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The Hot One Hundred Wired Colleges

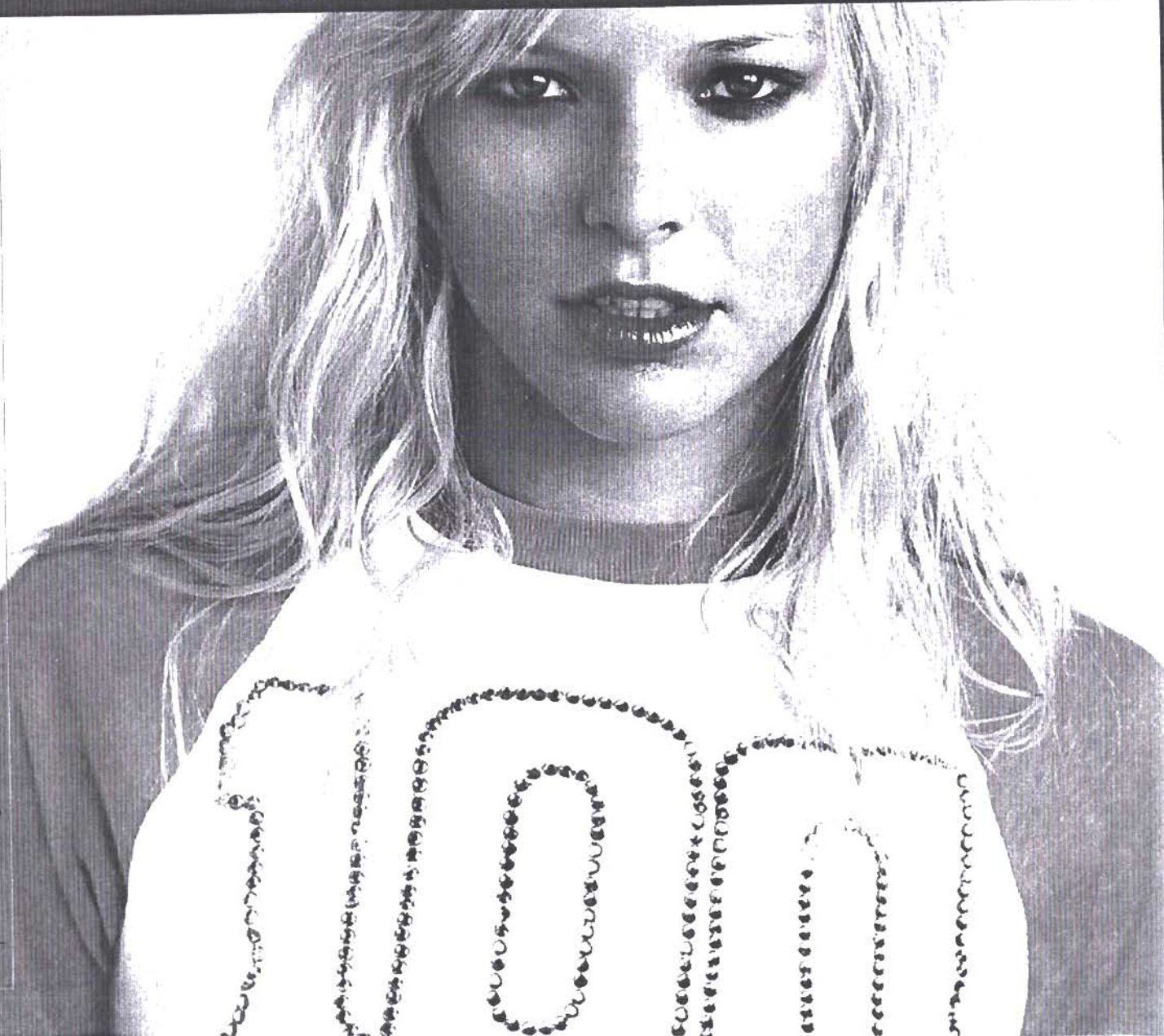
The grades are in—and they just might surprise you. Top honors eluded some of the nation's leading institutions in this, our fifth annual Most Wired Colleges ranking. Of course, seven of the eight Ivy League schools made it onto the full list, but only one—Dartmouth College—made it into the Top 20. Meanwhile, several newcomers broke into the Top 100, including Valdosta State University in Georgia and the Texas A&M University system.

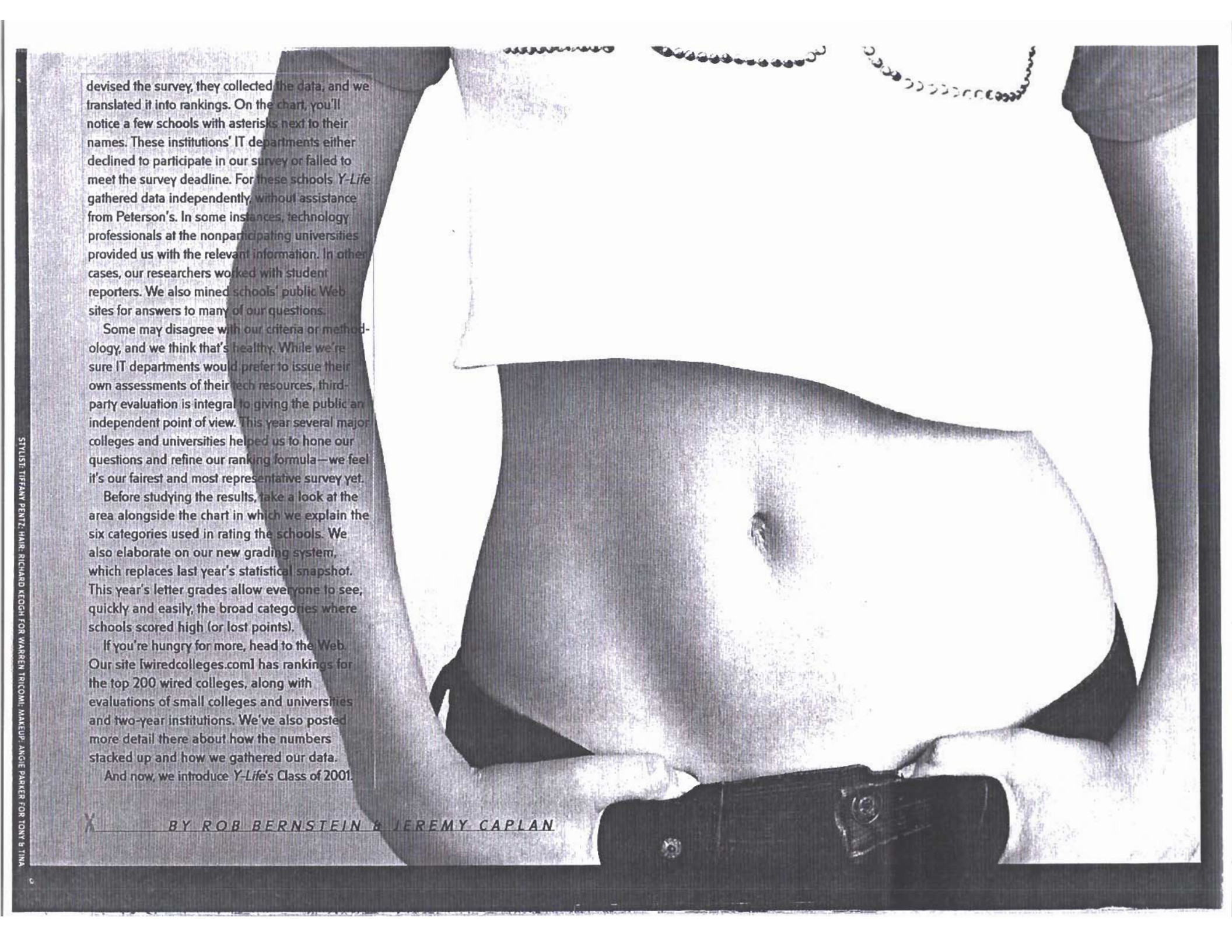
We conducted an exhaustive survey of 1,300 U.S. universities and colleges that examines how they've incorporated network technologies into campus life.

Our survey inquired into an institution's sheer computing power, its integration of the Net into curricula and classrooms, its available hours of technical support for students, along with loads of other criteria. Collectively, these factors helped us determine each school's WQ (wiredness quotient)—our overall measure of a university's technology resources.

Why look at wiredness? Simply put, technology plays a crucial role in higher learning today. It's spawning powerful interactive tools for professors in the classroom, providing scholars with access to vast digital libraries, and functioning as a social forum for students, who are also exploring it for that age-old pastime: flirting with classmates.

As in years past, we partnered with Peterson's [petersons.com], tapping their 35-plus years of educational publishing and research expertise. We





devised the survey, they collected the data, and we translated it into rankings. On the chart, you'll notice a few schools with asterisks next to their names. These institutions' IT departments either declined to participate in our survey or failed to meet the survey deadline. For these schools *Y-Life* gathered data independently, without assistance from Peterson's. In some instances, technology professionals at the nonparticipating universities provided us with the relevant information. In other cases, our researchers worked with student reporters. We also mined schools' public Web sites for answers to many of our questions.

Some may disagree with our criteria or methodology, and we think that's healthy. While we're sure IT departments would prefer to issue their own assessments of their tech resources, third-party evaluation is integral to giving the public an independent point of view. This year several major colleges and universities helped us to hone our questions and refine our ranking formula—we feel it's our fairest and most representative survey yet.

Before studying the results, take a look at the area alongside the chart in which we explain the six categories used in rating the schools. We also elaborate on our new grading system, which replaces last year's statistical snapshot. This year's letter grades allow everyone to see, quickly and easily, the broad categories where schools scored high (or lost points).

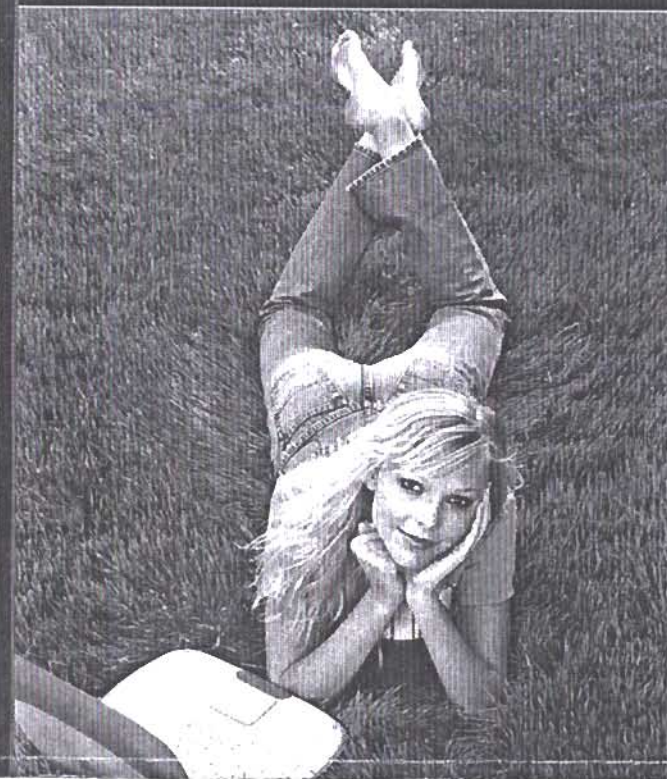
If you're hungry for more, head to the Web. Our site (wiredcolleges.com) has rankings for the top 200 wired colleges, along with evaluations of small colleges and universities and two-year institutions. We've also posted more detail there about how the numbers stacked up and how we gathered our data.

And now, we introduce *Y-Life's* Class of 2001.

X BY ROB BERNSTEIN & JEREMY CAPLAN

The Key

For this year's rankings, we scored schools using six broad categories. Each category consists of four to 18 factors, which are described below. We've also provided explanations of what each letter grade means. Please note that each category contributes a different weight to the overall score; for example, a school's Infrastructure grade makes up 28 percent of its total score, while Wireless Access is worth only 5 percent.



RANKING	UNIVERSITY	FINAL SCORE	INFRASTRUCTURE	STUDENT RESOURCES	WEB PORTAL	E-LEARNING	TECH SUPPORT	WIRELESS	NOTES & COMMENTS
1	Carnegie Mellon University cmu.edu	94.69	A	A	A	A*	A	A	CMU sits atop the rankings once again. Carnegie rules with its state-of-the-art wireless network and its integration of the Net into all aspects of campus life.
2	Stanford University* stanford.edu	92.02	A	A-	A	A-	A	C+	The pride of Palo Alto neared the top spot, despite its lackluster wireless efforts. For now, students can go wireless via Sprint PCS and other services that are not university-affiliated.
3	Georgia Institute of Technology gatech.edu	91.91	A	A	A-	A-	A	B	Students and faculty benefit from a range of unique e-services, including an online library info desk that operates in real time. The school is rolling out a campuswide wireless network.
4	Dartmouth College dartmouth.edu	91.89	A	A*	A-	A	C	A+	Dartmouth requires all incoming students to own a computer and offers the best student services in the nation. But the school is soft on weekend and late-night tech support.
5	Mass. Institute of Technology* mit.edu	91.87	A	B+	A	A	A	C+	When it comes to Net-related research, no school compares with M.I.T. (see the Media Lab [www.media.mit.edu]). And it hosts the W3C, the group that develops Web standards.
6	Drexel University www.drexel.edu	91.84	A	A	C+	A	A	A*	Look, Ma—no cables! Drexel was totally wireless in 2001. A mediocre Web portal, which requires a serious overhaul, kept the school from moving any higher.
7	Indiana University, Bloomington* iub.edu	91.72	B+	A	A	A-	A	B-	Bloomington is the Midwest's tech mecca. The school's Web portal is superb, as are its computer labs—even if they're not available to students 24/7.
8	University of Delaware* udel.edu	91.51	A-	A	A-	A	A	D+	Although Delaware fell six spots in this year's rankings, its Web site boasts one of the most comprehensive virtual tours we've ever seen. Wireless services, however, are MIA.
9	University of Virginia virginia.edu	91.13	A	A	A-	A	B	C+	Interactive campus maps, a superior financial aid site, and outstanding student Web services help UVA stand out—but the school's tech support isn't available on weekends.
10	New Jersey Institute of Technology njit.edu	91.11	A-	A	B	A	A	A	This perennially Most Wired school offers courses in e-commerce and Web design, but the university's bland Web portal could use a little spit and polish.
10	SUNY at Buffalo www.buffalo.edu	91.11	A-	A-	A-	A	A	C-	UB's Virtual Reality Center is emblematic of the school's commitment to emerging technologies, and the Electronic Poetry Center [wings.buffalo.edu/epc] caters to left-brained e-poets.
12	University of Idaho www.uidaho.edu	91.06	B	A	A-	A	A	C+	The school's pioneering Center for Teaching Innovation provides faculty with one-on-one consultations and encourages the use of the Web in classrooms.
13	Seton Hall University www.shu.edu	91.01	A	A	A-	B-	A	A	In collaboration with AT&T, SHU has implemented a private cellular network on campus, providing cell phone services to undergraduates—including unlimited on-campus airtime.
14	Va. Polytechnic Inst. and State Univ.* www.vt.edu	90.89	A	A	A-	A	B	C+	Through VTalumnNet [alumni.iddlvt.edu], alumni can take free, noncredit distance-learning courses in such areas as business, gardening, and architecture.
15	University of Pennsylvania www.upenn.edu	90.88	B-	A	A-	A	A	C-	More than 2,000 active ports were added to classrooms this year. And thanks to the school's GreekNet service, UPenn fraternities and sororities receive high-speed Net access.
16	University of Dayton www.udayton.edu	90.67	A-	A	B+	A-	A	C	Dayton's cutting-edge Web portal offers a "virtual dorm room," which allows floormates to interact with one another prior to their arrival on campus.
17	Florida State University fsu.edu	90.62	B	A	A	A	A	C-	Students can check grades, unofficial transcripts, and course schedules at kiosks located on campus. Freshmen can also pull up campus maps, in case they can't find their classes.
18	UCLA www.ucla.edu	90.56	B+	B+	A	A	A	B+	The school's brand-new Electronic Gradebook lets students review their grades (natch) and evaluate their academic progress, so they know which professors to e-mail with pleas for mercy.
19	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute www.rpi.edu	90.51	A	A	A-	A	C+	B	As part of its mobile computing initiative, RPI decreased the number of public desktop computers on campus and increased the number of laptop ports in classrooms and study spaces.
20	Wake Forest University wfu.edu	90.43	A-	A-	A*	B+	B-	A+	The Winston-Salem campus hosted the October 11, 2000, presidential debate and gave TV viewers a moment-by-moment online rating of the Bush-Gore face-off [debate.wfu.edu].
21	North Carolina State University ncsu.edu	89.28	B-	A	A-	A	A	B-	According to North Carolina State, its amazing technology curriculum is the reason that IBM hires more grads from here than from any other school.
22	Columbia University* columbia.edu	88.86	B+	A	A	A	C+	A-	With its innovative use of video and audio to preserve and re-create lectures, Columbia's Center for New Media Teaching and Learning is a model for universities nationwide.

28%
OF SCORE

Infrastructure

All the core of any institution's wired effort is the campus technology infrastructure, the underlying backbone of the university network. This includes everything from the cabling and computer ports in the dormitory walls to the desktop systems in the computer labs.

Major factors: Percentage of new public computers purchased in each of the last five years; percentage of public computers available 24/7; percentage of dorm rooms with high-speed network access; percentage of classrooms with high-speed network access; percentage of classrooms with active Ethernet ports per desk; availability of network ports in campus facilities for mobile computing; availability of network ports in campus facilities for mobile computing; and frequency of network outages.

Grades

A The university's network is lightning-fast and can be accessed by students nearly anywhere on campus, including most dorm rooms, classrooms, and public facilities.

B All or most dorm rooms are connected to the Net. The school could offer better hours of access to public labs, and more ports on-campus for mobile computing.

C High-speed access to the Net is available, but the school is not likely a participant in a major gigabit project. The school lags around the door access to labs, and PCs may be upgraded infrequently.

D The school tends to keep older PCs longer than most institutions, has inadequate lab hours, and experiences frequent or unusually long network outages.

22%
OF SCORE

Student Resources

Today, students can go online—instead of waiting in line—to access critical campus resources, including faculty advisers and the registrar. The best schools also provide students with access to the latest computer peripherals, such as digital video cameras and wireless LAN cards.

Major factors: Online class registration and drop/add; online grade reports, advising, and career-counseling; online bookstore; online course catalog and evaluations; online campus news; Web-based tuition payment; campus-supported Web space and shared network file space for students; computer purchasing plans; equipment available for temporary use by students.

Grades

A Nearly all university administrative services are accessible via the Web, and computer labs are state-of-the-art. The school provides network file space and gives students one or more options for purchasing computers at a discount.

B Some Web-based services are offered, including registration, course catalog, and campus announcements; students also receive space on university servers to build sites.

C Limited Web and network file space is available; either the computer labs or the libraries are unequipped with the latest gadgetry.

D Students can access only a handful of such ordinary computer peripherals as scanners. Also, students can't likely register for classes via the Web—a major drawback at large universities.

Rank	University	Score	Grade	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Category 6	Notes
23	University of California, Berkeley berkeley.edu	88.38	B-	A	A	A	B	C		UC Berkeley's outstanding digital archives (sunsite.berkeley.edu/Collections) are updated regularly by tech-savvy librarians hailing from all parts of the world.
24	Northern Michigan University www.nmu.edu	88.36	A	A-	B-	B+	A-	B+		NMU students are given new laptops every two years. In addition, they can dial in to the campus network for free from anywhere in the state.
25	Iowa State University www.iastate.edu	88.21	B	A	A-	B+	A	C-		Trained advisers staff computer labs 24 hours a day. Iowa State is one of the few U.S. schools to offer a master's degree in computer security.
26	Indiana University-Purdue University www.iupui.edu	88.18	B+	B+	A-	A-	B	B+		The Community Learning Network at IUPUI runs more than 25 certificate programs, and the school's CyberLab (cyberlab.iupui.edu) develops innovative new software for teachers.
27	Tennessee State University www.tnstate.edu	88.05	B-	A	B+	A	A	C-		The Nashville-based campus will soon let students earn A.B. and B.S. degrees online, and it promises to have a wireless network in place this fall.
28	Rochester Institute of Technology rit.edu	87.96	B	A-	B+	A	A	D+		More than a fourth of RIT students have taken distance-learning courses, but wireless networking is not a priority; the library is the only campus building with wireless access.
29	Washington State University wsu.edu	87.84	B	A-	A-	A	A	C		WSU's new Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology will open soon in the heart of campus and will feature a cybercafé, as well as other digital amenities.
30	Penn State/University Park Campus psu.edu	87.76	B+	A-	B+	A	A-	D-		An expansive digital library (www.libraries.psu.edu) lets students access lecture notes and allows faculty to post reference materials online.
31	Kansas State University ksu.edu	87.45	B-	A	A-	A	B+	C+		Only half of the classrooms have high-speed access, but the rest of the campus is extremely wired. Extra credit: KSU offered Internet2's first interinstitutional course in the fall of 1999.
32	Temple University www.temple.edu	87.41	C+	A	A-	A	A	D		The Web is their temple; undergrads do everything online, including voting in student elections. If only the school could get its wireless plans in gear and increase public lab hours.
33	New York University nyu.edu	87.35	C+	A	A	B	A	C-		The university's Web site is New York's finest. Listen to a live stream of the school's radio station, WNYU (wnyu.nyu.edu/listen.html), or check in on class activities (nyu.edu/classes).
34	George Mason University gmu.edu	87.24	B	B-	B+	A	A	A-		George Mason is one of the 39 academic colleges and universities in the state that make up the impressive Virtual Library of Virginia (www.viva.libva.us).
35	University of Michigan umich.edu	87.18	B+	B	A-	C+	A	A		The University of Michigan's popular Web portal fields approximately 27 million http requests per month, serving a staggering 37,000 pages per hour.
36	Ball State University bsu.edu	87.12	C+	A-	A	A-	A	C+		On the ball: The school has 88 electronic classrooms, each of which is equipped with a Mac, PC, VCR, laser disc player, and high-speed connection to the Net.
37	Kent State University kent.edu	86.99	C+	A	A	A-	A	C-		This year Kent State received more than \$2 million in technology grants, which are helping fund a distance-learning collaboration with universities as far afield as Russia.
38	San Francisco State University www.sfsu.edu	86.82	B	A	B	A-	A	C+		SFSU excels in tech support, but its wireless efforts are just so-so. In addition, its by-the-numbers Web site could use a little pizzazz.
39	University of Scranton www.scranton.edu	86.74	C	A	A	A	A	D-		A stunning Web portal sets this Jesuit school apart from the pack. Prospective students can personalize the site and access copious amounts of info from the admissions office.
40	United States Military Academy usma.edu	86.67	B+	A	B	C	★	D+		All cadets must take at least two IT courses, and classes in information warfare and computer privacy are part of the school's core curriculum.
41	Brigham Young University byu.edu	86.52	C	A	A-	A-	A	C		Students with disabilities benefit from BYU's extensive assistive technology, which provides blind users, for example, with Braille printers and text-to-speech software.
42	Colorado State University colostate.edu	86.51	C+	A+	B	B+	B+	A-		Some students take tests online, and while the school itself is nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills, computer science students can attend class from any Web-enabled PC.
43	West Virginia University wvu.edu	86.47	B-	A	B	A-	A-	B+		The school is strong across all categories and impressed us with its cutting-edge distance-learning initiative, which uses satellite technology to teach social workers across the state.
44	Grand Valley State University gvsu.edu	86.27	B-	A-	B	A-	A	B+		GVSU has 75 Net stations across campus, and a respectable 6:1 student to computer ratio. But computing equipment is not updated as often as at other top institutions.
45	Arkansas State University www.astate.edu	85.41	C+	A-	B	B+	A	A+		Thanks to a superb new wireless network, Arkansas State University is making good on its new school motto: "Education anywhere, anytime."
46	Georgia State University www.gsu.edu	85.21	C	A-	A-	B+	A	C+		Three out of five faculty members use the Net to supplement class readings, discussions, and assignments. Yet only a little more than half the school's classrooms are wired.
47	Clemson University www.clemson.edu	85.20	B+	A-	B+	B-	C	A-		Students can go online to purchase meal plans and view their campus parking citations. Some extra cash should go toward tech support, which is subpar.
48	Ohio State University www.osu.edu	84.85	B-	B+	A	B	B-	C+		The Buckeyes' Web portal, which is one of the nation's largest, includes hundreds of subsites covering every area of study, from accounting to Zulu.
49	University of Colorado at Boulder colorado.edu	84.83	C+	A	B	A-	A-	C-		Boulder provides all faculty members with a new computer every three years, and it recently awarded 300 computers to students from low-income families.

22%
OF SCORE

Web Portal

An institution's Web site is its online ambassador, addressing the school's academic goals and strengths. It's a place where the university community and prospective students can find information, such as admission requirements and a calendar of campus events. A well-designed portal is vital to students and alumni, who rely on the site to access news updates and administrative services.

Major factors: Design and navigability; usefulness of admissions Web site; availability of an online application; availability of information for prospective and current students, as well as parents; online alumni resources.

Grades

A A work of art: the school's site offers a wide array of services, such as Web-based access to the campus Intranet, campus maps, and alumni discussion groups.

B The site is comprehensive, but its design is convoluted or chaotic, which makes it hard for surfers to navigate.

C Time for a redesign. The site lacks many key services (for example, detailed financial aid info), and what is offered is presented poorly.

D Surf elsewhere, because this site is a mess. It can only serve to embarrass the institution.

12%
OF SCORE

E-Learning

As a classroom tool, Internet technology has become as essential to professors as blackboard chalk. Innovations allow educators to digitally archive reading materials, build interactive courses, and create online exams (to be taken by students remotely and securely via PO). And at many universities, the Internet is fast becoming an area of study for students looking for a career in technology.

Major factors: Available technologies for instruction (LCD projectors, laptop stations, and course management software); Net-related courses (not including classes in engineering or basic computer science); library services available to faculty; library digital archiving projects.

Grades

A Students can choose from numerous Net-related courses. Some classes are taught entirely online, and instructors have access to the latest technologies, including video teleconferencing.

B Many courses incorporate the Net using such tools as online chat forums. Few courses are taught entirely online. Excellent technologies are available for use in classrooms, but they may not be widely adopted by professors.

C Most university courses do not use the Net as a teaching aid in any capacity. Some course syllabi may be online, but you can forget about majoring—or even minoring—in most Net-related subjects.

D The school has been slow to integrate technology into the classroom and does not offer distance-learning courses. And no, you can't hand in your papers via e-mail.

11%
OF SCORE

Tech Support

50	Bridgewater State College www.bridgew.edu	84.82	C	A-	A-	A	A-	A-	The school's crown jewel: a 50,000-square-foot technology center with a 100-station computer lab and a digital video production studio.
51	University of Chicago* uchicago.edu	84.80	B	C-	A	B+	A	C+	The school's newest computer cluster is one of a kind; it has a multimedia classroom, video-conferencing station, cyber-café, and digital media lab (intech.uchicago.edu/cccr/creatr.html).
52	University of Vermont uvm.edu	84.48	C+	A	B	B-	A	C	People across the U.S. can study in Vermont, thanks to an on-line-learning program that lets curious students test-drive the Web-based learning tools before signing up for courses.
53	James Madison University www.jmu.edu	84.46	B-	A	B+	B+	C	D+	The school offers a master's program with a concentration in information security (www.infosec.jmu.edu), and it can be completed online. Final exams are proctored in person, however.
54	University of Georgia www.uga.edu	84.32	C-	A	A-	A-	B+	C	Learn how to catheterize a patient via interactive TV. Georgia's Statewide Academic & Medical System is one of the world's largest two-way interactive video networks.
55	Princeton University* princeton.edu	83.92	A	C-	B-	B+	A	C+	Princeton alums can access discussion groups and a comprehensive digital archive of sports games. But the Tigers lack online course registration services.
56	University of N.C. at Chapel Hill* www.unc.edu	83.85	B+	C+	A-	B+	C+	C+	Online library research tools let students access everything from ancient history texts to foreign language manuscripts from their dorm rooms, but tech support hours are limited.
57	University of Central Florida www.ucf.edu	83.72	B	B	B-	B+	B+	B+	Students at UCF aren't afraid to log on to go to class: 13,000 enroll in Web-delivered courses each semester. And more than half of UCF's faculty members integrate the Web into courses.
58	Harvard University* www.harvard.edu	83.69	B+	C+	A-	B+	B-	C+	It's one of the most prestigious universities in the world, but Harvard is lagging in wiring its classrooms—only 50 percent of them are connected for high-speed Net access.
59	Western Washington University www.wvu.edu	83.64	C	A+	B	B+	B+	D+	Don't want to hit the books before noon? Students can instantly find a class that fits into their schedule by using the interactive ClassFinder (www.wvu.edu/classfinder).
60	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee www.uwm.edu	83.54	C+	C+	A	B+	A+	C-	A student-run organization called Student Technology Services (www.uwm.edu/STSI) employs over 250 undergraduates, who are paid to solve campus-related computer problems.
61	University of Florida* ufl.edu	83.33	B+	B	A	B	D+	D+	At the nation's sixth-largest university, tech support gets short shrift. But Gator fans are happy that all sporting events are broadcast live online (gatorzone.com/multimedia).
62	Western Michigan University www.wmich.edu	83.32	C+	B-	A	B-	A	D-	WMU is connected to a statewide gigaPOP called MichNet (www.merit.edu), which lets students and faculty surf the Web from anywhere in the state for the cost of a local call.
63	Duke University* duke.edu	83.04	B-	B	A	B+	C-	D+	Need beer money? Duke's online Career Center (cdc.stuff.duke.edu) connects cash-strapped students with potential employers and provides info about internships.
64	Northwestern University* northwestern.edu	82.97	B-	C+	A	C	A	C-	Northwestern's portal is among the nation's best and provides the finest calendar of events we've ever seen. It alerts students to final exams and lists lectures, films, concerts, and more.
65	Western Carolina University www.wcu.edu	82.91	B-	C	B+	A-	A	C+	WCU is experimenting with wireless handheld devices in the classroom. Students and faculty use PDAs for word-processing, taking notes, and conducting on-the-spot library research.
66	University of Maryland www.umd.edu	82.77	B-	B+	B+	B-	B	C+	Students have the option of granting or denying parents access to grades and course schedules, which are posted to the university Web site.
67	Quinnipiac University www.quinnipiac.edu	82.54	B-	B+	C+	B+	A-	C+	School of Business freshmen are required to own a wireless-ready laptop. The school plans to expand wireless coverage and make online tuition-payment options available this fall.
68	The University of Texas at Austin* www.utexas.edu	82.38	B+	C-	A	A-	C-	C-	Toss out your No. 2 pencils. UT's Distance Education Center (www.utexas.edu/cee/dec) is among the best in the world and lets students attend class and take exams entirely online.
69	Yale University* www.yale.edu	82.22	B	C-	A	C+	B+	C	Yale's portal is a work of art, but the school lacks online registration. There's no centralized help desk, either, but student computing assistants are available in each residential college.
70	George Washington University www.gwu.edu	82.21	B	C-	A	D+	A-	A+	The school has no digital archiving project, and Net-related courses are available only as part of the school's certificate or graduate programs—thus the D+.
71	California Polytechnic State U. www.calpoly.edu	82.20	C+	B-	B+	B+	A	D	Cal Poly's curriculum is heavily geared to students looking for a career in applied technical fields. But be prepared: Freshmen must declare a major from Day One.
72	University of Arkansas uark.edu	81.96	C	B	B+	B-	A	C+	Hard numbers: Arkansas provides one computer for every 8.3 students, and 40 percent of them are available to students 24/7. Solid numbers—but only average for this list.
73	Tulane University www.tulane.edu	81.96	C	C+	A	A	A-	C-	The university site recently received a face-lift: this fall, Web-based registration will be available, and by January, 75 percent of the campus green space will have wireless coverage.
74	Miami University of Ohio muohio.edu	81.93	C+	B+	C+	A	A-	C-	Miami of Ohio offers excellent tech resources and provides some unique Net-related courses, including Economics of the Internet and Social Psychology of Cyberspace.
75	Oregon State University orstl.edu	81.89	C+	B+	A-	B+	C-	C+	The IT department provides 200 free courses in technology and offers live online help. The school's real strength lies in its distance-learning program, which offers courses in 30 fields.
76	Syracuse University www.syr.edu	81.79	C+	C+	B+	A	A	D-	For high-speed Net access, off-campus students must connect to AOL Time Warner's RoadRunner cable service (at reduced prices). As for wireless service...keep dreaming.

For many students—especially those prone to such accidents as deleting homework assignments and research papers from their computers—no university service is as critical as tech support. Top schools provide 24/7 service, as well as on-site support and training.

Major factors: Hours of free technical support; Web-based technical support; on-site technical support; human-taught computer and Internet orientation for students and faculty; availability of trained student employees or volunteers in dormitory housing.

5% OF SCORE Wireless Access

While most major universities and colleges offer high-speed Net access in dorm rooms, only a select few have rolled out wireless networks. Though this category counted the least in our rankings, it's a good indicator of whether a school is an early adopter of new technologies.

Major factors: Availability of wireless data networking to institution buildings and grounds, including on-campus housing and academic buildings.

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Grades

A More than 14 hours of support are available per day. Many top schools pay student advisers to handle weekend or late-night emergencies in dorms and provide free Net instruction.

B Tech support hours are respectable, but the school skimps on all-important weekend hours. Like "A" schools, the institution provides students and faculty with free tech instruction.

C Don't expect live help when your system crashes at 3 A.M. Also, Net and PC training may be unavailable or inaccessible for students and faculty.

D Pray that you can make sense of your computer manual. At best, tech support is available from 9 to 5 on weekdays. Expect to haul your system to the computer lab for repairs.

Grades

A The school is a wireless pioneer, access is already available in many academic buildings, and plans are in place to expand coverage to the rest of the campus this year.

B Some buildings on campus offer wireless access; these usually include the library and computing center.

C Trial-only, folks. The school has just begun to test the wireless waters, and a few lucky students may get to play beta-tester.

D Mired in wires: The school has no plans to develop a wireless network before the fall 2002 semester.

77	Cornell University cornell.edu	81.71	B-	C+	B+	B+	B	C	Cornell's online Cyber Tower (cybertower.cornell.edu) is a collection of faculty-designed classrooms where students can interact with professors online and view streams of lectures.
78	Binghamton University www.binghamton.edu	81.63	B-	C-	A-	C+	A	C+	Each dorm has a live-in tech-support person available catch-as-catch-can anytime of the night or day. Data projectors in classrooms will eventually render blackboards obsolete.
79	Elon University www.elon.edu	81.60	B-	C-	B	A-	A	C+	Elon students looked at the Net habits of 24 families in the North Carolina town. The study's in-depth results are published at (www.elon.edu/pew/onenweek).
80	SUNY at Geneseo www.geneseo.edu	81.57	C	B-	B	B	A	A-	Ninety percent of students bring a PC, residence halls are equipped with PCs, CD-RW drives, laser printers, and scanners for the other 10 percent.
81	University of Oregon* www.uoregon.edu	81.55	B	B	B-	B	B-	B-	This is the only school to score straight B's. While it may not excel in any single category, it's home to the forward-looking Advanced Network Technology Center (antc.uoregon.edu).
82	Santa Clara University scu.edu	81.47	C	B-	B+	B+	A	D	This summer, the school installed a gigabit Net connection. It's been busy upgrading student resource services as well, with online registration and grades available later this year.
83	University of Nebraska at Omaha www.unomaha.edu	81.33	B+	C-	B	A-	A	C+	At press time, the school announced a project to provide 100MB of storage to students—a generous gift that gives students a larger canvas for expressing themselves online.
84	Michigan State University* www.msu.edu	81.32	C+	A	B-	B-	C+	C	This fall, all students entering MSU are required to have a computer with Web access. The requirement is necessary because of heavy use of new online library resources and class forums.
85	Marist College www.marist.edu	81.13	B+	C	B	B-	A	D-	The new \$25 million library features IBM digital technology, which lets students access material stored on the college's mainframe. The school forbids file-sharing services.
86	University of California, Riverside ucr.edu	81.10	C+	B	B-	C-	A-	B	Computer science students are studying ways to cut the amount of electricity used by power-hungry computer networks; as for its own network, UCR provides one port for every student.
87	Hofstra University www.hofstra.edu	80.97	C+	C+	B+	A	A	D-	In addition to a fully computerized astronomy lab, Hofstra opened a computer center with 1,100 laptop ports, along with advanced multimedia classrooms designed for collaboration.
88	Villanova University* www.villanova.edu	80.91	B+	C	B+	A	D+	D-	The My Classroom portal lets undergrads create a personal home page, with links to course materials, class chatrooms and mailing lists, and rosters (which include student photos).
89	Texas A&M University tamu.edu	80.88	C+	D	A	A-	A	D-	The university has been slow to adopt Web-based registration, but it has one of the country's most extensive online scholarship applications (laid.tamu.edu).
90	University of South Dakota usd.edu	80.82	C+	C+	A-	B-	A	D-	USD is the first university to provide all incoming freshmen with Palm handhelds, which are being subsidized by the university and come bundled with reference tools.
91	Baylor University baylor.edu	80.80	C-	B-	B-	A	A	C+	Baylor is developing a network that will link courses, assignments, grades, and other services. By fall 2003, the school plans to provide wireless access to off-campus housing.
92	University of Miami www.miami.edu	80.69	C	C+	C+	A	B+	A+	The University of Miami has one of the best wireless networks in the nation. Its Wireless Cloud system covers the entire campus, including outdoor areas for surfing poolside.
93	University of Notre Dame* nd.edu	80.66	C	A	A-	C-	C-	D-	The central help desk is unavailable on weekends and after 5 P.M. weekdays; when it is open, help is provided only for certain applications. File-sharing programs are banned.
94	University of Kentucky uky.edu	80.61	B-	C	C-	A+	A	C+	The FACTS Center at UK is beyond compare. It provides faculty with tech-based instructional tools and puts Web designers and multimedia programmers at professors' disposal.
95	East Carolina University www.ecu.edu	80.49	B	C-	A-	B-	B	A-	In some classrooms, students can wirelessly view Web-based class material on PDAs; the university is developing a system that will allow students to get their grades using cell phones.
96	Southern Methodist University www.smu.edu	80.41	C+	C+	B-	B+	B+	C	Prospective students can take a virtual tour of the campus or view live Web cam images to see what the grounds look like at different times of year (i.e., sunny, sunny, sunny, and sunny).
97	Valdosta State University valdosta.edu	80.29	B	C+	B+	C+	C	C+	This Georgia university spent \$8 million to update its technology infrastructure. Tech support and student resources should be the next areas to receive funding.
98	University of Illinois, Chicago* uic.edu	80.15	B+	C+	C+	B+	C+	C	UIC is a partner in the Illinois Virtual Campus (www.ivc.illinois.edu), a program designed to introduce students and community residents to the benefits of online learning.
99	Pace, New York City Campus pace.edu	80.08	C+	A-	C-	A-	B+	D+	Nonprofits such as the American Red Cross are the beneficiaries of Pace's technology largesse; they receive services including a T-1 connection to the school's network backbone.
100	Minnesota State U., Mankato mnsu.edu	80.02	C+	C-	B-	B+	A	A	Through a partnership with Nokia, MSU received 200 Net-ready cell phones and a WAP server. It's employing the technology to study the use of mobile phones on campus.

Scores reflect technology resources as of Spring 2001. The school either declined to participate in our survey or failed to meet the survey deadline. In these cases, Y-Life independently gathered data, without Peterson's assistance. Go to wiredcolleges.com for more information. ★ Indicates the highest score in this category.