



Did You Know?

Vol. 45, Fall 2015
Prepared by:
Benjamin R. Gamboa

This Month's Topic: Crafton Hills College and College Rankings

Quality rating systems for colleges and universities are nothing new. In fact, the [U.S. Department of Education](#) and the [California Community College Chancellor's Office](#) each have their own Scorecard websites which use various data points to provide information to policy makers, college leadership, students, and the general public. Some organizations, like U.S. News & World Report and Forbes, develop elaborate rankings of colleges for many of the same reasons. While the media may use these rankings to critique or outright dismiss the good work done in and out of the classroom on a daily basis, the faculty, staff, and administrators at Crafton Hills College (CHC) can use this information to inform decisions, establish goals and objectives, and set benchmarks. Below is an example of how one college ranking system can help CHC continuously improve.

Where does CHC rank nationally and in California?

Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics ([NCES](#)), the Community College Survey of Student Engagement ([CCSSE](#)), [CollegeMeasures.org](#), and other sources, WalletHub uses a weighted formula of various metrics important to community college effectiveness. Table 1 displays the rankings of several community colleges serving the Inland Empire. With 670 two-year institutions included in this ranking, CHC ranks in the top 20% of community colleges nationally. **In California, CHC ranks 12th overall!**

Table 1: WalletHub.com Rankings of Inland Empire-Serving Community College

Name	State Overall Rank	National Ranks				
		Overall	Cost & Financing	Classroom Experience	Educational Outcomes	Career Outcomes
Chaffey College	4	19	3	264	292	110
Riverside Community College	9	104	9	569	144	214
Crafton Hills College	12	122	149	250	308	215
Moreno Valley College	23	214	13	580	332	181
Norco College	28	245	12	645	236	181
College of the Desert	41	334	2	479	348	586

CHC outperforms all other community colleges in our region on the Classroom Experience metric. This metric draws from the five CCSSE student engagement metrics—active & collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learning—and on the student-to-faculty ratio. You can find more information about CHC's performance on the CCSSE metrics in our [CHC QEI Dashboards](#).

Conversely, CHC significantly lags behind all other community colleges in our region on the Cost & Financing metric. California community colleges typically do well on this metric due to the low enrollment fees and higher state support. This metrics uses in-state tuition and fees; state, local and federal aid ratios; educational costs per student; school spending efficiency; and employee salaries.

Possible Implications:

- CHC can use this information to develop a professional development program focused on the classroom experience that promulgates our strength in student engagement.
- CHC has focused extensively on improving educational outcomes by increasing degree and certificate completion, transfer, and first-year retention.
- CHC has reviewed how we report financial data to ensure the cost of attendance is reflected accurately to improve both career outcomes and cost and financing measures.