Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released its 2024 edition of THE World Impact Rankings on June 12, 2024. This ranking was initially launched in 2019 and is the only global performance assessment of universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The first edition of the rankings released in April 2019 included more than 450 universities from 76 countries. Now in its sixth edition, the ranking includes a broader footprint, evaluating 2,152 institutions from 125 countries.

Institutions could submit information and be ranked in any of the individual 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also qualify to receive an overall ranking.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) participated in this ranking for the fifth time in 2024 and submitted comprehensive information in 9 of the 17 SDGs, resulting in rankings in all 9 areas, as well as an overall ranking. USask received an overall ranking of 101-200 in the world, dropping out of the Top 100 with a participant list of 1,963 universities. This was a larger decline from 2023 when USask ranked tied for 67, likely a result of a continued increase in the number of participating universities by nearly 400 schools, as well as an increase in strategic focus in the manner in which this ranking is approached. Within the 9 SDGs, the university moved up in one, held steady in two, and dropped in the other six. Globally, there were two top 100 rankings, five within the tier 101-200, and one in each of the tiers 201-300 and 401-600. These included the following:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	# Universities Ranked	Global Ranking
OVERALL		1963	101-200
2	Zero Hunger	803	101-200
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	1498	101-200
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	867	101-200
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	1018	101-200
10	Reduced Inequalities	1108	101-200
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	1026	57*
14	Life Below Water	628	25*
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	1086	201-300
17	Partnership for the Goals	2031	401-600

*Tie with another university

Ranking Methodology

The THE Impact Rankings are unique in a number of ways from traditional global rankings. The information requested from institutions is significantly more comprehensive, includes qualitative content in addition to quantitative data, and institutions have the freedom to submit to one, many, or all of the SDG areas. Supportive evidence to answers is required to demonstrate best practice in the majority of cases and impact the review and evaluation. In many instances, the requirement is that the provided evidence be public.

The indicators are designed to provide a balanced comparison across four broad areas: Research, Stewardship, Outreach, and Teaching. Each individual SDG that is evaluated and ranked, is based on anywhere from 3-6 metrics that are weighted. Each of the metrics can further have multiple indicator components. Within each SDG, one of those

metrics is a research component worth 27% of the ranking and solely based on 2 or 3 bibliometric measures. For an institution to receive an 'overall' ranking, they have to submit in SDG 17, and in at least three other SDG areas. The 'overall' score for a given year is based on a weighting of the individual results from SDG 17 (22%) and your best three other individual SDG rankings (26% each). These are summarized as follows:
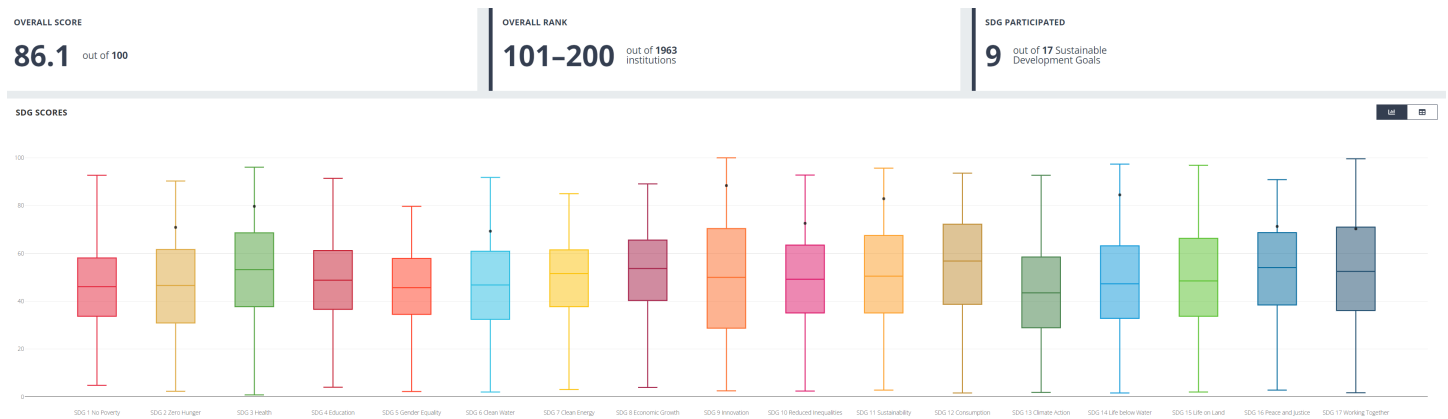
SDG #	Metric	Indicator Weight (%)	Data Source
OVERALL		22% (SDG 17) + 26% (SDG A) + 26% (SDG B) + 26% (SDG C)	Calculation
2	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Campus food waste	15.4	University provided data – with evidence
	Student hunger	19.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Proportion of graduates in agriculture including sustainability aspects	19.2	University provided data
	National hunger	19.2	University provided data – with evidence
3	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Number graduating in health professions	34.6	University provided data
	Health impact	38.4	University provided data – with evidence
6	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Water consumption per person	19	University provided data
	Water usage and care	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Water reuse	12	University provided data
	Water in the community	19	University provided data – with evidence
9	Research	11.6	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Patents	15.4	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Spin-offs	34.6	University provided data
	Industry income	38.4	University provided data
10	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	First generation students	15.5	University provided data
	Percent of international students from low and lower-middle income countries receiving financial aid	15.5	University provided data
	Percent of students with disabilities	11.5	University provided data
	Percent of employees with disabilities	11.5	University provided data
	Measures against discrimination	19	University provided data – with evidence
11	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Support of arts and heritage	22.6	University provided data – with evidence
	Expenditure on Arts and Heritage	15.3	University provided data
	Sustainable practices	35.1	University provided data – with evidence
14	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education	15.3	University provided data – with evidence
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action	19.4	University provided data – with evidence
	Water sensitive waste disposal	19.3	University provided data – with evidence
	Maintaining a local ecosystem	19	University provided data – with evidence
16	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	University governance measures	26.6	University provided data – with evidence
	Working with government	23.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Graduates in law and civil enforcement related courses with ethical element	23.2	University provided data
17	Proportion of all SDG research with international co-authorship	27.1	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Relationships with NGOs, Regional and National Government	18.5	University provided data – with evidence
	Publish outputs across all SDGs	27.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Education for the SDGs	27.2	University provided data – with evidence

It is important to note that the score for the 'overall ranking' in the current edition year is an average of the last two years' total scores.

Scores from each SDG are scaled such that the highest score in each SDG in the overall calculation is 100. This adjusts for slight variations in the scoring range in each SDG and ensures equity across SDGs. Particular indicator components are also normalized to the size of the respective institution. For more information on the THE Impact Ranking methodology, please go to: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/impact-rankings-2024-methodology

Scores for USask and Performance within Canada

The following chart provides a visual of the USask performance overall, as well as the outcomes in the individual 9 SDG areas (designated as black dots) in comparison to median scores:

OVERALL SCORE
86.1 out of **100**

OVERALL RANK
101–200 out of **1963** institutions

SDG PARTICIPATED
9 out of **17** Sustainable Development Goals

SDG SCORES

Additionally, the following table provides some context of the USask performance in comparison to other Canadian schools whom have participated in the 2024 rankings:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Ranking		Canada Ranking		U15 Ranking	
		Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked
OVERALL		101-200	1963	12*	24	9*	12
2	Zero Hunger	101-200	803	9*	17	8	8
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	101-200	1498	5*	21	5*	12
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	101-200	867	12*	20	8*	10
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	101-200	1018	8*	21	6*	10
10	Reduced Inequalities	101-200	1108	7*	21	3*	9
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	57*	1026	9	19	5	8
14	Life Below Water	25*	628	6	16	4	6
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	201-300	1086	16*	23	10*	12
17	Partnership for the Goals	401-600	2031	21*	24	11*	12

*Tie with another university

For more information about this ranking or other university rankings, please contact Assessment and Analytics in the Office of the Provost and VP Academic.