



**COLLEGE RESULTS ONLINE**  
**AN OVERVIEW**

9/25/2016, updated 8/2/2018

Tom Henderson, Director of Academic Assessment  
Shaina Greer-Short, Academic Assessment Data Analyst

## I. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

College Results Online (CRO) is designed for parents and students searching for a college to attend. Most of their data is from IPEDs; therefore, most of the data is for first-time full-time students and does not include transfer students. The site is interesting because it allows CWU to benchmark ourselves to 15, 25, or 50 “similar peers.” Note: all College Results Online data is copyrighted © 2018 The Education Trust. All rights reserved. The website is: <http://www.collegeresults.org>. The website that identifies the institutions most similar to CWU is: <http://collegeresults.org/search1b.aspx?institutionid=234827>

College Results Online uses twelve variables to select “similar” institutions. They assign a point value to each variable as follows. They wouldn’t share the algorithm they use to compute “similarity indices.”

**Table 1 – Variables Used to Compute Similar Institutions**

VARIABLE	POINTS
Estimated median SAT or ACT equivalent of freshman class	211
Percent of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who received federal Pell Grants	171
Number of full-time equivalent undergraduates	110
Sector (Public vs. Private)	84
Student-related expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate	68
Status as a commuter campus	67
Average high school GPA among college freshmen	64
Percent of undergraduate students age 25 and over	62
Admissions selectivity, per Barron's Profiles of American Colleges	54
Percent of undergraduates who are enrolled part-time	51
Percent of degrees awarded in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	30
Historically Black College or University	27
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>999</b>

Once the baseline “similarity score” is calculated, CRO applies 13 “filters” to exclude an institution from possible comparison if it greatly deviates from the chosen institution on any one of a number of factors. See Table 2 for a list of “filters.”

**Table 2 – College Results Online “Filters” Used to Reject Institutions as Peers**

The private for-profit institutions are only compared with one another
Institutions in U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico are compared only with one another and not with institutions that are in U.S. states.
The number of FTE undergraduates exceeds a threshold difference amount, plus or minus. This difference varies depending on the size of the institution, on a sliding scale. For example, the peers for an institution with 2,000 students would be limited to those in the range of 0 to 5,000.
Student-Related Expenditures per FTE is more than double or less than half of the chosen institution.
The percent of degrees awarded in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics differs from the target institution by more than 1 standard deviation
Admissions selectivity, per Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges, is different by two levels or more.
Institutions whose Carnegie Classification is different by more than one degree level
The percent of students who are enrolled part-time is different by more than 30 percentage points.
The acceptance rate for applicants is different by more than 36 percentage points.
The estimated median SAT or ACT equivalent is different by more than 0.75 standard deviations, which is 99 points for their latest year of data.
The percentage of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who received federal Pell Grants differs by more than 0.75 standard deviations
The percentage of underrepresented minorities (URM) undergraduate students differs by more than 25 percentage points.
The average high school GPA among college freshmen differs by more than two standard deviations, which is equivalent to 0.61 points.

The most recent data included in College Results Online is from 2016 IPEDS. Tables 3, 4, and 5 list the most similar 15, 25, and 50 peers to Central Washington University according to College Results Online.

**Table 3 – CWU’s 15 Most Similar Peers**

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Saginaw Valley State University
Bridgewater State University	Sonoma State University
Central Connecticut State University	Southeast Missouri State University
Coastal Carolina University	University of Central Missouri
Eastern Washington University	University of Northern Colorado
Farmingdale State College	University of South Alabama
Ferris State University	University of Southern Indiana
Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne	

**Table 4 – CWU’s 25 Most Similar Peers**

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Salem State University
Bridgewater State University	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Central Connecticut State University	Sonoma State University
Coastal Carolina University	Southeast Missouri State University
Eastern Washington University	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Farmingdale State College	University of Central Missouri
Ferris State University	University of Northern Colorado
Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne	University of South Alabama
Montclair State University	University of Southern Indiana
Murray State University	Valdosta State University
Northern Kentucky University	West Texas A & M University
Northern Michigan University	Wright State University-Main Campus
Saginaw Valley State University	

**Table 5 – CWU’s 50 Most Similar Peers**

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Sonoma State University
Bowling Green State University-Main Campus	Southeast Missouri State University
Bridgewater State University	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Central Connecticut State University	Stephen F Austin State University
Cleveland State University	Tarleton State University
Coastal Carolina University	University of Central Missouri
Eastern Kentucky University	University of Central Oklahoma
Eastern Washington University	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
Farmingdale State College	University of Nebraska at Omaha
Ferris State University	University of Northern Colorado
Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne	University of South Alabama
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	University of Southern Indiana
Minnesota State University-Mankato	University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
Montclair State University	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Murray State University	University of Wisconsin-Stout
Northern Kentucky University	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Northern Michigan University	Valdosta State University
Old Dominion University	West Texas A & M University
Pittsburg State University	Western Illinois University
Radford University	Western Kentucky University
Saginaw Valley State University	Western Michigan University
Saint Cloud State University	Westfield State University
Salem State University	William Paterson University of New Jersey
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	Wright State University-Main Campus
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	Youngstown State University

The College Results Online website has links to Frequently Asked Questions and Resources. See: <http://collegeresults.org/default.aspx>.