



NRC Facts and Quotes Reference

Key Messages:

- Cornell has more research doctorate fields ranked than any other private institution.
- Overall, Cornell did well.
 - Top 10 ranking (ranking ranges overlap top-10 category): 29 Cornell fields (r-ranking) and 20 fields (s-ranking)
 - Top 20 ranking (ranking ranges overlap top-20 category): 47 fields (r-ranking) and 40 fields (s-ranking)
- All Cornell discipline groups were represented in the top 10, which testifies to our breadth of study (agricultural and life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, social sciences, humanities and arts).
- Two Cornell fields overlapped with the #1 position: food science and technology (1-11 r-ranking) and plant science (1-8 s-rankings)
- The report does not lend itself to easy statements or specific numbered lists.
- Given the complex and comprehensive nature of the data, we did not have time to analyze the 3 groupings of dimensional rankings (faculty accomplishment, student outcomes and support, diversity of the academic environment), nor the 20 individual factors that provided the underlying data for the various rankings. These are not included in our press materials.
- Graduate education has experienced some changes since the data were collected. (Faculty turnover of about 17%, more competitive and selective admissions, more PhDs graduating in social and life sciences, and more funding for graduate students.)
 - Applications increased 5%
 - Acceptance rate declined from 17% to 15%
 - Matriculation rate increased from 38% to 42%
 - PhDs awarded in social sciences increased 10%
 - PhDs awarded in life sciences increased 5%

NRC Facts:

- Number of institutions and graduate programs ranked: 4,838 individual research doctorate programs in 62 fields across 212 surveyed institutions
- Total number of Cornell fields ranked: 61
- Number of fields ranked for Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences: 7
- Number of Graduate School fields ranked: 54
- Cornell's rank for number of fields ranked: 1 for private institutions
- Cornell's breadth of fields ranked: Cornell fields were in the top 10 rankings for each discipline
- Fields at the top of rankings: Food Science and Technology (ranked 1st through 11th overall on the R-ranking) and Plant Breeding (ranked 1st – 8th on the S-ranking)

Graduate Education Facts:

- Number of Graduate School PhD granting fields: 81
- Number of Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences PhD granting fields: 7
- Number of Graduate School current fields that grant master's and/or PhDs (Fall 2010): 92
- Year first graduate degree granted: 1872 to Henry Turner Eddy, an M.S. in civil engineering
- Year the trustees organized Cornell into separate faculties - one was the Graduate Department: 1896
- Year Graduate Department became Graduate School: 1909

The Graduate School's Position:

Cornell University believes that the latest NRC study speaks to the importance of doctoral education as a key driver in the quality of U.S. higher education. The results of this study come at a time of increased scrutiny of higher education and serve as a benchmark for future assessment efforts here at Cornell University and at other U.S. institutions offering doctoral study.

Cornell regularly reviews all aspects of its graduate and doctoral program, and the latest NRC study is one more tool in that process. Cornell will carefully review the results from these analyses to determine how they can be used to improve our ongoing efforts to enhance doctoral education at Cornell, and help continually provide high-quality degree programs across our 92 fields of study.

Graduate School Quotes:

"Cornell is uniquely positioned as both a land grant and a private university. The breadth and number of our fields place us at the top of the list of private universities in number of fields ranked in this report," said Barbara A. Knuth, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School.

Provost Quotes:

"This study confirms what most of us already know, which is that the quality of Cornell's graduate fields is outstanding," University Provost Kent Fuchs said. "In addition to highlighting Cornell's many strong fields of study, the survey and its program rankings provide another resource for ongoing efforts to assess and improve Ph.D. programs."