

When the U.S. News rankings came out, naturally I looked first at the rankings for environmental law. But then I got curious about the rankings for other environmental fields. I had very little idea, for example, about how ecology departments were ranked. Of course, we all know about the issues with U.S. News's methodology. There were certainly great environmental law programs that didn't make their top-ten listing, and this is probably true in other fields. But even though the results should be taken with a grain of salt, it's interesting to see how the numbers came out for top-five programs.

	Env. Engineering	Env. Law	Env. Policy*	Ecology	Earth Sciences	Env. Econ.**
#1	Berkeley	Vermont	Indiana	Berkeley	Cal. Tech	Berkeley
#2	Stanford	Lewis & Clark	Duke	Harvard	MIT	Maryland
#3	Illinois	Berkeley Pace	Berkeley Michigan	Davis	Berkeley	Davis
#4	Michigan	Colorado	Washington	Chicago	Stanford	Colorado
#5	Georgia Tech	Tulane	Syracuse	Stanford	Columbia	Oregon Wisconsin

*This is from the ranking of public policy schools, so it doesn't include interdisciplinary programs like Yale's Forestry School or Berkeley's Energy and Resources Group.

**U.S. News does not rank environmental econ. as a specialty within economics. The ranking for environmental economics is taken from NRC research ranking ranges for departments, based on the "high" measure with the "low" measure being used to break ties.