PHYSICS

Rank/School	Average assessment score (5.0=highest)
13. University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	4.2
Yale University (CT)	4.2
15. University of Maryland–College Park	4.1
16. University of California–Los Angeles	4.0
University of California–San Diego	4.0
University of Colorado–Boulder	4.0
University of Pennsylvania	4.0
University of Washington	4.0
University of Wisconsin–Madison	4.0
22. Johns Hopkins University (MD)	3.8
SUNY–Stony Brook	3.8
24. Ohio State University	3.7
Pennsylvania State University–University Park	3.7
Rutgers State University–New Brunswick (NJ)	3.7
27. Rice University (TX)	3.6
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	3.6
29. Brown University (RI)	3.5
Carnegie Mellon University (PA)	3.5
Duke University (NC)	3.5
Michigan State University	3.5
Northwestern University (IL)	3.5
University of California–Irvine	3.5
35. Boston University	3.4
Georgia Institute of Technology	3.4
Indiana University–Bloomington	3.4
New York University	3.4
Purdue University–West Lafayette (IN)	3.4
University of Arizona	3.4
University of California–Davis	3.4
University of Florida	3.4
University of Rochester (NY)	3.4
University of Virginia	3.4

PHYSICS SPECIALTIES

ATOMIC/MOLECULAR/OPTICAL

1. University of Colorado–Boulder
2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
3. Harvard University (MA)
4. Stanford University (CA)
5. California Inst. of Technology
   Univ. of Michigan–Ann Arbor
7. University of California–Berkeley
8. University of Arizona
9. Rice University (TX)
10. Univ. of Maryland–College Park
    University of Rochester (NY)
    University of Texas–Austin

CONDENSED MATTER

1. University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign
2. Cornell University (NY)
3. Harvard University (MA)
4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
5. Stanford University (CA)
6. U. of California–Santa Barbara
7. University of California–Berkeley
8. Princeton University (NJ)
9. University of Chicago
10. California Inst. of Technology

COSMOLOGY/RELATIVITY/GRAVITY

1. California Inst. of Technology
2. University of Chicago
3. Princeton University (NJ)
4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
5. Harvard University (MA)
6. University of California–Berkeley
7. Stanford University (CA)
8. U. of California–Santa Barbara
9. Pennsylvania State University–University Park
10. University of Texas–Austin

ELEMENTARY PARTICLES/ FIELDS/STRING THEORY

1. Princeton University (NJ)
2. California Inst. of Technology
   Stanford University (CA)
4. Harvard University (MA)
5. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
6. University of California–Berkeley
7. University of Chicago
8. U. of California–Santa Barbara
9. Cornell University (NY)
10. Univ. of Michigan–Ann Arbor

NUCLEAR

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Michigan State University
   University of Washington
4. SUNY–Stony Brook
5. California Inst. of Technology
   Yale University (CT)
7. Indiana University–Bloomington
8. Columbia University (NY)
9. University of California–Berkeley
10. University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign

PLASMA

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
   Princeton University (NJ)
3. University of California–Los Angeles
4. Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison
5. Univ. of Maryland–College Park
6. University of California–San Diego
7. University of Texas–Austin
8. Columbia University (NY)
   University of Iowa
10. University of Colorado–Boulder
    Univ. of Michigan–Ann Arbor

QUANTUM

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Harvard University (MA)
3. California Institute of Technology
4. Stanford University (CA)
5. University of California–Berkeley
6. U. of California–Santa Barbara
   Univ. of Michigan–Ann Arbor
8. Princeton University (NJ)
9. Yale University (CT)
10. Cornell University (NY)
    University of Colorado–Boulder
    University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign
    Univ. of Maryland–College Park

METHODOLOGY

Rankings of doctoral programs in the sciences are based on the results of surveys sent to academics in each discipline during the fall of 2005. The questionnaires asked individuals to rate the quality of the program at each institution on a 5-point scale: outstanding (5), strong (4), good (3), adequate (2), or marginal (1).

Individuals who were unfamiliar with a particular school's programs were asked to select "don't know." Scores for each institution were determined by computing a trimmed mean (eliminating the two highest and two lowest responses) of the ratings of all respondents who rated that school; average scores were then sorted in descending order.

Surveys in the biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, the earth sciences, mathematics, and physics were conducted by Synovate. The universe of schools surveyed consisted of schools that awarded at least five doctoral degrees according to the National Science Foundation report "Science and Engineering Doctorate Awards" for the years from 1999 through 2004. In the biological sciences, graduate programs may be offered in a university's medical school as well as its college of arts and sciences. In those cases, the medical school's program was considered separately.

Questionnaires were sent to the department heads and directors of graduate studies at each program in each discipline. Response rates were as follows: for the biological sciences, 21 percent of those surveyed responded; for chemistry, 30 percent; for computer science, 52 percent; for the earth sciences, 40 percent; for mathematics, 40 percent; and for physics, 39 percent.

Specialty rankings are based on nominations by department heads and directors of graduate studies at peer schools from the list of schools surveyed. These respondents ranked up to 10 programs in each area. Those with the most votes appear here.

Expanded rankings can be found at *www.usnews.com*.