Comparator Peer Institutions

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, in an empirical study conducted in 2008, used a hybrid approach including both principal components analysis and qualitative judgment to identify a list of institutions with comparable characteristics (such as mission, size, control, programs mix, etc.) for each of the 35 USG institutions. The choice of comparable institutions was restricted to public higher education institutions across the United States.

The initial list of institutions used for the UWG comparator analysis was drawn from the 2006 IPEDS data for public, four-year institutions (excluding military academies) with Carnegie classification of Masters’ Colleges and Universities (larger programs), resulting in 165 institutions. A cluster analysis of 166 institutions (including UWG) produced 12 cluster groups and the optimal cluster group narrowed the list down to 45 institutions. It was from the list of 45 institutions that UWG used comparative data and qualitative judgment to identify the following EIGHTEEN institutions.

Bridgewater State College
California University of Pennsylvania
Central Washington University
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Jacksonville State University
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Minnesota State University -- Mankato
Northeastern State University
Saginaw Valley State University
Salem State University
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Southeastern Louisiana University
University of Central Missouri
Southeast Missouri State University
SUNY College at Oswego
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Wisconsin -- Whitewater
Aspirational Peers

As part of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia’s strategic plan process, each institution was asked to submit a list of other institutions they “aspire” to be like based on some defined set of criteria (such as mission, institutional size, program mix, retention rates, graduation rates, etc). The University of West Georgia (UWG) is committed to attaining “educational excellence in a personal environment through an intellectually stimulating and supportive community for its students, faculty and staff.” With the goal of becoming a destination institution, UWG has identified the following TEN aspirational peer institutions across the nation, based on a number of characteristics that are closely aligned with its 2010-2014 Strategic Plan initiatives.

Appalachian State University
California State University -- Chico
Eastern Illinois University
James Madison University
Montclair State University
Murray State University
University of Northern Iowa
University of North Carolina -- Wilmington
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Western Kentucky University