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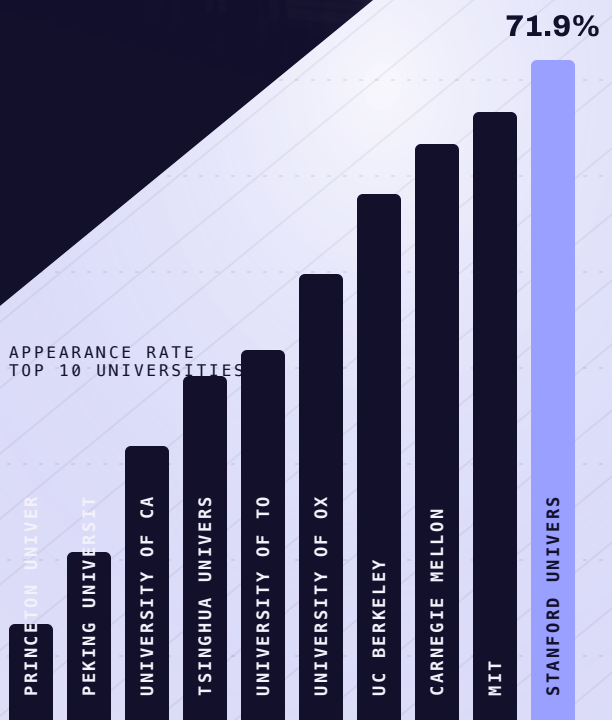
AI HIGHER EDUCATION INDEX

Which universities AI names for AI
288 AI answers · October 26 and 27, 2026

Measured :
October 26 and 27, 2026
24 questions × 3 runs · 288 AI answers

Engines :
ChatGPT · Claude · Gemini · Perplexity
plus 7 Google AI Overviews

Prepared by :
5W
5wpr.com



AT A GLANCE

Stanford and MIT lead. The two are within the margin of error.

Stanford University was the university that ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Perplexity named most often. Stanford University appeared in 207 of 288 answers (71.9%) measured October 26 and 27, 2026. MIT came next at 191 of 288 (66.3%). The two confidence intervals overlap, so the data cannot confirm that Stanford University is ahead. Stanford University was named first more often than any other university, in 72 of 288 answers. Google AI Overviews appeared on 7 of 72 searches (9.7%).

> Version 2. This version replaces the first version of this study, first published July 20, 2026. It uses measured counts, so the two versions are not comparable.

288
AI answers analyzed across ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Perplexity

71.9%
of answers named Stanford University, the most-named (207 of 288)

10
tracked universities named at least once (of 10)

9.7%
of Google searches showed an AI Overview (7 of 72)

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KEY FINDINGS

01 What the data shows

MOST NAMED

207/288 (71.9%)

Stanford University appeared in 207 of 288 four-engine answers (CI 66.4–76.8%). MIT appeared in 191 of 288 (66.3%, CI 60.7–71.5%). The intervals overlap, so the two cannot be separated.

NAMED FIRST

72/288 (25.0%)

Stanford University was the first university named in 72 of 288 answers, more than any other tracked university. Average first position: 2.

OWN-SITE CITATIONS

31/288 (10.8%)

Stanford University's own domains were cited in 31 of 288 grounded answers, more than any other tracked university. Carnegie Mellon University followed at 29 of 288. 2 of 10 tracked universities had 0 of 288.

AIO TRIGGER

7/72 (9.7%)

Google AI Overviews appeared on 7 of 72 searches (CI 4.8–18.7%). On the other 65, no overview was shown.

AIO LEADER

3/7 (42.9%)

MIT and Carnegie Mellon University were tied as the universities named most often in AI Overviews, each at 3 of 7. In the four-engine set, MIT was named in 191 of 288 answers (66.3%).

TOP DOMAIN

44/288 (15.3%)

en.wikipedia.org was cited in 44 of 288 grounded four-engine answers, with 93 of 2,597 citations (3.6%). edurank.org came second with 74 citations in 50 answers (17.4%).

NO TRACKED NAME

0/12 (0%)

For 'Which universities offer affordable master's degrees in AI?', none of the tracked universities was named in any of 12 four-engine answers.

THE LEADERBOARD

02 Which universities AI engines name

Appearance rate across 288 four-engine answers. The bar is the 95% confidence interval; overlapping bars cannot be told apart at this sample size.

	BRAND	RATE	NAMED IN
1	Stanford University	71.9%	207/288
2	MIT	66.3%	191/288
3	Carnegie Mellon University	62.8%	181/288
4	UC Berkeley	57.3%	165/288
5	University of Oxford	48.6%	140/288
6	University of Toronto	40.3%	116/288
7	Tsinghua University	37.5%	108/288
8	University of Cambridge	29.9%	86/288
9	Peking University	18.4%	53/288
10	Princeton University	10.4%	30/288

02 THE LEADERBOARD

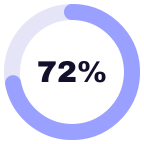
The full list

Own-domain citation is the share of 288 grounded answers that cited the entity's own domains (subdomains included). Citation share is of all 2,597 citations.

#	UNIVERSITY	NAMED IN	APPEARANCE RATE	95% INTERVAL	FIRST MENTION	OWN-DOMAIN CITATION	CITATION SHARE
1	**Stanford University**	207/288	**71.9%**	66.4–76.8%	2	10.8% (31/288)	1.3%
2	**MIT**	191/288	**66.3%**	60.7–71.5%	2.3	7.6% (22/288)	1.1%
3	**Carnegie Mellon University**	181/288	**62.8%**	57.1–68.2%	2.5	10.1% (29/288)	1.2%
4	**UC Berkeley**	165/288	**57.3%**	51.5–62.9%	3.6	3.1% (9/288)	0.3%
5	**University of Oxford**	140/288	**48.6%**	42.9–54.4%	4.6	4.5% (13/288)	0.5%
6	**University of Toronto**	116/288	**40.3%**	34.8–46%	4.6	2.4% (7/288)	0.3%
7	**Tsinghua University**	108/288	**37.5%**	32.1–43.2%	4.3	1.4% (4/288)	0.2%
8	**University of Cambridge**	86/288	**29.9%**	24.9–35.4%	5	0% (0/288)	0%
9	**Peking University**	53/288	**18.4%**	14.4–23.3%	4.8	3.1% (9/288)	0.3%
10	**Princeton University**	30/288	**10.4%**	7.4–14.5%	5.3	0% (0/288)	0%

PROFILES

03 The top eight, side by side

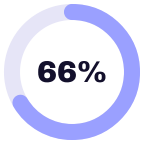


RANK 1

Stanford University

207/288 answers · 95% CI 66.4–76.8%

2	10.8%	1.3%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (31/288)	citation share

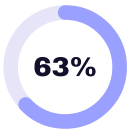


RANK 2

MIT

191/288 answers · 95% CI 60.7–71.5%

2.3	7.6%	1.1%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (22/288)	citation share

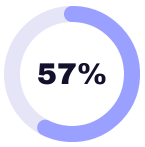


RANK 3

Carnegie Mellon University

181/288 answers · 95% CI 57.1–68.2%

2.5	10.1%	1.2%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (29/288)	citation share

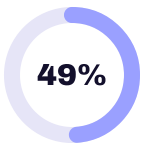


RANK 4

UC Berkeley

165/288 answers · 95% CI 51.5–62.9%

3.6	3.1%	0.3%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (9/288)	citation share



RANK 5

University of Oxford

140/288 answers · 95% CI 42.9–54.4%

4.6	4.5%	0.5%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (13/288)	citation share



RANK 6

University of Toronto

116/288 answers · 95% CI 34.8–46%

4.6	2.4%	0.3%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (7/288)	citation share



RANK 7

Tsinghua University

108/288 answers · 95% CI 32.1–43.2%

4.3	1.4%	0.2%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (4/288)	citation share



RANK 8

University of Cambridge

86/288 answers · 95% CI 24.9–35.4%

5	0%	0%
first-mention position	owned-domain citation (0/288)	citation share

HOW THE ENGINES DIFFER

04 Same questions, different answers

The four engines named the leading names at similar rates.

ChatGPT

72 ASKED | 72 RETURNED | 72 GROUNDED

Stanford University	**73.6%**
MIT	**69.4%**
Carnegie Mellon University	**65.3%**
UC Berkeley	**58.3%**
University of Toronto	**47.2%**
University of Oxford	**43.1%**

Claude

72 ASKED | 72 RETURNED | 72 GROUNDED

Stanford University	**77.8%**
MIT	**65.3%**
Carnegie Mellon University	**63.9%**
UC Berkeley	**59.7%**
Tsinghua University	**48.6%**
University of Oxford	**47.2%**

Gemini

72 ASKED | 72 RETURNED | 72 GROUNDED

Stanford University	**69.4%**
MIT	**68.1%**
Carnegie Mellon University	**63.9%**
UC Berkeley	**58.3%**
University of Oxford	**55.6%**
Tsinghua University	**41.7%**

Perplexity

72 ASKED | 72 RETURNED | 72 GROUNDED

Stanford University	**66.7%**
MIT	**62.5%**
Carnegie Mellon University	**58.3%**
UC Berkeley	**52.8%**
University of Oxford	**48.6%**
University of Toronto	**48.6%**

05

GOOGLE AI OVERVIEWS

The fifth engine

Google AI Overviews were captured through 72 U.S. desktop searches and scored only where an overview appeared, so five-engine figures use 288 + 7 = 295 answers.



TRIGGER RATE

Google AI Overviews appeared on 7 of 72 searches (9.7%, CI 4.8–18.7%). The other 65 searches showed no overview. Within the 7 overviews, MIT was named in 3 (42.9%), Carnegie Mellon University was named in 3 (42.9%), UC Berkeley was named in 3 (42.9%), Stanford University was named in 2 (28.6%). youtube.com was the most-cited source, with 7 citations and an appearance in 3 of 7 overviews.

FIVE-ENGINE RANK (FOUR-ENGINE RANK IN ARROWS)

1	Stanford University	70.8%	=
2	MIT	65.8%	=
3	Carnegie Mellon University	62.4%	=
4	UC Berkeley	56.9%	=
5	University of Oxford	48.1%	=
6	University of Toronto	39.7%	=
7	Tsinghua University	37.3%	=
8	University of Cambridge	29.2%	=
9	Peking University	18.3%	=
10	Princeton University	10.5%	=

06

LEADERS BY QUESTION

Who each question surfaces first

Six questions from the set. Each tile uses that question's own four-engine answers as the denominator.

Q01 · 12 ANSWERS

MIT 100%

TIED WITH CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, UC BERKELEY

Carnegie Mellon University	100%
UC Berkeley	100%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 3 searches

Q02 · 12 ANSWERS

Stanford University 100%

TIED WITH MIT, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

MIT	100%
Carnegie Mellon University	100%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 3 searches

Q03 · 12 ANSWERS

Stanford University 100%

TIED WITH MIT, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

MIT	100%
Carnegie Mellon University	100%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 3 searches

Q04 · 12 ANSWERS

Stanford University 100%

TIED WITH CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Carnegie Mellon University	100%
MIT	75%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 3 searches

Q05 · 12 ANSWERS

Stanford University 100%

TIED WITH MIT, UC BERKELEY

MIT	100%
UC Berkeley	100%

AI Overview shown on 1 of 3 searches

Q06 · 12 ANSWERS

Stanford University 100%

TIED WITH UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Oxford	100%
University of Toronto	100%

AI Overview shown on 0 of 3 searches

07

WHO THE ENGINES CITE

Most-cited domains

The four engines produced 2,597 citations in total. en.wikipedia.org was cited most often, with 93 citations (3.6%) across 44 answers. Next came edurank.org (74), academicjobs.com (55), gabble.ai (53), usnews.com (53), mastersinai.org (42).

FOUR AI ENGINES · SHARE OF 288 GROUNDED ANSWERS

gabble.ai	**18.4%**
edurank.org	**17.4%**
en.wikipedia.org	**15.3%**
topuniversities.com	**14.2%**
mastersinai.org	**13.5%**
usnews.com	**13.2%**
universityhqusa.com	**12.8%**
academicjobs.com	**12.2%**
aidegreeprograms.org	**9.4%**
programs.com	**8.3%**

GOOGLE AI OVERVIEWS · SHARE OF 7 OVERVIEWS

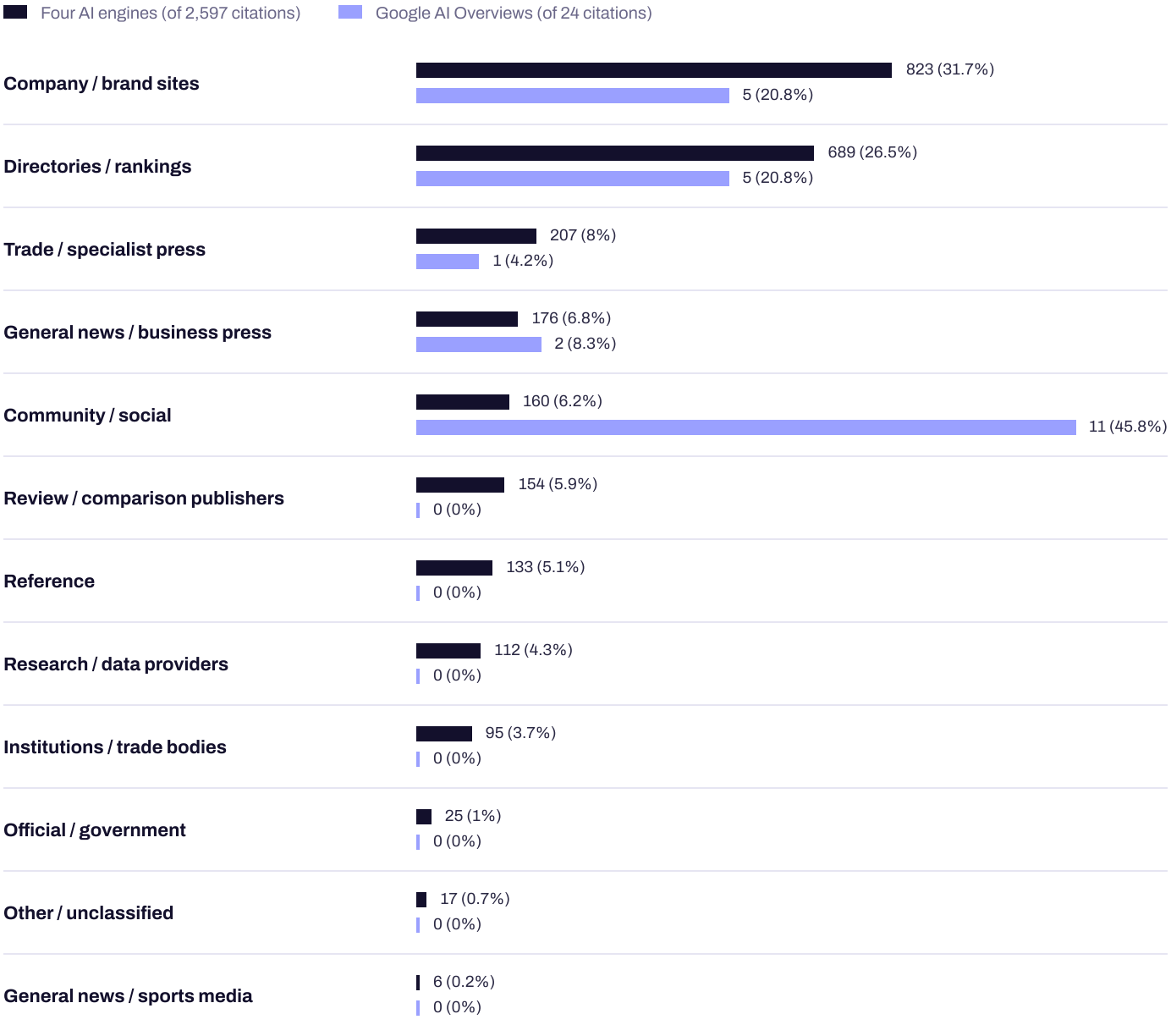
youtube.com	**42.9%**
instagram.com	**28.6%**
csrankings.org	**14.3%**
academicjobs.com	**14.3%**
aliaeducation.com	**14.3%**
cvn.columbia.edu	**14.3%**
edexlive.com	**14.3%**
facebook.com	**14.3%**
idnfinancials.com	**14.3%**
linkedin.com	**14.3%**

07

WHO THE ENGINES CITE

Citation share by source type

Share of all citations by the type of site cited. Source types were reclassified on October 29, 2026. 'Company / brand sites' now covers only the official sites of companies, brands and schools; publishers, directories, trade bodies and other sites have their own types, and sites that could not be placed are 'Other / unclassified'.



QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

08 What AI answers

Q1 Which university do AI engines name most often?

Stanford University, named in 207 of 288 four-engine answers (71.9%, CI 66.4–76.8%). MIT was second at 191 of 288 (66.3%). The intervals overlap, so the two cannot be separated statistically.

Q2 Which university is named first most often?

Stanford University was the first university named in 72 of 288 answers, with an average first position of 2.

Q3 How often do Google AI Overviews appear for these questions?

An overview appeared on 7 of 72 searches (9.7%, CI 4.8–18.7%). Within those 7 overviews, MIT was named most often, in 3 (42.9%).

Q4 Which sources do the engines cite?

Across 2,597 four-engine citations, en.wikipedia.org was cited most (93 citations, in 44 of 288 grounded answers), followed by edurank.org (74 citations).

Q5 Do the four engines agree?

Only in part. Stanford University was named on every engine, from 66.7% on Perplexity to 77.8% on Claude. The widest gap among tracked names was Peking University, from 6.9% on ChatGPT to 30.6% on Gemini.

METHODOLOGY

09 How this study was measured

24	×	3	×	4	=	288	+	72
questions		runs each		AI engines		answers		Google searches · 7 AI Overviews

24 questions, each asked 3 times on each engine, measured October 26 and 27, 2026. Market: United States, English. The destination site was not mentioned to any engine. Gemini answers were produced by gemini-3.6-flash; every Gemini answer in this report used that one model. All 72 Gemini answers had search sources. Entities count as named when they appear in the answer text; products and name variants roll up to the tracked name, and people are matched with middle names or initials, nicknames, possessives and suffixes.

ENGINE	MODEL IDS CALLED	ASKED	RETURNED	GROUNDED
ChatGPT	gpt-5-mini	72	72	72
Claude	claude-sonnet-5-5	72	72	72
Gemini	gemini-3.6-flash	72	72	72
Perplexity	sonar-pro	72	72	72
Google AI Overviews	DataForSEO Google SERP (live, advanced)	72	7 shown	7

Own-domain citations count a domain plus all its subdomains, with the same rule in every table.

METRIC DEFINITIONS

- Appearance rate: answers naming the entity ÷ answers returned, with Wilson 95% intervals.
- First mention: average order in which the entity first appears (1 = first).
- Own-domain citation: grounded answers citing the entity's domains ÷ grounded answers.
- Citation share: citations to the entity's domains ÷ all citations.

LIMITATIONS

- Measured over two days, October 26 and 27, 2026. Each engine answered 24 questions 3 times. Answers came from each engine's API (model IDs above); the consumer apps can answer differently.
- Only 10 tracked universities were scored. Other names that appeared often were not scored, including Georgia Institute of Technology (74), ETH Zurich (67), University of Washington (63), Harvard University (58).
- AI Overview figures are based on only 7 overviews, so estimates for individual universities are less precise than the four-engine figures.
- Reports describe what the engines said, attributed to the engines. They make no judgement about the people or organizations named and are not legal or financial advice.
- Intervals treat each answer as independent, so they understate uncertainty for the 24 repeated questions.

APPENDIX

A The 24 questions

Questions marked "Core question" are the original study questions, asked word for word. The others are added neutral questions.

#	QUESTION	GROUP	SOURCE
01	What are the best universities in the world for artificial intelligence?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
02	Which universities have the strongest AI research labs?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
03	What are the best undergraduate programs for studying AI?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
04	What are the best master's programs in machine learning?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
05	Which universities produce the most AI startup founders?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
06	Where did the founders of OpenAI, Anthropic and Google DeepMind go to university?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
07	Which universities partner with AI companies and cloud providers?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
08	What are the top AI universities outside the United States?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
09	Which universities have a dedicated AI school or college?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
10	Which universities lead AI research in healthcare?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
11	What are the best PhD programs for natural language processing?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
12	Which universities lead AI research in China?	AI Universities	CORE QUESTION
13	Which universities lead computer vision research?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
14	Which universities are strongest in robotics?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
15	Which universities offer online degrees in AI?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
16	Which universities lead research on AI ethics and policy?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
17	Which universities publish the most-cited AI research?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
18	What are the best universities in Europe for AI?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
19	What are the best universities in Canada for AI?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
20	Which universities receive the most AI research funding?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
21	Which universities lead reinforcement learning research?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
22	Which universities offer affordable master's degrees in AI?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
23	Which universities offer AI programs for students outside computer science?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION
24	Which universities' graduates are hired most by AI companies?	AI Universities	ADDED QUESTION

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AI Higher Education Index 2026

Measured October 26 and 27, 2026 across ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity and Google AI Overviews.

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