



Phinerd Value Rankings

Official Methodology & Scoring Framework

Version: 1.0

Ranking Cycle: Annual

Applicable Programs: Any Bachelors and Masters / PhD program Accredited by authority in home country

Purpose & Philosophy

Phinerd Value Rankings are designed to evaluate academic programs based on **student value, real-world outcomes, and institutional transparency**.

Unlike traditional prestige-driven rankings, Phinerd focuses on:

- What students gain from the program
- How honestly programs represent themselves
- How well education aligns with industry and career outcomes

Phinerd rankings are **independent evaluations** and are **not accreditations**. They do not replace national or international regulatory approvals.

Scope of Evaluation

Phinerd ranks **individual academic programs**, not entire universities.

Eligible programs must:

- Be legally authorized to operate in their home country
- Have graduated at least one cohort
- Provide verifiable student and alumni data

Programs are grouped by:

- Discipline (e.g., Engineering, Data Science, Finance)
- Delivery mode (on-campus, online, hybrid)

- Region (for regional comparisons)
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Data Sources

Phinerd uses a **multi-source data model** to ensure reliability and reduce manipulation risk.

Primary Data

- Institution-submitted data (via standardized templates)
- Alumni surveys (anonymous)
- Student satisfaction surveys

Secondary Data

- Public disclosures (websites, brochures)
- Professional network analysis (career progression data)
- Employer feedback surveys (lightweight)

Verification

- Random sampling audits
- Cross-source consistency checks
- Manual review of outliers

Unverifiable or inconsistent data is excluded or penalized.

Ranking Framework: The Phinerd Value Index (PVI)

Each program receives a **composite score out of 100**, derived from four weighted pillars.

Pillar 1: Student Outcomes (35%)

Measures the real-world impact of the program on graduates.

Indicators:

- Employment rate within 6 months of graduation

- Median salary uplift (pre- vs post-program)
- Career mobility (role, level, or industry change)
- Employer perception score

Scores are normalized to account for regional economic differences.

Pillar 2: Learning Experience (25%)

Evaluates the academic and instructional experience.

Indicators:

- Student satisfaction index
- Faculty accessibility and engagement
- Class size and interaction quality
- Teaching methods and applied learning

Survey-based indicators use minimum response thresholds to ensure validity.

Pillar 3: Transparency & Ethics (20%)

Assesses the clarity, honesty, and integrity of program information.

Indicators:

- Fee and cost disclosure clarity
- Accuracy of placement and outcome claims
- Public availability of curriculum details
- Refund, deferral, and withdrawal policies
- Ethical marketing practices

Programs providing incomplete or misleading information receive score deductions.

Pillar 4: Industry Alignment (20%)

Measures how well the program prepares students for current and emerging industry needs.

Indicators:

- Industry-integrated curriculum
 - Internship or live project availability
 - Employer partnerships
 - Skills relevance assessment
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Scoring Methodology

- Individual indicators are standardized using z-score normalization
- No single indicator exceeds 15% of the total score
- Regional adjustment bands are applied where necessary
- Final scores are rounded to two decimal places

Confidence intervals are published alongside scores when data variability is high.

Ranking Tiers & Bands

Programs are placed into performance bands:

- Top Tier (Top 10%)
- High Performing (Next 20%)
- Competitive (Middle 40%)
- Developing (Lower 30%)

Numerical ranks are published only where sample size allows fair comparison.

Data Integrity & Appeals

Institutions may:

- Review submitted data before finalization
- Submit factual corrections within the appeals window

Phinerd does not alter scores based on institutional requests unless verified errors are confirmed.

Use of Rankings & Badges

Institutions may reference:

- “Phinerd Ranked Program”
- “Phinerd Verified Data” (where applicable)

All usage must include the ranking year and category.

Phinerd rankings may not be represented as accreditation, regulatory approval, or degree equivalence.

Review & Updates

The methodology is reviewed annually to reflect:

- Changes in education delivery
- Labor market trends
- Feedback from institutions, students, and employers

All updates are publicly documented.

Disclaimer

Phinerd is an independent education analytics and evaluation platform. Rankings and certifications are not accreditations and do not replace national or international regulatory approvals.

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