

Fresno State drops 10 spots on annual college rankings, Fresno Pacific checks in at No. 40

By Hannah
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Students pour out of their classrooms between classes on the first day of school at Fresno State on Aug. 21, 2014. MARK CROSSE — THE FRESNO BEE |[Buy Photo](#)

Fresno State fell 10 spots on the [annual scorecard of colleges from U.S. News & World Report](#), dropping from 36th to 46th on the West regional ranking.

The magazine's annual report on 1,800 of the nation's colleges and universities was released Tuesday. Princeton, Harvard and Yale universities rounded out the top three spots nationally.

Among western universities -- one of four regional ranking lists that stretches from the Pacific Coast to Texas and Oklahoma -- Trinity University in Texas, Santa Clara University and Gonzaga University in Washington were on top.

Among public universities in the West, Fresno State was ranked 11th, down three spots from last year's report.

University officials offered few details on why the college edged downward on both regional rankings. The list compares the nation's colleges and universities based on a variety of measures, including graduation rates, student retention and faculty resources.

"Once again we are proud to have been singled out as one of the top public regional universities in the West by U.S. News and World Report," spokeswoman Shirley Armbruster said in a statement. "The rankings are based on an intricate rating system that weighs a variety of criteria. While our ranking varies from year to year, we are honored to be consistently included in this prestigious list."

Meanwhile, Fresno Pacific continues to climb in the ranking, jumping up to No. 40 in the West, two spots higher than last year.

That comes after a 40-spot leap in 2013, when the university climbed from 82nd to 42nd place among western universities.

The movement was largely due to a change in the ranking's methodology in 2013 that puts more emphasis on graduation rates, an area where Fresno Pacific excels.

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