we will be able to use?
10. How to use the extensive descriptive data?

