

Carolina, Clemson Stink Up Forbes' Rankings

By [fitsnews](#) • on August 10, 2009



Clemson University may be able to manipulate its data to obtain a higher ranking according to *U.S. News & World Report*, but the school isn't fooling anybody at *Forbes*. Neither is the University of South Carolina, for that matter.

Both of the Palmetto State's top institutions of higher learning received abysmal rankings according to a list of the top 600 colleges and universities in America as selected by *Forbes* and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Clemson ranked No. 428 out of 600 schools, while Carolina finished three spots lower at No. 431.

Coastal Carolina University brought up the rear at No. 600, a dubious "honor" indeed.

How were the rankings compiled? Glad you asked ...

From [Forbes](#):

To our way of thinking, a good college is one that meets student needs. While some college rankings are based partly on school

reputation as evaluated by college administrators and on the amount of money spent, we focus on things which directly concern incoming students: Will my courses be interesting and rewarding? Will I get a good job after I graduate? Is it likely I will graduate in four years? Will I incur a ton of debt getting my degree?

To answer these questions, the staff at CCAP gathered data from a variety of sources. They based 25% of the rankings on 4 million student evaluations of courses and instructors, as recorded on the Web site RateMyProfessors.com. Another 25% is based on post-graduate success, equally determined by enrollment-adjusted entries in Who's Who in America, and by a new metric, the average salaries of graduates reported by Payscale.com. An additional 20% is based on the estimated average student debt after four years. One-sixth of the rankings are based on four-year college graduation rates—half of that is the actual graduation rate, the other half the gap between the average rate and a predicted rate based on characteristics of the school. The last component is based on the number of students or faculty, adjusted for enrollment, who have won nationally competitive awards like Rhodes Scholarships or Nobel Prizes.

Makes sense to us.

Carolina and Clemson have abandoned their core mission of providing a quality, low-cost public education to [chase delusions](#) of economic development grandeur.

The result? Exorbitant tuition increases and millions in wasted taxpayer dollars.

They can spin and manipulate all they want, but facts (and rankings) are stubborn things.

WEB EXTRA

[Forbes College Rankings Homepage](#)

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