

BADGERS

All 18 Big Ten schools' acceptance rate by U.S. News for 2026-27

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With 18 universities in the Big Ten conference, high school students have quite the decision to make when deciding where to apply.

Should a student want to head to one of the most prestigious conferences in the United States, they need to be aware of just how hard some of these universities are to get into.

According to U.S. News & World Report, three of the 18 colleges in the Big Ten have an acceptance rate of 10% or less. There's a huge difference between the fourth- and fifth-place schools, and eight universities have no problem accepting more than half of the students who apply.

Using U.S. News' data as a reference, we rank the Big Ten universities according to their acceptance rate. Let's take a look at where the acceptance rate of every Big Ten school ranks, from the lowest percentage accepted to the highest.

1. Northwestern University

City: Evanston, Illinois

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Acceptance Rate: 8%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 9,060

2. University of California, Los Angeles

City: Los Angeles, California

Acceptance Rate: 9%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 33,471

3. University of Southern California

City: Los Angeles, California

Acceptance Rate: 10%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 20,630

4. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

City: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Acceptance Rate: 16%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 34,454

5. University of Washington

City: Seattle, Washington

Acceptance Rate: 39%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 40,754

6. Rutgers University - New Brunswick

City: Piscataway, New Jersey

Acceptance Rate: 41%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 37,985

7. University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

City: Champaign, Illinois

Acceptance Rate: 42%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 37,140

T-8. University of Maryland, College Park

City: College Park, Maryland

Acceptance Rate: 45%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 31,133

T-8. University of Wisconsin - Madison

City: Madison, Wisconsin

Acceptance Rate: 45%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 39,803

10. Purdue University - Main Campus

City: West Lafayette, Indiana

Acceptance Rate: 50%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 44,819

T-11. The Ohio State University

City: Columbus, Ohio

Acceptance Rate: 61%



Acceptance Rate: 78%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 38,093

14. University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

City: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Acceptance Rate: 80%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 41,303

15. University of Iowa

City: Iowa City, Iowa

Acceptance Rate: 84%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 22,738

16. Michigan State University

City: East Lansing, Michigan

Acceptance Rate: 85%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 41,234

17. University of Nebraska - Lincoln

City: Lincoln, Nebraska

Acceptance Rate: 87%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 19,701

18. University of Oregon

City: Eugene, Oregon

Acceptance Rate: 88%

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment: 20,622

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