

8QLYHUVLW\ &RXQFLO RQ 7HDFKLQJ  
5HSRUW DQG 5HFRPPHQGDWLRQ V DRGH \* &RPSHU HQVOLDRQ DW % F  
\$SULO

,QWURGXFWRQ

7KH 8QLYHUVLW\ &RXQGLE\ RYKH FBDFRKYLRQVWZ DFR DFRNHN LQW  
JUDGH FRPSUHVVLQR DW % RYFRPQ & R Q DQVLRDQVQV WQR/RPDKNDW  
EH ZDUUDQWHG DU B PISIOHI [OQLVQ RQHS SDA B I HGXFDWLRQ D  
QRW UHVWULFWHG WR %RVWRQ & B O G H V K H ) U Q X W K D V S R X J H W D  
JUDGHV DQG WKH QXPEHU B G \$ O J U L D G F H V H D W H S & G K D V Q V W W K H C  
DYHUDJH JUDGH RI WKH JUDG B D V R Y Q H J F O D V Y K I H Q Q X P E H U R I S  
JUDGHV LQFUHDVHG IURP LQ WR

WUHQQV FRQWLQXH JUDGH DFRPSDWHVW RQVZS O B E I X H V B Q G H  
HIILDFD\ DV DQ HGXFDWLRQ D V D R R I O D V , L C H D G G R S D R Q W W E H W  
GHSDUWPHQWV DQG H V F K B B O H V D W 7 K & V ) E D X U X H M D V Q G I D L L Y H Q M  
D GHSDUWPHQW ZLWK L Q H O O L W K R B G J U R D G H D G X D W H L D W H Z U L W O K K R  
RWKHU EHQHILWV DVVRFLDWH X I G H Z L W W K L Q L G H S D D O H P V Q W K D Q L V

7KH 8&7 YLHZV WKH FRQWLQX D G H V U D Q G R I K E R S H K U B M G W D J  
% & D V D S U R E O H P J U D G X D D W L \* B Q V R W W R P D V E H D F L O D H W B M K D Q U D L  
DFDGHPLF FKDOOHQJHV DQG H [ S H F W D W L R Q V I R U R X U V W X G  
E \ V L P S O \ U D L V L Q J J U D G H S / H U E X U Y H W D C H L O W W H P O H Q R X D O F K  
FRXUVHV EHFDXWV D W D G H Q V V Q R O B B Q M L Y S H R Y L G X I L G D Q F L Q I  
WKH FKDOOHQJH + R Z H Y M U D E R P S I O F L R Q V E H H W K H O D J U D G L Q  
S H G D J R J \ % R V W R Q & R O O H J H Q H Z H G R R M R D F R Q K D O H Z H W D U N L G  
V W X G H Q W V ± D Q G K R V Z D D V L Q R Q V W K I O B H H [ S H R J U D G G H L Q Q O D W B  
D O D U J H U V \ V W H P L F S U R E O H P B R I O D V H G V W B W W W D F K Q Q J D F W L  
L Q I O D W L R Q Z L W K R X W F R Q R U G H V L O L N H O V D Q Q D W R R S O M R S H V  
Z H R I I H U W K H I R O O R Z L Q J U B M R P F W G S D W L R Q W D V Q L E P H G D N H  
D Z D U H Q H V V R I W K H S U R E O H P D W % & V X Q G D F R J S V R R K W H F G E S

5HFRPPHQGDWLRQV

7R KHOS FRQWURV K I H V B W Q R Q Y D Q G D F R S L C H O D W R Q D W %  
& R O O H J H W K H 8 & 7 P D N Q V W I K G R Z H F R P P H Q G D O L L J R W K D W W K  
U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V L I L P S H S E B Q D V G G J H D V H Q E J X W K H I S U R E O V  
I H H O W K H V H U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V F D Q E H X Q G H U W D N H Q H D V  
W K H P D V W R W D O V R O X W L Y R Q W K H R W K R X S O G R E B B S V Z R I E W I Q J H I  
L V V X H R Q F D P S X V 7 K H V G R W H Q R I Z P B I Q G D W L R Q V \ Z D H V D U H V  
U H F R P P H Q G D W L R Q V S U R Y Q L R X W G X E P D G H P S E W W K B X R F D W K R Q D O  
3 R O L F \ & R P P L W W H H ( 3 & L Q R X U N Q R Z B B I G Y H U W K R R V H U H F R P P  
Q H Y H U H Q D F W H G

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VWHS LV WR SURYLGH GGMVD VRQ IDFXLOHVAWD QBXFK/DLUV  
UHFRRPHQG WKDW DW WKKHHHQGJLRMWHUDDFK SWHRYH/VGHHWKH  
IDFXOW\ ZLWK FRSLHV WR FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH HQUROOPHQW LQ HDFK FRXUVH WDXJKW  
7KH DYHUDJH DQG PHGLDQ JUDGH LQ HDFK FRXUVH  
7KH GLVWULEXWLRQ RG DQ WWHUW V URD GERW W K I S/KHHVQ K I  
DQG WKH SHUFHQWDJHQRQWRV W DIO JUDGGHDEWPHR RUMD  
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IDFXOW\ PHPEHU LV WR QFKG QS DLQWPHUW VRKUD QFKRR  
)RU FRPSDULVRQ WKH RYHUDOO DYHUDJHV RI WKH  
VFKRRO IRU VRPH SURJU SHFOGKHPDLFN<HDDU P  
EH SURYLGHG

2OGHU 8&7 PHPEHUV UHFV DIOI RZKPHQWLRQWZ BV WIR XWLG  
IDFXOW\ FKDLUV DQG GHDQV

7KH \$ 6 (3& UHSRUW UHIHUHQFHG DERYH VXJJHVWV WK  
OLQH WKH QXPEVHU FRXOG HFKSURXRL GDFX OQV DDO W/O WK  
DUH HQWHUHG ELQD S ULREP W W V R H G D S S B Y D O , Q W K L  
PHPEHUV FRXOG LQVW D Q W D E X W H I R Q K R I U H J D F K G F R Q U V H E  
VXEPLVLRQ 7KH 8&7 VXSSBUJHW W K I D W L G M P D E X W D N H  
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,QLWLDWH ZLGH GLVFXVLRQ RI JUDGHV DQG JUDGLQJ  
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JUDGH SRLQW DYHUDJH W W R X G B Q V S H I Z I R Q W H F J H L V H Y I  
JUDGHV RU ERWK 'HSDUWPHQW V I P H L U K V F D H V E R H F K Z  
ODUJHU SHUKDSV ! D Q G L W R D O O K H U F R X W J H W W H G V  
GHSDUWPHQWV WR V X E P L W H D G E V I E X I V W L H S R U D Q R Q Q R U  
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GHSDUWPHQW LQFOXGLQJ S D U W D O W L Q P H V I D Q F X O W \ W K H C  
QHZHU IDFXOW\ SDUW X F X Q B Q O R I Z H J O D F R L P Q H G Q R I L P F V V I  
OLWWOH LGHD RI KRZ WKHLU FROOHDJXHV JUDGHG  
(DFK VFKRRO VKRXOG G M Q W D Q B U P K L S H U K D S W X Q G H U  
RI D Q C F R P P L W W H H R U W K H L U ( 3 & 1 V 7 K H / D Z 6 F K R  
DQG KDV HVWDEOLVKHG G E H U D I O X D R X U E A H Q M Q V I R  
ERWK ODUJHU DQG VPDOOHU FODVVHV  
)DFXOW\ REYLXVO\ Q G H G L W W H I I O R F L Q R L P W \ W R R Z H  
IDFXOW\ PHPEHU GHYIED WKH I G R S D Q R U P H Q W H W K D W  
VKRXOG EH KHOG DFFRXQWDEOH WR GHSDUWPHQW  
UHDVRQV IRU WKH GHYLDWLRQ /LNHZLVH FKDLUV

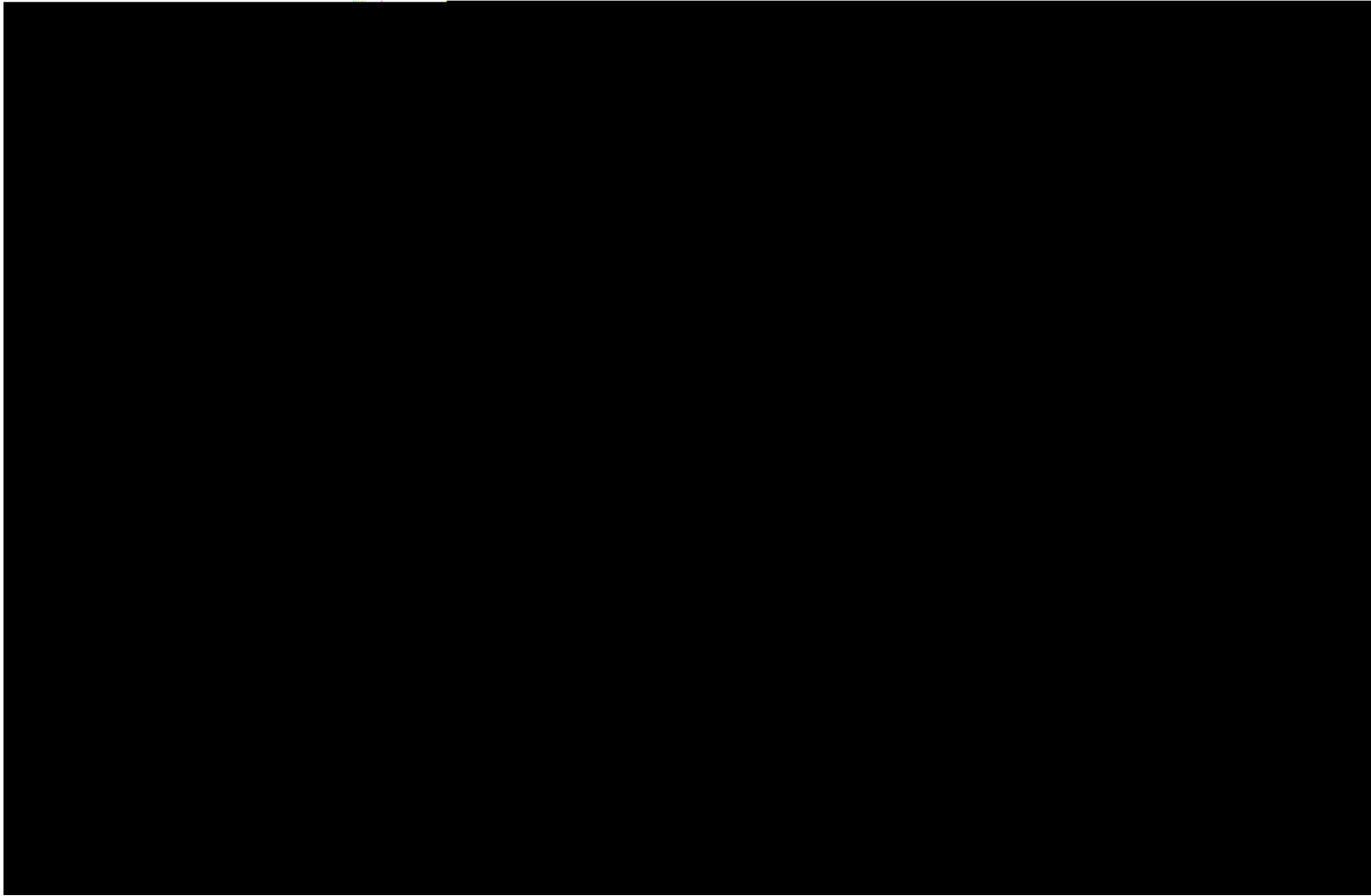
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)DFXOW\ VKRXOG EH DMNHJGDGR UGLOQHWMEFLWLRQXGH  
HYDOXDWLRQV DQ SDHYWHZISWRHFHDQQKDFK \H DU

\$UH 7KHVH 0HDVXUHV 1HFHVVDU\"

LPSO\ WKDW WKH DFDGHPLR IH 1/8H FDFXVLRQKDDY G U S P D Q H G G  
VWXGHQWV KDYH JRWYQH Q F W W H D B Z O Y B E S W W M S H H D L W H W R K D Y H  
JUHDWHU WKDQ WKH ULVHJ H Q W H L Q W H W K D W B S T E R Q W U H U S H Q R W  
VWDWLF EXW GHFOLQL Q Q W H Q W H B W R D P X O D F K B O D H Q Q J L Q J F D  
7KH DUJXPHQW WKDW E D F X R W H O D F R U I R Q F H I Q Q V L V B G L V R Z D  
ORUH ULJRURXV JUDGLQJ L W H V P R K R X W W W G W R W R F R P S X O D W Q I H D U  
VWXGHQWV PD\ UDQN WKHP O T K L H U L R Q W K R X U J K M H W R D G K D S V L U R V  
IRU QRQ WHQXUH G D Q G S D U H W D W L F H W D B R O W K D W B O Z H M G U L W H  
EHWWHU FRXUVH HYDOXDW X B C H P S L U Q R W O V X S / S K G U L W M G J E D F F X O  
VWXGHQWV D Q G K R O G W K H W K R K R J K H U D G L V Q X G H D Q W M R B B X R  
REYLRXV WKDW W W K H W H X G F Q W U P H S E I F W V , I W K H U H Z H U F  
JUDGLQJ H V W D E O L V K H G E \ G H S Y D W X B M Q W Q D Q G L V G F J K V R R D M D F S  
JUDGLQJ ZRXOG QRW EH D Q L V V X H

&ORVLQJ VWDWHPHQW

7R FRQWURO JUDG H H L V Q I L R D W L R O O D O H L W R V I U R R P W I K O G 8 Q I L G X  
PHPEHUV WR GHSDUWPHQ W G O W K K I D 3 L W R Y R / F W R R O I G I F H Q Q H B G  
WKLVSUREOHP 7KH 8&7 W W H R S P I D G B V H W E K H W D R S H Q H D V D I L  
DGGUHVVLQJ WKLVSUREOHP L V V X H D W % & : H K R S H W K D W E \ P D N L Q  
VROLG JUDGH GLVWULEX W Q B Q J G D W Q H O Q G L W H Q F R V L R D Q I R Q J W K  
8 Q L Y H U V L W \ Z L R O Z E K H H D X E S Z H W G R W S L U D O R I J U D G H V D Q G D F K  
GLVWULEXWLRQ



The above graph is a composite of 80 years of undergraduate grading in the US. Schools represented are listed below. This work would not have been possible without the help of many people including registrars, institutional assessment staff, archivists and random people who decided to search on the web and send me data. Thanks to all, Stuart Rojstaczer, [stuart.rosh@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.rosh@gmail.com).

Figure 1

**Schools Represented**

Alabama 1991-2006

Appalachian State 1968-2006

Auburn 1924-2006

Carleton 1974-2004

Central Florida 1976-2006

Central Michigan 1977-2006

Colorado 1989-2006

Cornell 1990-2006

CSU-East Bay 1980-1999

CSU-Fullerton 1976-2005

CSU-San Bernardino 1965-2006

Dartmouth 1989-2006

Duke 1932-1960, 1969-2001

Florida 1989

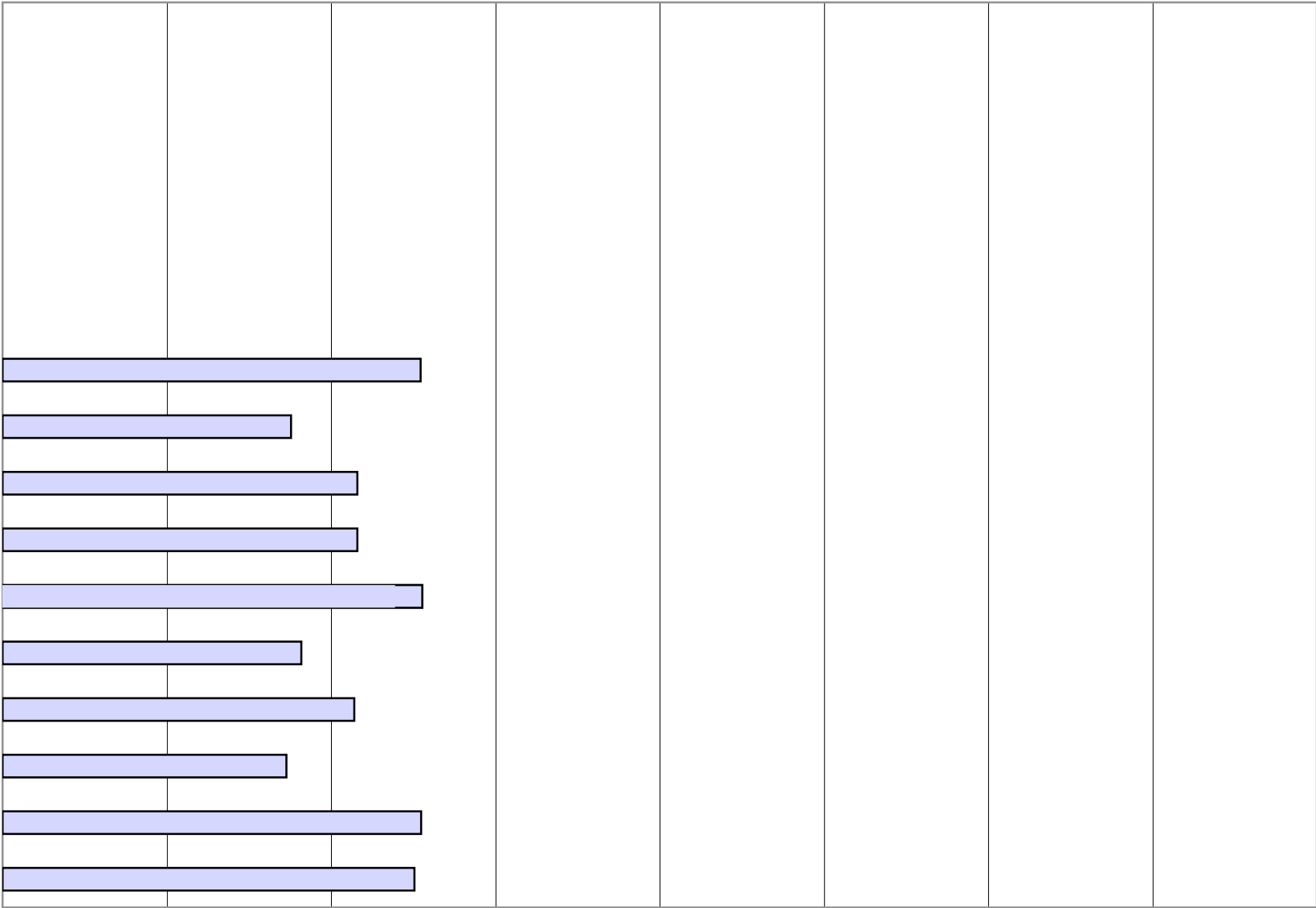


Figure 2