

The New York Times

And Finally ...



Heather Romero, 20, posed for graduation photos at the U.C. Berkeley campus last month. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Tuition at University of California campuses [has tripled](#) over the last 15 years.

The latest increase, [approved in January](#), revived accusations that the system had strayed from its mission to provide an affordable education.

So [a new ranking](#) of American colleges that provide the best value for your money has come as a notable reminder.

Among the Top 10, four are part of the University of California system, according to the survey by Forbes.

Using government and private sources, the researchers compiled data on tuition, student debt, graduation success, alumni earnings and other indicators to come up with [an overall ranking](#) for value.

U.C. Berkeley was No. 1, with U.C.L.A. at No. 2, U.C. Irvine, No. 8, and U.C. Davis, No. 9.

It wasn't only public universities in California that performed well. Stanford University ranked No. 7, California Institute of Technology was No. 19 and Pomona College No. 27.

One crucial factor, however, was left out of the survey: Housing costs.

In California, where campuses are often perched among expensive real estate markets, that's not a small matter.

“Overall, people perceive the value of public higher education today,” said [Mark Baldassare](#), the president of the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonprofit research group.

What they worry about, he said, is affordability.

Please note: Because of a technical issue, some photos in this newsletter may not appear for people using the Times iPad app.

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California Today goes live at 6 a.m. Pacific time weekdays. Tell us what you want to see: CAtoday@nytimes.com.

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California Today is edited by Julie Bloom, who grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from U.C. Berkeley.

Correction: May 3, 2017

An earlier version of this article misstated the name of a university. It's California Institute of Technology, not California Technical Institute.