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2024 GRADUATE PROGRAM RANKINGS, UNLV & UNR

Higher Education Fact Sheet No. 28 | August 2023

Prepared by: Emily J. Daclan, Isabelle G. Graham, Annie Vong, Caitlin J. Saladino, & William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet presents the 2024 graduate program rankings for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)¹ and for the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)² based on the data published in the *U.S. News and World Report*. The graduate program categories reported in *U.S. News and World Report* include business, medicine, engineering, nursing, law, public affairs, education, fine arts, health, science, social sciences, and humanities.

ABOUT THE DATA:

In December 2018, UNLV and UNR achieved Carnegie R1, very high research status. Both universities sustained their R1 ranking through the 2021 cycle.³ This fact sheet provides graduate program rankings for 2024, in addition to longitudinal data based on the 2023,⁴ 2022,⁵ 2021,⁶ and 2020⁷ fact sheets for UNLV and UNR graduate program rankings from the *U.S. News and World Report*. The ranking of each program at a university is determined by the assessment of professional opinions and statistical data, gathered through surveys. Each field also has data collected that is specific to the field, such as test scores for the LSAT, MCAT, or GRE. If a program is declared “unranked”, the university did not supply *U.S. News and World Report*⁸ with adequate information for the ranking to be published.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. In 2024, UNLV has 47 graduate programs and UNR has 33 graduate programs among the top 250 nationally. Of UNLV’s 47 ranked programs, 27 appear in the top 100. Of UNR’s 33 ranked programs, 12 appear in the top 100.
2. In 2024, the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV has 2 programs that among the top 10 nationally: (1) Legal Writing (2nd); and (2) Dispute Resolution (9th). Eleven of twelve ranked programs at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV rank among the top 100 nationally.
3. Among Social Science and Humanities graduate programs, two of UNLV’s degree programs – Public Affairs (8⁵th) and Public Health (10⁵th) – increased in the program rankings from 2023 to 2024.

¹ University of Nevada, Las Vegas’ Graduate School Rankings. (2023). *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved from <https://premium.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/university-of-nevada-las-vegas-182281/overall-rankings>

² University of Nevada, Reno’s Graduate School Rankings. (2023). *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/university-of-nevada-reno-182290/overall-rankings>

³ The Carnegie Classification of Institutions. (2022). “Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity.” Retrieved from https://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/lookup/srp.php?clq=%7B%22basic2005_ids%22%3A%2215%22%7D&start_page=standard.php

⁴ Cheche, O. & Padilla J., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2022). 2023 Graduate Program Rankings, UNLV & UNR. *The Data Hub at The Lincy Institute & Brookings Mountain West*. Higher Education Fact Sheet No. 21, 1-3. Retrieved from https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_he/17/

⁵ Frazee-Bench, M., Falcone, M. A., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2021). 2022 Graduate Program Rankings, UNLV & UNR. *The Data Hub at The Lincy Institute & Brookings Mountain West*. Higher Education Fact Sheet No. 16, 1-2. Retrieved from https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_he/12/

⁶ Frazee-Bench, M., Falcone, M., Saladino, C., Brown, W. E. (2020). 2021 Graduate Program Rankings for UNLV & UNR. *The Data Hub at The Lincy Institute & Brookings Mountain West*. Higher Education Fact Sheet No. 10, 1-2. Retrieved from https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_he/5/

⁷ Frazee-Bench, M., Saladino, C., Brown, W. E. (2019). 2020 Graduate Program Rankings for UNLV and UNR. *The Data Hub at The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West*. Higher Education Fact Sheet No. 6, 1-2. Retrieved from https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_he/2/

⁸ Morse, Robert. (2022). “How U.S. News Calculated the 2023 Best Graduate Schools Rankings.” *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved from www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings.

Figure 1 displays the number of UNLV and UNR graduate programs ranked in the top 100 from 2020 to 2024. In previous rankings, the programs in the bottom ¼ quartile were ranked within a range (i.e. 95-124). The *U.S. News and World Report* does not elect to rank programs in the bottom quartile range, and therefore uses a range for schools appearing in this segment of the rankings. Bottom quartile ranked programs with a range containing 100 were included in this table as part of the top 100.

Between 2020 and 2024, UNLV had at least 18 graduate programs in the top 100 in each year, peaking in 2022 with 29 programs. Between 2020 and 2024, UNR had at least 5 programs in the top 100 in each year, peaking in 2022 and 2024 with 12 programs.

Figure 1: Number of UNLV & UNR Graduate Programs Ranked in the Top 100 by U.S. News and World Report, 2020-2024

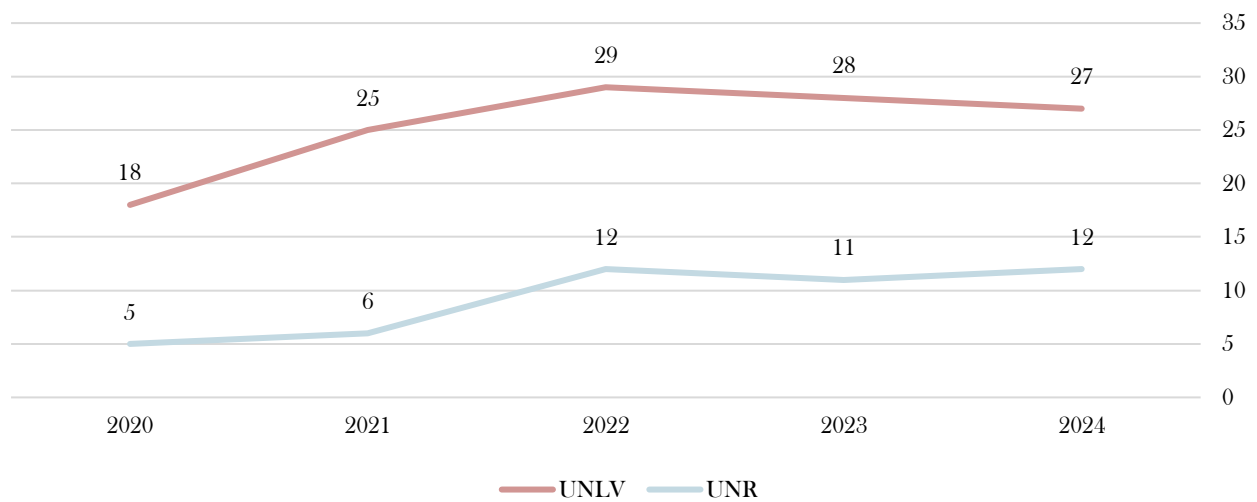


Table 1 displays the 2024 *U.S. News and World Report* graduate program rankings for UNLV and UNR. Programs without a ranking are denoted by a (-), meaning that the specific program is not available at the school or that the rank was not published by the *U.S. News and World Report*. For example, UNR does not have a law school, and therefore does not have rankings in that field.

Table 1 is also color coded to highlight increases (in green) and decreases (in red) in program rankings from 2023 to 2024. These numerical changes are also shown in parentheses. If a program changed from a numerical ranking in 2023 to a designation of "Unranked" in 2024, we label this as a drop in the rankings. If a program changed from being "Unranked" in 2023 to having a numerical rank in 2024, we label this as an increase in the rankings.

Programs that could not be noted with an exact increase or decrease are denoted by a (*), meaning that a specific program was either "Unranked" or in the bottom quartile in either 2023 or 2024. Rankings that have not changed from 2023 to 2024 are shown in white.

Table 1: 2024 Nevada Graduate Program U.S. News and World Report Rankings, UNLV & UNR

GRADUATE PROGRAM	UNLV	UNR
BUSINESS		
Business Schools	Unranked	Unranked
Degree Program: Part-Time MBA	98 (-23)	144 (-30)
Degree Program: Economics	-	120
EDUCATION		
Education Schools	120 (+1)	83 (+17)
ENGINEERING		
Engineering Schools	171*	121 (+10)
Degree Program: Aerospace / Aeronautical / Astronautical Engineering	67 (-2)	-
Degree Program: Biomedical Engineering / Bioengineering	130 (-6)	141 (-17)
Degree Program: Chemical Engineering	-	117 (+4)
Degree Program: Civil Engineering	117 (-19)	64
Degree Program: Computer Engineering	117 (+4)	125 (-4)
Degree Program: Electrical / Electronic / Communications Engineering	164 (-26)	164 (-30)
Degree Program: Environmental / Environmental Health Engineering	86 (-2)	59 (-4)
Degree Program: Materials Engineering	112 (+1)	96 (+2)
Degree Program: Mechanical Engineering	151 (-7)	138 (-6)
Degree Program: Nuclear Engineering	26 (+2)	-
FINE ARTS		
Fine Arts Program	135	201
LAW		
Law Schools	89 (-22)	-
Degree Program: Business / Corporate Law	66 (+3)	-
Degree Program: Clinical Training	34 (+1)	-
Degree Program: Constitutional Law	65 (+6)	-
Degree Program: Contracts / Commercial Law	45	-
Degree Program: Criminal Law	50 (+22)	-
Degree Program: Dispute Resolution	9 (-1)	-
Degree Program: Environmental Law	80 (+16)	-
Degree Program: Health Care Law	41 (-1)	-
Degree Program: Intellectual Property Law	60 (+12)	-
Degree Program: International Law	90 (+15)	-
Degree Program: Legal Writing	2 (-1)	-
Degree Program: Tax Law	46 (+9)	-
Degree Program: Trial Advocacy	108 (-2)	-
MEDICAL		
Medical School - Research Program	N/A ^o	94*
Most Diverse Medical Schools	-	28
Most Graduates Practicing in Medically Underserved Areas	-	34 (+7)
Most Graduates Practicing in Primary Care Fields	-	55 (+5)
Most Graduates Practicing in Rural Areas	-	51 (+21)
Medical School - Primary Care Program	N/A ^o	106*
Nursing - Doctor of Nursing Practice	103 (-4)	Unranked*
Nursing - Master's Schools	96 (-6)	Unranked*
Degree Program: Health Care Management	65	-
Degree Program: Physical Therapy	57	-
SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS		
Degree Program: Biological Science	203	175
Degree Program: Chemistry	173 (-8)	136 (+4)
Degree Program: Computer Science	152 (+7)	139 (+20)
Degree Program: Earth Sciences	98 (-17)	59 (-3)
Degree Program: Mathematics	144 (-12)	-
Degree Program: Physics	125 (+7)	152 (+10)
Degree Program: Statistics	-	92
SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES		
Public Affairs Program	85 (+3)	-
Degree Program: Clinical Psychology	101	70
Degree Program: Criminology	29	-
Degree Program: English	99	116
Degree Program: Psychology	140	140
Degree Program: History	113	140
Degree Program: Political Science	89	103
Degree Program: Public Health	105 (+7)	113 (-1)
Degree Program: Social Work	79	116
Degree Program: Sociology	84	-
Degree Program: Speech-Language Pathology	-	146

Adapted from *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved from <https://premium.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/university-of-nevada-las-vegas-182281/overall-rankings> and www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/university-of-nevada-reno-182290/overall-rankings

^o The Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV joins a growing roster of accredited allopathic medical schools that does not report data to the U.S. News & World Report, due to the publication's criteria for evaluating medical schools, which discounts student diversity and other factors.