

**Board of Trustees**  
**April 14, 2020**  
**President's Report**

**Honors, Recognitions and Activities within the University Community**

1. The 2021 rankings for U.S. News & World Report's "Best Graduate Schools" are out. Professional university programs in business, education, engineering, law, medicine and nursing, including specialties found in each college, receive a rank each year. However, other university programs are ranked every few years.

WHERE THE U RANKS

David Eccles School of Business ranks No. 48

Entrepreneurship moved up five spots at No. 12

Part-time MBA jumps 10 spots to No. 34

Health Care Management ranks No. 43

College of Education ranks No. 63

College of Engineering moves up four spots to No. 51

Biomedical engineering/bioengineering ranks No. 37

Computer engineering comes in at No. 49

Electrical/electronic/communications engineering jumps to No. 58

Nuclear engineering ranks No. 26

Computer Science ranks No. 43

College of Fine Arts ranks No. 124

College of Health

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders (Audiology) leaps 19 spots to No. 29

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders (Speech Language Pathology) lands at No. 32

Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies rises two spots to No. 42

Physical Therapy jumps seven spots to No. 13

The S.J. Quinney College of Law moves to No. 45

Business/Corporate Law ranks No. 30

Constitutional Law places at No. 44

Contracts/Commercial Law ranks No. 39

Criminal Law lands at No. 33

Environmental Law comes in at No. 9

Health Law rises to No. 32

School of Medicine

Medical primary care comes in at No. 20

Medical research comes in at No. 38

Obstetrics and Gynecology ranks No. 24

Physician Assistant ranks No. 4

Public Health comes in at No. 89

College of Mines and Earth Sciences

Earth Sciences comes in at No. 41

College of Nursing

Doctor of nursing practice ranks No. 22

Master's ranks No. 30

Midwifery comes in at No. 9  
 College of Pharmacy jumps three spots to No. 14  
 Public Affairs comes in at No. 79  
 College of Science  
   Algebra/Number Theory/Algebraic Geometry ranks No. 12  
   Biology ranks No. 62  
   Chemistry comes in at No. 32  
   Mathematics ranks No. 34  
   Organic Chemistry ranks No. 18  
   Physics comes in at No. 61  
 Social Sciences & Humanities  
   Department of Economics ranks No. 83  
   Department of History ranks No. 98  
   Department of Psychology ranks No. 75  
     Clinical Psychology ranks No. 56  
   Department of Sociology lands at No. 71  
   Department of English lands at No. 60  
   Department of Political Science comes in at No. 89  
 College of Social Work comes in at No. 44

The rankings are based on a number of factors including expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a university's students, faculty and research.

2. The National Science Foundation has awarded CAREER grants to five University of Utah researchers in various disciplines. The grants, "in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education," support five years of a research project. The new awards join 28 other CAREER grants underway at the U, totaling \$13.7 million in research funding. The new grants are awarded to:
  - Caroline Saouma, Department of Chemistry, "Understanding How Catalyst Modification Impacts Performance Thermodynamic and Kinetic Parameters Pertinent to Catalytic Hydrogenation of Polar Carbonyl Bonds."
  - Sean Lawley, Department of Mathematics, "How Diffusion, Dimension, Geometry, and Redundancy Affect Cellular Dynamics."
  - Jacqueline Chen, Department of Psychology, "Fostering broader participation and thriving in STEM: A comprehensive investigation of faculty mentorship of doctoral students."
  - Roseanne Warren, Department of Mechanical Engineering, "Roll-to-Roll Fabrication of Porous Materials Using Nanobubble Templates."
  - Kerry Kelly, Department of Chemical Engineering, "Community-Engaged, Sensor Network for Identifying Air Pollution Sources."
  
3. As the lethal COVID-19 coronavirus propagates around the globe, we know a sneeze, a cough or simply touching a surface with the virus can spread the infection. What researchers don't know is exactly the role different compositions of mucus, the slimy substance on human tissue, play in the transmission and infection of coronaviruses. Nor do they know why some people known as "super-spreaders" will spread the disease more than others. But University of Utah biomedical engineering

assistant professor Jessica R. Kramer is now researching how mucus plays a part in transferring coronaviruses from person to person.

She has received a one-year, \$200,000 Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant from the National Science Foundation for the research.

4. One of the biggest unknowns about the coronavirus is how changing seasons will affect its spread. Physicists from the University of Utah have received the university's first COVID-19-related grant to tackle the question.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant to Michael Vershinin and Saveez Saffarian of the U's Department of Physics & Astronomy to study the structure of the SARS-COV-2, the coronavirus strain at the center of the pandemic. The physicists will create individual synthetic coronavirus particles without a genome, making the virus incapable of infection or replication. The researchers will test how the structure of the coronavirus withstands changes in humidity and temperature, and under what conditions the virus falls apart.

5. Researchers at U seek COVID-19 answers, Part 1:  
As one of America's leading research universities, the University of Utah is helping us understand, respond to and treat coronavirus. In this podcast, Diane Pataki, associate vice president for research, and Lindsay Keegan, research assistant professor in Internal Medicine and a theoretical biologist, talk about research projects now underway on campus. And researchers: Diane shares information about how you can help our health care providers with personal protective equipment. Recorded on Thursday, March 26, 2020.  
[https://president.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2020/03/Final-Diane-Pataki-Lindsay-Keegan\\_mixdown.mp3](https://president.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2020/03/Final-Diane-Pataki-Lindsay-Keegan_mixdown.mp3)

Researchers at U seek COVID-19 answers, Part 2  
As one of America's leading research universities, the University of Utah is helping us understand, respond to and treat coronavirus. In this podcast, Daniel Leung, associate professor of internal medicine, and Jessica Kramer, assistant professor of bioengineering, talk about the 3i initiative and research projects now underway on campus. Recorded on Friday, March 27, 2020.  
<https://president.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2020/03/Daniel-Leung-Jessica-Kramer-Mixdown-1.mp3>