

The Best College in Every State

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<http://time.com/money/4398295/best-college-in-every-state/>

MONEY's annual Best Colleges rankings and search tools are designed to help families find a great college at a great price. For many college-bound students, that means a campus within a few hours of home. In fact, eight in 10 college freshman attend a school that's less than 500 miles from home, according to UCLA's annual survey of college freshman. That's why we've pulled together this list of the highest-ranked college in each state. If you're wondering why you'll see just 49 schools, it's because two states—Alaska and New Mexico—don't have any colleges that made this year's rankings (but D.C. does have one).

State	University	Overall rank	Average Price (US\$)		Average Student debt	Early career earnings	Yearly US\$ Average 55% of students are granted with aids
			Without aid	With aid			
Average		120	39 004	20 324	19 244	51 863	
Alabama	Auburn University	206	30 300	19 100	22 250	49 000	With an undergraduate population of about 21,700, Auburn isn't among the largest colleges in our rankings (or even in its state), but a long-time annual tradition known as Hey Day makes it feel even smaller. Students, faculty, and staff all wear nametags and are encouraged to say "hey" to anyone they see on campus
Alaska	No colleges made 2016's rankings						
Arizona	http://jumelage.org/francais/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/US-colleges.pdf	154	25 600	15 500	20 375	48 900	Popular majors at Arizona State include business, liberal arts, engineering, and the sciences, but the university is also a leader in testing new models for higher education, including blending traditionally separate academic disciplines
Arkansas	University of Arkansas	469	24 000	18 700	21 524	47 400	Students at the University of Arkansas can choose from 78 different majors, and the college has especially strong options for those interested in agriculture, architecture, and engineering. The most notable campus landmark is the Senior Walk—three miles of sidewalks engraved with the name of every graduate since the school was founded in the 1870s
California	University of California-Berkeley	5	35 700	25 300	14 667	60 300	UC-Berkeley, or Cal for short, ranks the highest of eight University of California system schools that made MONEY's rankings. In fact, Cal is one of the most selective public colleges in country. More than 90% of freshmen graduate within six years, a rate well above even other elite public universities
Colorado	Colorado School of Mines	139	32 700	23 800	26 025	65 600	Colorado School of Mines is a small public university focused on engineering and applied sciences. Recent graduates do extremely well in the workforce, earning an average salary that tops peers from other schools by roughly 25%
Connecticut	Yale University	12	66 600	22 000	12 000	58 800	Like its fellow high-ranking Ivy League peers, Princeton and Harvard, Yale is highly selective. But for students who are admitted, the college promises a very generous financial aid package and courses taught by some of the world's most extraordinary academics
Delaware	University of Delaware	54	27 300	19 300	24 127	50 700	The University of Delaware helped invent the modern system of collegiate study abroad, when a UD professor created a year-long program in France in 1923. Today, about 40% of Blue Hens take advantage of that opportunity, a high percentage for research universities
Florida	University of Florida	15	21 400	15 500	15 133	49 700	The University of Florida is one of the biggest bargains in higher education, with tuition of just \$6,300 a year for Floridians. For that low price, students get access to some of the world's top professors, well-respected programs in fields as diverse as astronomy and journalism, and sports teams that often dominate their leagues
Georgia	Georgia Institute of Technology	35	25 700	17 700	22 750	63 800	For in-state students, Georgia Tech provides a low-cost, technology-focused curriculum that can compete with the most elite private tech schools. The typical student has SAT scores in the 700s for each section, and undergraduate classes are known to be demanding
Hawaii	University of Hawaii at Manoa	396	27 900	19 500	19 509	43 900	Hawaii's flagship university includes the School of Hawaiian Knowledge, the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, and the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, allowing students to take advantage of its prime location for studying subjects such as Asian and Pacific cultures, tropical agriculture and medicine, ocean and marine science, volcanology, and international business
Idaho	University of Idaho	198	20 400	15 700	25 000	46 400	The university's 124 majors cover all the traditional subject areas, as well as a solid selection of programs focused on natural resources, including fire ecology and management, forest resources, natural resource conservation, and renewable materials. That's perhaps unsurprising judging from U of I's location in the Palouse hills of northern Idaho, where outdoor activities such as skiing, biking, climbing, and whitewater rafting are popular.
Illinois	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	22	30 800	22 100	20 950	56 800	Illinois's flagship university is among the top 15 public schools on the National Science Foundation's list of high research spenders, and its strongest academic programs include accounting, several types of engineering, and physics. Students also have access to the country's second largest university library system (only Harvard's is larger).
Indiana	Earlham College	28	56 700	24 700	27 000	45 600	This small liberal arts college prides itself on exposing students to international culture. About 20% of students come from one of the 80 foreign countries represented at the school, and Earlham offers courses in 11 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, and Swahili. More than two-thirds of students also study abroad at some point in their college career
Iowa	Iowa State University	132	19 800	13 800	25 250	50 200	Iowa State has an excellent agricultural college (no surprise there). But the university also has outstanding math and science departments, and boasts a unique research center devoted to studying virtual reality
Kansas	Kansas State University	330	23 200	18 200	22 500	48 400	Kansas State's proximity to Fort Riley, its work in military research, and its flexible offerings for soldiers and their families give the school a military flavor that runs through its more than 250 undergraduate majors
Kentucky	Berea College	123	34 800	9 500	5 750	33 100	This small liberal arts college is a standout for affordability. There's no tuition—students instead work 10 to 15 hours a week to help pay their way. More than 84% of students from low-income families, and the college offers scholarships for those who can't afford room and board
Louisiana	Louisiana Tech University	235	19 400	13 800	20 985	47 600	Louisiana Tech offers a wide range of degrees, but the standouts at this public research university are its science and engineering programs. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, for example, have designated the university as a National Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education and research and information assurance research
Maine	Bowdoin College	43	64 100	25 800	19 500	48 900	As part of Bowdoin's classic liberal arts approach, students are required to take courses in all the major subject areas, including math, science, and the arts. Eighty-six percent of freshmen graduate within four years, one of the highest rates in the country
Maryland	University of Maryland-College Park	19	25 300	17 600	19 500	54 500	Like most large public universities, the University of Maryland has vast academic offerings and some all-star professors. The faculty roster boasts three Nobel laureates, two Pulitzer Prize winners, and, thanks to the campus's proximity to the District of Columbia, leaders in major positions at federal agencies such as NASA and the National Institutes of Health
Massachusetts	Harvard University	3	64 800	14 300	6 000	62 900	Harvard may be the most recognizable school in the world, and it's practically synonymous with the prestigious Ivy League. Like many of its peers, Harvard excels in MONEY's rankings not only because of the outstanding education it provides, but also thanks to its generous financial aid program.
Michigan	University of Michigan	2	28 100	14 300	22 000	59 000	The University of Michigan accepts less than a third of the nearly 50,000 students who apply annually, and it's nearly as popular with out-of-staters as with Michiganders. State residents who do get in receive an especially good deal at the school, though. It is one of only 11 colleges in MONEY's top 50 where the average in-state cost of a degree totals less than \$100,000
Minnesota	Saint John's University	25	52 400	28 300	27 000	47 400	Saint John's University is a Catholic school for men that partners with a nearby women's school, College of Saint Benedict, to share academic programs and campus resources. Nearly 80% of students at Saint John's graduate within six years, 12% higher than similar schools
Mississippi	Mississippi State University	274	23 500	13 900	23 250	46 100	Founded as a land-grant school in 1878 in tiny Starkville, Miss., Mississippi State now has an enrollment of more than 20,000 students. Greek life and supporting the Bulldogs athletics teams are important parts of campus culture, and students ring cowbells by the thousands to cheer on their athletes
Missouri	Washington University-St. Louis	87	69 100	34 100	20 125	55 900	Washington University is known for its highly regarded pre-med track, but academics in any discipline are rigorous, and students say A's are hard to come by. Still, the private university has a very high six-year graduation rate of 95%
Montana	University of Montana Western	172	16 700	11 000	25 524	33 000	Like many colleges these days, the most popular majors at the University of Montana are education, biology, and business. Unique among colleges, however, UMW also offers a four-year degree in natural horsemanship

Nebraska	Wayne State College	145	16 500	14 400	21 270	37 500	Wayne State College started as a school for training teachers, and while education is still the most popular major, it has broadened its offerings to include some 90 undergraduate programs. While the college requires applicants to submit standardized test scores, they're used largely for course placement and not admissions decisions
Nevada	University of Nevada-Reno	601	23 500	21 500	18 744	48 300	University of Nevada-Reno's largest school is the College of Liberal Arts, but some of the smaller schools have also earned wide recognition. The Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, for example, offers unique specializations in geology and mining science, and the journalism school has produced six Pulitzer Prize winners
New Hampshire	Dartmouth College	33	67 800	24 500	11 625	60 200	The smallest school in the Ivy League, Dartmouth operates on an unusual, year-round quarter system, giving students the flexibility to arrange internships and study-abroad trips during the fall or winter without falling a semester behind. Also somewhat unusual: Professors teach all classes at Dartmouth
New Jersey	Princeton University	1	61 300	20 100	6 810	62 800	Princeton University's generous financial aid makes it, according to MONEY's analysis, the most affordable member of the Ivy League. The school gives such large grants to the six in 10 families who qualify (families earning less than \$250,000 generally get some aid) that more than 83% of students graduate without any debt
New Mexico	No colleges made 2016's rankings						
New York	Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	8	62 800	22 200	17 570	63 200	Cooper Union is unique—a small, urban school that offers degrees only in art, architecture, and engineering. Though Cooper Union no longer has the free tuition policy it was founded with, it's still much more affordable than other elite private colleges
North Carolina	Duke University	39	66 600	24 900	6 500	61 600	As one of the most selective colleges in the South, Duke attracts students with SAT scores in the mid-700s in math and reading, and accepts only about 11% of applicants. The university has a very low student-to-faculty ratio (7-to-1), meaning there's plenty of opportunity to connect with professors
North Dakota	North Dakota State University	224	20 700	16 700	25 050	49 600	Founded as a land-grant university, North Dakota State maintains strong programs in agriculture and animal science. Thanks in part to tuition agreements that reduce out-of-state tuition, NDSU has an unusually high percentage (57%) of students from beyond its state borders
Ohio	Ohio State University	130	26 800	18 400	22 250	50 100	Ohio State is one of the largest universities in the country, and alumni are fiercely supportive of the Buckeyes. The university's 84% graduation rate is 8% higher than would be expected for students with similar academic and economic backgrounds
Oklahoma	Southern Nazarene University	125	34 800	21 700	18 750	43 000	This small Christian liberal-arts college assigns freshman to small "communities" where they take some courses together and share faculty mentors. Education and early-childhood development are popular and well-regarded programs, and in keeping with the university's Nazarene affiliation, it also offers theology and ministry programs
Oregon	University of Portland	173	58 500	36 600	25 000	52 000	The founder of the University of Portland envisioned the school becoming the "Notre Dame of the Pacific Northwest." Today, the private Catholic university may not have the name recognition of Notre Dame, but it has made a name for itself. One example: its Entrepreneur Scholars Program, which combines classes, meetings with local and international businesspeople, and the opportunity to test new ventures
Pennsylvania	University of Pennsylvania	26	66 800	26 400	21 500	60 700	Among the most prestigious and demanding departments within UPenn are business and economics. The demands prove worthwhile, though, as alumni earn among the highest salaries of any undergraduate business program, according to Payscale.com. Students in other majors thrive, too, reporting average earnings 7% above students from similar schools
Rhode Island	Brown University	31	65 200	24 600	16 000	57 500	Brown is known for giving its students a high level of academic freedom. They're required to take at least one writing course by the end of sophomore year, but otherwise, they can take any course they want, choose to take courses pass-fail, and design their own majors
South Carolina	Clemson University	21	30 300	22 700	22 389	53 100	Clemson was founded as an agricultural college, and while agricultural science is still a specialty, other programs, such as business, are more popular today. Most everyone at this rural campus is united by pride, especially around Clemson's celebrated football team
South Dakota	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	304	31 900	24 000	25 799	45 200	Mining was the main industry in the Dakota Territory in 1885 when this school was established. Today, the School of Mines offers undergrad programs in applied biological sciences, geology, and paleontology, as well as numerous areas of engineering. Students can also expect their coursework to feature lots of hands-on learning through field research.
Tennessee	Vanderbilt University	27	64 800	24 600	13 750	58 300	Vanderbilt has a world-class medical school, and its pre-med undergrads receive extra advising, research opportunities, and other assistance, leading to a 70% medical school acceptance rate—well above the national average. Although fewer than half of Vanderbilt's students are from the South, alumni like Al Gore, Lamar Alexander, and Rosanne Cash make up a Who's Who of Southern politics and culture
Texas	Rice University	4	58 600	24 300	8 413	63 700	The typical Rice student majors in engineering, economics, or biology, but the university is also well known for in the field of political science. Graduates of the selective private school fare well in the workforce: Recent grads out-earn their peers from similar schools by 16%, according to salary data from Payscale.com
Utah	Brigham Young University-Provo	5	18 500	14 700	11 000	51 800	BYU-Provo is the main campus of a private college system specializing in educating members of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Non-Mormons can also attend, but they are charged more for tuition and must obey the school's strict code of conduct. The university has a high graduation rate, competitive salaries for recent graduates, and a very affordable price for a private education.
Vermont	Middlebury College	48	63 600	24 400	19 500	49 300	Middlebury, an elite liberal-arts college, is known for promoting "gap years," allowing students to defer enrollment to travel, work, or volunteer. There's an entire February admissions cohort made up of freshman who chose to start college in the spring rather than the fall
Virginia	University of Virginia	9	28 100	12 000	19 500	55 400	UVA boasts the highest graduation rate of any public university in the country, at 93%. The university's academic strengths are wide-ranging, and the campus is the only U.S. college to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, thanks to its connection to founder Thomas Jefferson
Washington	University of Washington-Seattle	30	27 800	19 700	16 326	54 000	Because of its proximity to Boeing's manufacturing facilities, the flagship Seattle campus of the University of Washington has developed a particular expertise in aeronautics. UW also has encouraging admissions odds for such a top-rated school: The typical student has SAT scores of roughly 1350, and the school accepts about 55% of applicants.
West Virginia	Wheeling Jesuit University	416	38 100	22 000	27 000	38 100	Wheeling Jesuit University is one of 28 Jesuit colleges in the U.S., and in keeping with the order's traditions, a devotion to service and social justice underscores much of student life. During school breaks, for example, WJU offers immersion trips to experience areas with social challenges, such as New Orleans, El Paso, and El Salvador. The school also is home to the WJU Institute for the Study of Capitalism and Morality, devoted to examining moral and economic foundations of a free society.
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin-Madison	63	25 400	18 800	23 000	50 100	Students come from all over to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which provides all the perks of a large flagship state university. Tens of thousands of students? Check. Fierce athletic competition and traditions? Check. Large courses and endless program offerings? Check
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	168	19 400	14 600	19 000	49 000	The University of Wyoming is the state's only four-year college, aside from a small Catholic college founded a decade ago. While the university's graduation rate is comparatively low, recent graduates do well in the job market, reporting average earnings that are 12% higher than graduates of similar schools
Washington, D.C.	Georgetown University	84	67 100	28 600	17 500	52 900	Georgetown is one of the most expensive schools in MONEY's rankings. But a key reason for that, its location in Washington D.C., is also one of Georgetown's biggest draws, especially for students interested in studying politics or international relations. The university frequently gets Washington's elite to lecture or teach classes, recently including former CIA director George Tenet, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and veteran campaign strategist Donna Brazile