

What's Really Important?

The most recent *US News & World Report* [places USM](#) at the bottom of the national academic community -- again. Yet, when, in USM's 100 year history of sports and academics, has there been a spontaneous outpouring from alumni and sports fans insisting on raising USM from its Tier IV (bottom) academic status?

However, the USM community shouts it's [displeasure](#) when a USM football team losses the first two games of the season. (Keep in mind, USM is in a mediocre conference and plays, for the most part, mediocre teams.) (See, websites like [Big Gold Nation](#) and [Fire EllisJohnson.com](#), etc) Of grave concern to our vocal community members is the prospect that USM Golden Eagles—Fill-It-To-The-Top—football team may lose the next two or three games, too.

Outrage abounds, replete with calls for the coaches' heads, the AD's job, etc. What's going on in Hattiesburg, Mississippi? No such outrage to improve the worst education system in the country? Or to improve the Tier IV, bottom of the barrel, rank of USM?

Without your outrage against the Tier IV academic rank of USM and demand to improve its academic standing, you can bet that USM administrators and IHL members will not take any substantive actions to improve the education of your children. They will continue to increase tuition to support inflated administrative salaries and unneeded luxuries like airplanes.

Until you demand a better university -- and not just a better football team -- nothing is going to change. What is really important to you?