

TCU Comparison Group ***Explanation of Data Base***

This document provides a guide to the use of the TCU Comparison Group data that is available in a separate Excel file. The data base has been created to provide information for comparison of TCU with similar or comparable institutions.

Institutions in the Comparison Group

The Comparison Group was selected from institutions meeting the following criteria:

1. All private universities in the US News and World Report 2004 edition of “*America’s Best Colleges*” in Tier I or Tier II category of National Universities that:
 - Did not have a medical school or
 - Are not Institutes of Technology.
2. The top 3 private University-Master’s level institutions from the US News guide for each Region—North, South, Midwest and West.
3. The following 5 Texas public universities—UT-Austin, Texas A&M, UT-Dallas, UT-Arlington and University of North Texas. These are relevant as potential competitors to TCU.
4. Other Tier II universities, who were ranked above TCU and did not fall into the direct comparison group.

The total data base, then, has 18 tier 2 universities (ranked below top 50), 4 universities from Tier 1, 12 master’s level institutions and 5 Texas public universities. TCU falls into the Tier 2 national universities in US News.

Data Sources:

There are four primary sources for the data. These are:

1. US News 2004 online edition of “*America’s Best Colleges*”.
2. IPEDs reports accessed through the US Office of Education Statistics website.
3. NACUBO Endowment study for FY2002 published in *NACUBO Business Officer*, February 2003.
4. Moody’ Investors Service, *Private College and University Medians 2003-04*, June 2003.

Each of these publications obtains information and data annually and the latest data was used. In certain case, the year provided is not the same for each data element, but the relative stability of the universities makes comparisons relatively accurate.

Data Areas:

The data designed and color coded in several categories for relative ease of use. First, the name of each institution is followed by its Carnegie classification. **Doctoral Research-Extensive** has

been highlighted in red and generally represents the universities with the largest number of doctoral programs and doctoral graduates over time. These universities are expected to produce at least 50 graduates at the doctoral level annually. **Doctoral Research-Intensive** include TCU and are doctoral granting universities that are expected to produce at least 20 doctoral graduates per year. **Master's 1** universities have few or no doctoral programs and limited doctoral enrollment, but provide extensive masters programs and often provide 1st professional degrees, particularly in law. It should be noted that Creighton University is classified in this category, but its extensive program array of graduate programs, includes medical school and dental schools, and significant doctoral level programs suggest it should be classified as **Doctoral Research-Extensive**.

Columns of data have been categorized as follows:

1. Information on ranking from US News based on undergraduate programs is headed in **Blue** and has two columns.
2. Information on total enrollment and undergraduate enrollments is headed by columns in **Turquoise**. There are 4 columns.
3. Information on Admission and relative Selective in undergraduate admission is headed columns highlighted in **Yellow**. There are 5 columns in this category.
4. Information on Undergraduate charges and financial aid are headed by columns highlighted in **Tan**. There are 4 columns in the category.
5. Information on graduation is headed by columns highlighted in **Green**. The information in the Predicted column comes directly from the US News guide and is based on their analysis of the characteristics of enrolled classes five and six years prior to the reported actual graduation period.
6. Information on Athletics is provided in columns highlighted in **Rose**. There are 5 columns related to athletics.
7. Information on graduate enrollments and degrees is in columns highlighted in **Gray**. There are 5 columns for graduate information.
8. Information on financial subjects is in columns highlighted in **Lime Green**. This includes information from the Moody's rating the financial strength of an institution to meet their debt obligations over the long term.

Information about undergraduates and undergraduate strategies are much easier to obtain than for graduate programs, hence the preponderance of data relates to the undergraduate programs. US News has a set of ranking for graduate programs by disciplinary areas—business, education, engineering, medicine, social sciences and humanities. While the Neeley School is listed in the US News guide, the business program is not ranked for TCU. None of the other TCU graduate programs are listed in this Guide.

Several of the columns in the database are derived from the other information. In particular, the number of estimated spending on athletic scholarships is derived from data of the average aid per athlete and the percentage of the undergraduate student body receiving athletic aid. This estimate is, then, probably useful from a general estimate than as a specific total.

Total percent of student receiving financial support was derived from the combination of the percentage of students receiving need based aid, the percentage receiving merit aid and the

percentage receiving athletic aid. The definitions for the data in US News indicate that each of these percentages comes from discrete calculations, but no overlap of students should occur.

Finally, the percentage of institutional enrollment in graduate programs is based on headcount, not FTE enrollments. Many of these institutions may have substantial part-time enrollments in graduate programs. Hence the enrollment size, plus the number of degrees awarded should be used to compare the relative intensity in graduate programming among the universities.