

Quinnipiac earns historic ranking, rising 40 spots on WSJ's list

By AVA HIGHLAND
News Editor

The Wall Street Journal ranked Quinnipiac University No. 51 in its 2026 Best Colleges in America list. This is the highest ranking the university has been awarded and is significantly higher than the previous year's No. 91 ranking.

Quinnipiac is the second highest ranked Connecticut school, after No. 3 Yale University. Aside from Yale and Quinnipiac, only two other Connecticut universities — No. 81 Fairfield University and No. 88 University of Connecticut — made it into the top 100.

"It was incredibly exciting and affirming to see Quinnipiac climb 40 spots to No. 51 in the WSJ/College Pulse rankings," Provost Debra Liebowitz wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. "This significant jump demonstrates national recognition for the university's commitment to student success, real-world outcomes, and top-notch learning environments. It's especially meaningful given that Quinnipiac now ranks second among Connecticut institutions — just behind Yale."

In collaboration with their research partners College Pulse and Statista, the WSJ ranks the 584 eligible universities. The schools are given an overall score and rated based on student outcomes, diversity and survey results.

"The components and weights of the various metrics used in the rankings vary across rankings and may change over time" Liebowitz wrote. "Our philosophy is not to invest for the sake of rankings but rather to prioritize investments in student success."

This year Quinnipiac received an overall score of 80.2, leaving the university tied with No. 52, California State University, Northridge. For perspective, Quinnipiac's score for the previous year was 77.

Both the student outcomes and survey results are broken down into subcategories. Quinnipiac's scores improved in almost every category, with the exception of salary impact score which decreased from 97 to 81.

The most significant increase was in diversity which increased from 64 to 79.

Liebowitz found several factors that contributed to the overall increase in ranking — improvement rate in graduation

rate impact, value added to

#51



ILLUSTRATION BY TYLER MIGNAULT

graduates' salaries and return on investment as well as stronger scores spanning learning environment metrics and recognition of the university's efforts to foster inclusion

In addition to the several categories in the methodology, part of the ranking reflects current and former students as well.

"It's important to note that 20% of this ranking is based on direct feedback from students and alumni," Liebowitz wrote. "That makes it especially meaningful—it reflects not just institutional performance, but lived experience. The WSJ methodology prioritizes real-world impact, and Quinnipiac's performance shows that we're delivering on our promise to prepare graduates for meaningful careers and lives."

Quinnipiac's ranking benefits outside perspective of the university as well.

"This ranking sends a powerful message to prospective students and families: Quinnipiac delivers strong return on investment: a high-quality education with excellent career outcomes and a supportive and relevant learning environment," Liebowitz wrote. "For employers and partners, the WSJ ranking reinforces the quality and preparedness of QU graduates and affirms our visibility and reputation as a national leader in student-centered, career-ready education."

Quinnipiac's new common hour rules cause confusion amongst student organizations but offers a variety of programs

By CHLOE GRANT
Staff Writer

This school year, Quinnipiac University launched common hour. This programming is devoted to allowing students time out of their busy schedules to pause and focus on engagement and campus participation.

Common hour takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesdays are set aside for faculty and staff-led programs, whereas Thursdays allow students the freedom to lead their own programming.

However, recent conflict amongst student organizations and clubs suggest that these new rules have not been made clear from the beginning, as many have held their meetings during the common hour on Tuesdays, unaware that that was not permitted.

"Tuesdays are reserved for university-wide and office/department-sponsored programs," Office of Campus Life wrote in the monthly student organizations newsletter. "Student organizations are not able to hold meetings/events during the Tuesday common hour. We apologize for any disruption this has caused in your event planning; the policy was shared after organization training had been completed."

With growing confusion and frustration amongst students, they are encouraged to share any thoughts in regard to common hour with the Student Government Association.

According to Chief Experience Officer, Tom Ellet, "I think it's about connection. I think it's about engagement. I think it's about skill or



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Students gather on the quad during Common Hour for the Jordan Porco Foundation Fresh Check Day to raise awareness for mental health.

learning development. Those would be the big three that I would suggest," Ellet says. "There's four or five theme weeks during common hours. One was through the engagement fair... How do we engage people? Career Week is coming up. We will have Health Week next week. So the Health Fair will go on during common hour ... I think those are another element to the common hour that I don't think would have evolved without the common hour."

Continuing to elaborate on the activities and programming to go on during common hour, Ellet ensures that with evaluation, assessment and reflection, Quinnipiac hopes to make common hour a part of its culture and something to be

enjoyed by students, faculty and staff.

"I don't want to lead and participate in anything that's causing students strife, because what does that do? So I'm saying, let's reflect. Let's see what's working. Let's see what's not working," Ellet said.

According to The Chronicle, the school proposed a new 'common time' to give a mid-day break to students in February 2025, after 28% of students said it's difficult for students who commute or live off campus to attend late night club meetings.

With that, following the end of each week, each session and program submits an evaluation detailing how many students

showed up and if the event was worthwhile. With the recent changes made to common hour, Ellet explains how because programming has only been running for the past five weeks, it's difficult to determine yet what is and isn't working. However at the end of the fall semester, students will receive a "summative evaluation" where they can share their thoughts on the events they attended.

Students receive information on Tuesday common hour events every Sunday night via email. More information can also be found on TV screens across campus that include information about the events happening each week. Students currently enrolled in a first-year seminar class should receive an announcement every week from their professor sharing the events happening during the week.

Along with attending common hour events for educational purposes Ellet suggests attending for the social aspect as well.

"All I can say as a closing is, this was something that your predecessors have asked for because they felt there was a void, ..." Ellet explains. "I think too often, young people think they have found their friend group in their freshman year, and sometimes, unfortunately, the friend group breaks up, and then in their junior year, (they're) starting all over again. If you put yourself out there constantly, you can still hold on to the friends you like, but you can actually have more."

CANVAS from cover

The main difference between the systems is the new terminology and layout of Canvas, with the buttons being in different locations than Blackboard.

"The switch to Canvas impacted my summer, and it took quite a lot of time... to learn about Canvas and how Canvas is structured and how to create the modules and how to

even transfer your course content from Blackboard over to Canvas," Place said. "So it was a little bit more complex than I thought."

While professors have welcomed the switch, some students have found it frustrating.

Wilson Chen, second-year computer science major, believes that Canvas is "just another Blackboard copy."

"Truth be told, I kind of liked Blackboard better. It's not that Canvas isn't good. It's just

that I was used to everything being on Blackboard and being able to go to one spot and seeing all of my grades, and now I can't do that anymore because it's split between two different websites," Patrick Hawkins, third-year elementary education major said.

With the inconsistencies between courses being on Blackboard and Canvas, students are confused by the university's decision. "It feels kind of rushed, and like considering that a bunch

of classes that were supposed to be migrated to Canvas this year haven't, I feel like it's kind of a sloppy move on the university's part," Chen said.

Vieth is also one of the faculty that worked on comparing the systems. "The soft rollout makes sense, but that leaves summer 2026 for all faculty to have to move over to Canvas," he said. "I think it is wrong that first-year students have to learn both systems, just for Blackboard to go away."