

External Rankings and Comparisons

The National Research Council (NRC) ranked oceanography programs in 1995 and gave a single ranking of 9th in the country to the combination of two UMD programs: AOSC and the Marine Environmental Estuarine Studies (MEES) program. In 2008 the Chronicle of Higher Education released a reputational ranking of atmospheric science departments which placed AOSC 4th in the country. The most recent comprehensive ranking is provided by the NRC report released in October 2010, based on extensive data collected in 2005. This NRC report combined, into a single category, departments of meteorology, atmospheric science, and oceanography. Much of the comparisons below are based on examination of the data from the 50 AOS-NRC departments.

The NRC provided two summary measures based on a regression of important quantitative measures (R-Rank) and reputational surveys (S-Rank). For each they provided 95% and 5% limits. The average of the rank associated with the limits for ranked 20th or above is presented in Fig. 1. Based on these overall measures, AOSC seems to be placed comfortably in the middle of the top ten programs in meteorology, atmospheric science and oceanography. One might also ask which programs are demonstratively higher ranked such that their 5%-95% ranges do not overlap, which have ranges that do overlap, and which are demonstrably lower ranked. For the S-Rank, none are ranked higher, 25 overlap, and 24 are ranked lower.

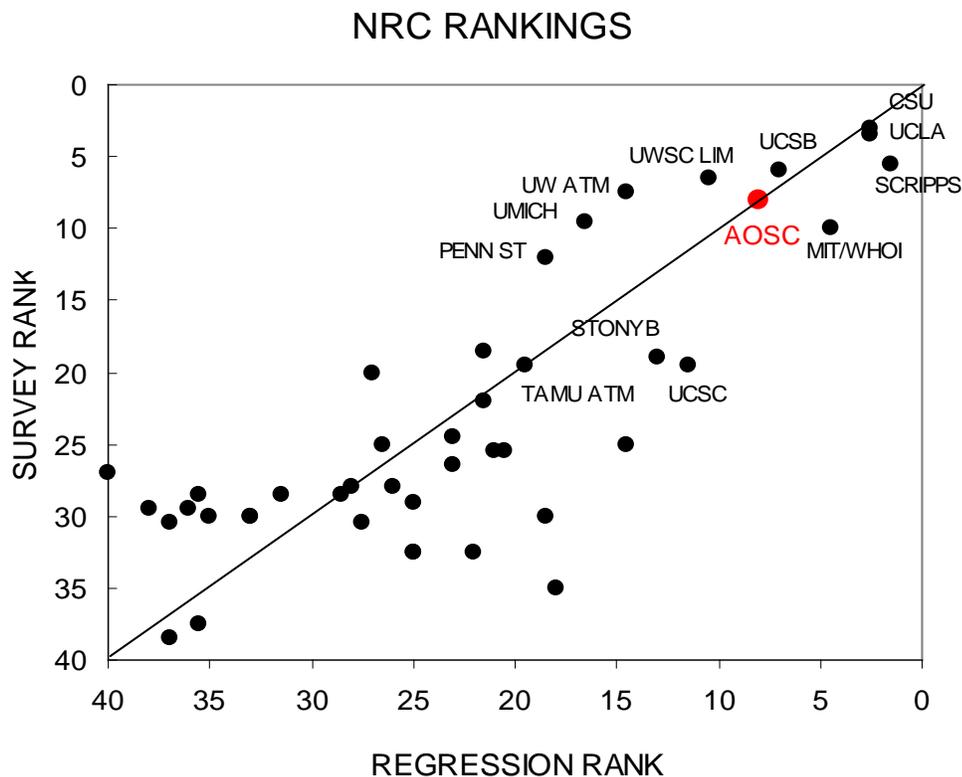


Figure 1: Scatter diagram of average of 95% and 5% limits of Regression Rank and Survey Rank from the 2010 NRC ranking of 50 graduate programs in atmospheric and oceanic science (top 13 labeled). AOSC is marked in red.

From: [A Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States](#) published by The National Academies Press (2010)

A Data-Based Assessment of
RESEARCH-DOCTORATE PROGRAMS
in the United States

Now Available: Excel Data Table (revised 4/29/2011)

See [Summary of Changes](#) in right menu for more information.

