

One Formula. One Scandal. \$9 Million.

\$9M

what Columbia paid to settle a lawsuit after its own self-reported U.S. News data didn't hold up.

THE 2026 FORMULA, TOP TO BOTTOM



Grad rate 22% is the single largest line item. **Pell outcomes 10%** measures how well a school serves lower-income students. **Peer assessment (20%)** is administrators rating other schools by reputation, not a measured outcome. The remaining 28% isn't broken out in as much public detail.

WHAT COLUMBIA CLAIMED VS. WHAT WAS TRUE

Student-faculty ratio	6:1 → 11:1
Full-time faculty share	96.5% → 74.1%
U.S. News rank	#2 → #18

Caught by an independent math professor's analysis in 2022, not U.S. News. In 2025, Columbia paid **\$9 million** to settle a suit from roughly 22,000 former undergraduates.

Sources: U.S. News & World Report; Forbes.