
Summary

On October 14, 2026, *Maclean's* magazine released its 36th annual ranking of Canadian universities. The 2027 Maclean's University Rankings introduced both a new categorization of the universities (56 schools categorized into 3 groups), as well as a substantially revised methodology. The University of Saskatchewan (USask), previously a part of the Medical-Doctoral group, is now classified within the Mid-Size University category. ***USask placed 6th within the group of 19 schools evaluated within this Mid-Size category.*** The top three ranked universities in the category were Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, and Dalhousie University.

Comparator Group

The revised university groupings are now based upon levels of full-time-equivalent (FTE) student enrolment:

- Large universities (>30,000 FTE)
- Mid-Size universities (10,000-30,000 FTE)
- Small universities (<10,000 FTE)

Universities are ranked against peers within their size category. USask is now included within the Mid-Size category with schools including Brock, Carleton, Dalhousie, Guelph, MacEwan, Manitoba, Memorial, Mount Royal, Ontario Tech, Regina, Sherbrooke, Simon Fraser, Thompson Rivers, Trent, UQAM, Victoria, Wilfrid Laurier and Windsor. Each of Dalhousie, Manitoba, and Sherbrooke were with USask in the Medical-Doctoral comparator group in past rankings.

Revised Methodology

The revised framework has 15 performance indicators organized within four broad categories:

- Student Experience & Success (28% weight)
- Faculty Quality (25% weight)
- Student Resources & Support (32% weight)
- Reputation (15% weight)

These four categories were amalgamated from the original five. Within the new broad categories, there were a number of changes to the indicators within.

Maclean's has introduced four new indicators: (1) Retention Rate (5% weight), measuring the percentage of students who remain at the institution for their second year; (2) Graduation Rate (5% weight), measuring the percentage of students who graduate within six years; (3) Research Volume (2.5% weight), measuring research output per faculty member; and (4) Research Impact (2.5% weight), measuring the share of output among the top 10% most-cited publications of the same work type, field, and year.

Maclean's eliminated the Total Research Dollars indicator, previously weighted at 8%. The weight for the Student Awards indicator has decreased from 10% to 8%, and the weight for the Reputation indicator/category has decreased from 20% to 15%. The other indicators and their respective weights remain unchanged.

The full 2027 rankings are available online at [Maclean's University Rankings](#).

Summary of USask Results in the Mid-Size Category

Category	Indicator	Weight	2027 Rank
Student Experience & Success (28% Weight)	Student Awards	8%	10
	Retention Rate	5%	12
	Graduation Rate	5%	14
	Student/Faculty Ratio	10%	7
Faculty Quality (25% Weight)	Faculty Awards	8%	7
	Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHRC) Grants	6%	7
	Medical/Science (NSERC and CIHR) Grants	6%	13*
	Research Volume	2.5%	3
	Research Impact	2.5%	9
Student Resources & Support (32% Weight)	Operating Expenditures per Weighted FTE Student	5%	3
	Library Expenses (% of university budget)	5%	7*
	Library Acquisitions (% of library budget)	4%	3
	Scholarships and Bursaries (% of university budget)	9%	11*
	Student Services (% of university budget)	9%	16
Reputation (15% Weight)	Reputational Survey	15%	5
Overall	Overall Ranking	100%	6

* Indicates a tie. All ranks shown are relative to the Mid-Size category.

Data Sources

The results draw on several data sources and reference periods. Statistics Canada supplies enrolment, faculty, financial, retention and graduation data. Student retention data considers the cohort entering in 2022–23, and graduation data considers the cohort entering in 2017–18. Research volume and impact data use OpenAlex publications from 2020–23, supplied by Higher Education Strategy Associates. Research grant data are obtained directly from SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR for fiscal year 2025–26, while student and faculty awards cover 2021–25. Reputation reflects views on quality and innovation from university faculty, senior administrators and employers across Canada, collected in partnership with Angus Reid Group. Maclean's figures include federated and affiliated institutions.

For more information, please contact [Assessment and Analytics](#) in the Office of the Provost and VP Academic.