

Identification of Peer Institutions with Hanover Interactive Dashboard

The University of Maine System has asked each campus to identify a set of peer institutions using a peer selection tool developed by Hanover Research. The tool employs a series of filter variables to define prospective institutions, and then calculates similarity measures on 38 equally weighted continuous variables. The variables include reported data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS), county-level household income from American Community Survey (ACS), and student loan data from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Below are the proposed selection criteria and candidate institutions for UMaine's peer list.

Filters

1. Category of Institution: degree-granting, primarily baccalaureate or above
2. Land Grant Institution: Land Grant Institution
3. Sea Grant: All
4. Institutions with Extension Units: Yes
5. Degree of Urbanization: any rural, suburb, or town
6. Carnegie Degree Classification (Basic): doctoral universities, higher research activity
7. Carnegie Degree Classification (Size and Setting): any four-year
8. Carnegie Degree Classification (Undergraduate profile): any four-year, excluding inclusive institutions
9. Institution size: 10,000 – 19,999
10. Sector of institution: public, 4-year or above

Peers (similarity score)

1. University of Idaho (.06091)*
2. University of Wyoming (.08048)*
3. University of Rhode Island (.08083)*
4. South Dakota State University (.08166)*
5. University of New Hampshire (.09643)

Relaxing the *Degree of Urbanization* filter to include midsize and small cities offers two additional peers.

6. North Dakota State (.10651)*
7. University of Vermont (.12484)

*Peer institution identified for the New Challenges, New Directions initiative (2009)