



## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Aspirational and Operational Peers

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In Spring 2006, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) conducted a study comparing CLAS with its College aspirational and operational peers for academic year 2004 - 2005. Because each university encompass different departments and disciplines within "liberal arts and sciences," data adjustments were necessary to provide more direct comparisons between universities. For example, Ohio State University (OSU) comparisons were adjusted for Arts but not Economics and included data from the OSU's Colleges of Biological Sciences; Humanities; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

At the *college level*, aspirational peers for CLAS were:

- Ohio State University
- University of Maryland
- University of Minnesota
- University of Washington

Operational peers for CLAS were identified as:

- University of Colorado
- University of Kansas
- University of Oregon
- University of Tennessee

The metrics used for this study were academic indicators for faculty, sponsored research projects, and graduate/undergraduate student data. Appendix A to this report provides a full description of these indicators and the study results. As expected, CLAS performed similarly or better than most of its operational peers across the majority of the metrics.

Across all eight peers, CLAS had the highest Student to Faculty ratio at 22:1. The University of Washington had the highest percentage of freshmen (66%) who graduated from the top 10% of their high school class while 27% of ASU CLAS freshmen graduated in their top 10%. There appears to be no significant difference between three of CLAS's operational peers and the University of Minnesota on this metric.

A comparison of liberal arts and sciences majors as a percentage of all majors within their respective universities shows CLAS ranked last at 30% and tying with the University of Tennessee. However, the other operational peers (Kansas, Colorado and Oregon) had significantly higher percentages of liberal arts/science majors (66%, 57%, 55% respectively) and exceeded the four aspirational peers as well.

Sponsored projects and awards for CLAS were greater than all operational peers and were similar to the University of Washington's College of Arts and Sciences (adjusted for the Arts and Economics). The University of MD had the highest ratio of research expenditure to FTE faculty at \$181K followed by the University of Colorado (\$132K), University of Washington (\$122K) and ASU (\$103K).

Mentioned above, additional data and graphical representation of this study can be found in Appendix A. It should be noted, however, that most of the reported data is not proportional and should be interpreted as such.

### CLAS Units and Aspirational Peers

Tables 1a through 1c (below) provide a list of aspirational peers for CLAS units/disciplines by college division. These peers have been determined by a variety of methods—in most cases, they represent the opinions and expertise of each department's chair and/or faculty. Thus, these peer lists are tentative until they can be supported by the qualitative and quantitative metrics proposed in the next section.

It should also be noted that some CLAS departments are already held in high regard and may, in fact, be "ranked" as one of the top three departments in the country. For example, Kinesiology and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change (SHESC) have provided one aspirational peer and a list of operational peers for whom they consider themselves to be equal or better.

The Department of Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies" is unique with its transborder emphasis. This department considers themselves without comparables except for UC Santa Cruz which also represents a Latina and Latin American Department.

If sub-disciplines are to be considered, then Psychology's Quantitative area is regarded as one of the nation's top two programs. Their aspirational peer is UNC, Chapel Hill.

**Table 1a. CLAS Units and Aspirational Peers: Humanities Division**

<b>CLAS Unit:</b>	<b>Aspirational Peers</b>
English	University of Colorado, Boulder University of Minnesota University of Florida Ohio State University University of Texas, Austin University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Film and Media Studies	University of California at Santa Barbara University of California at Berkley University of Michigan Indiana University University of Wisconsin
History	University of Washington Ohio State University University of Iowa University of Minnesota UCLA University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign
Religious Studies	University of California at Santa Barbara University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Virginia Indiana University
Philosophy	Ohio State University University of Minnesota University of Colorado, Boulder University of California at Riverside University of Illinois, Chicago
Spanish	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Indiana University UCLA University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Virginia
Languages and Literature	University of Colorado, Boulder University of Minnesota University of Washington

**Table 1b. CLAS Units and Aspirational Peers: Social Sciences Division**

<b>CLAS Unit:</b>	<b>Aspirational Peers</b>
African and African American Studies	Northwestern University Ohio State University Columbia University
American Indian Studies	UCLA University of Minnesota University of Washington University of New Mexico University of Victoria
Asian/Pacific American Studies	UCLA University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of California at Davis University of California at Irvine University Michigan
Family and Human Development	University of Texas, Austin Penn State University University of Minnesota University of California at Davis Cornell University
Geography	University of Washington University of Minnesota Ohio State University Penn State University UCLA University of California at Santa Barbara
Global Studies	University of California at Santa Barbara University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Human Communication	Purdue University University of California at Santa Barbara University of Colorado at Boulder
Human Evolution & Social Change/ Anthropology	<u>Aspirational Peer:</u> Harvard University  <u>Operational Peers:</u> University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Pennsylvania Duke University University of Wisconsin, Madison UCLA
Justice and Social Inquiry	University of California at Irvine University of California at Santa Barbara University of Washington American University University of California at Berkeley
Political Science	University of Minnesota University of Washington Ohio State University UCLA University of Texas, Austin

Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies	<u>Aspirational Peer:</u> University of California at Santa Cruz  <u>Operational Peers:</u> University of California at Santa Barbara University of Texas, Austin UCLA University of California at San Diego
Women and Gender Studies	Ohio State University University of Maryland Rutgers, State University of New Jersey Indiana University Penn State University

**Table 1c. CLAS Units and Aspirational Peers: Natural Sciences Division**

<b>CLAS Unit:</b>	<b>Aspirational Peers</b>
Chemistry and Biochemistry	University of Colorado, Boulder UCLA University of Texas at Austin
Kinesiology	<u>Aspirational Peer:</u> University of South Carolina, Columbia  <u>Operational Peers:</u> University of Wisconsin, Madison University of Florida University of Maryland University of Iowa Louisiana State University
Mathematics and Statistics	University of Maryland University of Texas, Austin UCLA Michigan State University Ohio State University Purdue University
Physics	UCLA Ohio State University Michigan State University Indiana University Purdue University
Psychology	University of Texas, Austin University of Washington University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Virginia Indiana University University of Illinois
Speech and Hearing Sciences	University of Iowa Purdue University University of Wisconsin-Madison University of Washington University of Kansas Northwestern University

SOLS	University of Washington University of California at Davis University of California at San Diego Ohio State University University of Texas, Austin Indiana University
School of Earth and Space Exploration/Geological Sciences	Stanford University University of Texas, Austin University of Arizona University of California at Santa Barbara UCLA University of Washington
School of Materials	MIT University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign University of California at Santa Barbara Northwestern University Stanford University University of California at Berkeley

### Metrics

Because CLAS units and transdisciplinary schools span a wide range of fields, not all of the proposed metrics appearing in Table 2 (below) will be appropriate for all units. In addition, some of these indicators may not be available from other institutions at the department level or from secondary sources. However, we anticipate using most of the metrics for aspirational peer comparisons and to assess academic progress and quality for academic year 2006 - 2007. A report on this assessment is expected to be completed in Summer 2007 and will be made available by the CLAS Office of Research and Analysis.