

# University Ranking Report

A ranking of national universities  
based on coding assessment results

2022



# 01 Introduction

**Talent is everywhere.** So why are recruiters all looking in the same few places?

Technical recruiters today are in fierce competition for top engineering candidates. At the same time, thousands of students graduate from Computer Science undergraduate programs each year who struggle to land an interview, despite having the skills needed to succeed on the job.

Why is this happening? Because recruiters often target only those candidates who come from name-brand schools—even though over 94 percent of computer science degrees granted every year are not from these “top-tier” programs. **It’s time for recruiters to open up their applicant pool to more diverse new grad talent.**

This report presents our ranking of the **50 colleges and universities** with the highest concentration of students who received a top score on CodeSignal’s General Coding Framework, the industry-standard assessment taken by more than 50% of graduating computer science students in the US. We hope that this report will help recruiters and hiring managers find top early career developer talent using fair and objective recruiting practices to measure candidate skill.



# 02 CodeSignal's Skills-Based University Ranking

Name-brand schools don't have a monopoly on computer science talent

## Which universities *really* produce top early career developers?

**12 of the top 30 schools** in our skill-based ranking did not make the US News & World Report's top 30 undergraduate engineering programs.

Even the #1 school in our skill-based ranking, **University of Virginia, Charlottesville**, didn't make the US News top 30.

UC Berkeley and Stanford, tied for #2 in the US News ranking, **don't make our top 10.**































**24** of the top 50 schools in our skill-based ranking are **Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)** or **Emerging HSIs\***.

\* A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) has a student population that is 25% or more Hispanic/Latinx. An Emerging HSI has a student population that is between 15%- 25% Hispanic/Latinx.



# Our Top 30 Universities

## 02. CodeSignal's Skills-Based University Ranking

Rank	School	Coding Performance*	Rank	School	Coding Performance*
1	 ● University of Virginia, Charlottesville	43.21%	16	 University of Texas at Austin	20.43%
2	 Carnegie Mellon University	32.95%	17	 University of California, Berkeley	20.29%
3	 ● Yale University	32.92%	18	 ● University of Chicago	19.90%
4	 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	29.51%	19	 ● Brown University	19.51%
5	 University of California, Los Angeles	27.54%	20	 ● Harvey Mudd College	19.23%
6	 University of Pennsylvania	23.92%	21	 University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	18.93%
7	 Rice University	23.49%	22	 ● State University of New York at Stony Brook	18.92%
8	 California Institute of Technology	22.37%	23	 Georgia Institute of Technology	18.46%
9	 University of California, San Diego	22.02%	24	 Texas A&M University - College Station	17.96%
10	 ● Swarthmore College	21.82%	25	 University of California, Irvine	17.95%
11	 ● University of Colorado at Boulder	21.71%	26	 ● North Carolina State University	17.84%
12	 Columbia University	21.41%	27	 Cornell University	17.83%
13	 Stanford University	20.91%	28	 ● Williams College	17.78%
14	 ● University of Southern California	20.63%	29	 ● Arizona State University	17.43%
15	 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	20.47%	30	 Johns Hopkins University	17.35%





















● Highlighted universities don't appear on the US News & World Report's top 30 [2022 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs](#).

\* Percentage of test takers from school who scored 800 or above on CodeSignal's General Coding Framework.



# Emerging Leaders

These universities, ranked 31 to 50 in CodeSignal's skill-based university ranking, are rarely targeted by university recruiters. They also include many **Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)** and **Emerging HSIs**.

Rank	School	Coding Performance	HSI or Emerging HSI	Rank	School	Coding Performance	HSI or Emerging HSI
31	 Duke University	17.12%		41	 Pace University	15.79%	✓
32	 New York University	17.03%	✓	42	 University of Washington	15.21%	✓
33	 University of Massachusetts at Amherst	16.94%		43	 University of Minnesota	14.89%	
34	 Indiana University	16.79%	✓	44	 Case Western Reserve University	14.29%	
35	 Princeton University	16.67%		45	 Santa Clara University	14.22%	✓
36	 Northeastern University	16.55%		46	 University of Wisconsin - Madison	13.13%	
37	 Purdue University	16.38%		47	 University of Maryland, College Park	12.73%	
38	 San Jose State University	16.36%	✓	48	 University of California, Davis	12.54%	✓
39	 Miami University of Ohio	16.13%		49	 Rutgers University	12.26%	✓
40	 University of Florida	15.89%	✓	50	 Brandeis University	12.20%	

● Highlighted universities don't appear on the US News & World Report's top 50 [2022 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs](#).



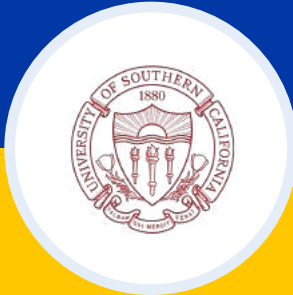
# Using coding skills assessment results helps you **identify qualified candidates**

## CodeSignal Tip: Target Overlooked Schools

These universities made our top 30, but they're significantly **less likely** to be targeted by recruiters than Stanford, MIT, or UC Berkeley:



University of Colorado at Boulder



University of Southern California



State University of New York at Stony Brook



North Carolina State University



Arizona State University



# 03 Conclusion

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The data from CodeSignal's validated skills assessment for junior engineers, the General Coding Framework, shows that a degree from one of the traditional top engineering programs is not necessarily the best indicator of talent. Directly measuring candidates' skills rather than what school they attended is a proven way to build a **stronger, more diverse team.**

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## Key Takeaways

- > Companies recruiting early career developers should **expand the scope of their target universities**
- > Much of the top new grad engineering talent is coming out of schools **not typically recognized** for their engineering programs
- > Top talent is also **diverse talent**; many of the top schools in our skill-based ranking are Hispanic-Serving Institutions



# 04 Methodology

We analyzed the results of the General Coding Framework, which measures the core programming and computer science fundamentals.

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For this analysis, we've inferred the name of educational institutions from the email domains associated with the General Coding Framework assessment takers.

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To support valid comparisons, we've adopted U.S. News & World Report's grouping of colleges and included schools that met the criteria for the "National University" group.

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For our ranking, we only considered universities that had more than 10 test takers.





# What is the General Coding Framework?

The General Coding Framework is the industry standard for evaluation of the core programming and computer science fundamentals taught in most undergraduate programs in the US.

Consists of **4**  
language-agnostic  
code writing tasks

Validated by team of  
**PhD-level Industrial-  
Organizational  
Psychologists**

Completed by over  
**168,000** test takers

Used by over **150**  
top-tier companies as  
their primary technical  
assessment for early  
talent hiring

 Meta

 Uber

 asana

 Robinhood

 databricks

 instacart

 zoom



# We focused on General Coding Framework scores over 800

Scores for the General Coding Framework range between 600-849. A score of 800 or higher, which represents the **84th percentile** of test-takers, signifies an excellent computer science foundation and outstanding ability to implement scalable applications.

### What does the General Coding Framework score represent?

Score Range	Percentile	Description
600-649	0th-6th	The test taker can write simple code to do some operations.
650-699	6th-25th	The test taker is familiar with programming and can work with some common data structures.
700-749	25th-59th	The test taker has solid implementation skills and can solve some algorithmic tasks.
750-799	59th-84th	The test taker has good problem-solving skills, is familiar with algorithms, and can implement ideas that don't require too much coding.
800-849	84th-100th	The test taker has excellent algorithmic and problem-solving skills and can develop large, complex applications.



# 05 Additional Information

## References

- US News & World Report's [2022 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs](#)
- US News & World Report's [Methodology](#)
- [List of Hispanic-Serving Institutions \(HSIs\)](#)
- [Two Statistics + A Prediction on the Future of Tech Recruiting](#)

## Resources

- [CodeSignal's General Coding Framework](#)
- [University Recruiting with CodeSignal](#)
- [How to Expand Your Target Schools to Find Top Technical Talent](#)
- [We Asked Students About the Tech Hiring Process — Here's What They Want You to Know](#)