

Building an Affordable College List

One of the best ways to afford college is to know where to apply in the first place, as there are vast differences among colleges in how they administer financial and merit aid.

This document will help families learn more about the different types of colleges so they can build a college list their family can afford.



Merit Aid p.1

Schools that do not provide any merit aid but often are the most generous with financial aid (*provides 100% of financial need with no loans)

*Amherst College

Barnard College

Bates College

Boston College

*Bowdoin College

*Brown University

California Institute of Technology

Carleton College

Carnegie Mellon University*

*Colby College

Colgate University

*Columbia University

Connecticut College

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Franklin and Marshall College

Georgetown University

Goddard College

Hamilton College

*Harvard University

Haverford College

Landmark College

Maharishi University of Management

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Middlebury College

*Northwestern University

*Pomona College

*Princeton University

Reed College

*Stanford University

SUNY Empire State College

Thomas Aquinas College

Tufts University

*University of Pennsylvania

Vassar College

Wellesley College

Wesleyan University

Williams College

Remember to ALWAYS check EACH school's financial aid and/or admissions office for annual updates to this information, as policies are under frequent revision.



Merit Aid p.2

Schools that provide full financial aid without loans below a certain income level

<u>Colgate University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents' total income is less than \$125,000 .
<u>Cornell University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents' total income is less than \$60,000 and total assets are less than \$100,000.
<u>Dartmouth College</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$100,000 . Your family will not be expected to make any financial contribution.
<u>Duke University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$40,000 . Your family will not be expected to make any financial contribution.
<u>Haverford College</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$60,000 . Families making more than this threshold can expect small loans ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year.
<u>Lafayette College</u>	Aid is often loan-free if your parents earn less than \$100,000 .
<u>Lehigh University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$75,000 . Loans are capped at \$5,000 per academic year.
<u>Rice University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$130,000 . Students whose parents make less than \$65,000 will receive coverage for tuition, fees, room, and board, whereas those whose parents make between \$65,001 and \$130,000 will receive full coverage for tuition only.
<u>Tufts University</u>	Aid is "typically" loan-free for students with total family incomes of less than \$60,000. All other students qualifying for financial aid can expect to have a maximum of \$7,000 in loans per year.
<u>Univ of N. Carolina at Chapel Hill</u>	Low-income North Carolina students may qualify for aid without loans through the Carolina Covenant.
<u>Vassar College</u>	Aid is loan-free for students from "low-income families."
<u>Washington Univ in St. Louis</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$75,000 .
<u>Wellesley College</u>	Aid is loan-free if your calculated family contribution is less than \$7,000 and your parents earn less than \$60,000 . All other students qualifying for financial aid can expect to have a maximum of \$15,200 in loans over four years.
<u>Wesleyan University</u>	Aid is loan-free if your parents earn less than \$60,000 with "typical assets."
<u>Williams College</u>	Aid is loan-free if parents earn less than \$75,000 with "typical assets." For everyone else, loans are capped at \$4,000 per academic year.

Merit Aid p.3

Schools offering merit aid including to out-of-state students by publicized rates

The University of Alabama
University of South Alabama
Indiana University-Northwest
Wichita State University
Louisiana State University-Shreveport
Louisiana Tech University
University of Mississippi
Mississippi State University
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Wayne State College
University of New Mexico-Main Campus
Miami University-Oxford
South Carolina State University
Prairie View A & M University
Dixie State University
Southern Utah University
Utah State University
Centralia College

3 <https://www.mykidscollegechoice.com>. Use this resource to find the complete list of public schools that provide publicized tuition discounting by chart for in-state students.



Merit Aid p.4

Selective colleges reporting the highest % of students receiving aid that is not financial aid based (not the same as highest \$ awarded per student).

Tulane	Loyola Maryland
Gonzaga	Indiana
Trinity (Texas)	University of South
Fairfield	Carolina
Rhodes	Marist
Eckerd	Oberlin
Marquette	Case Western
Denison	Syracuse
Lawrence	University of Vermont
Pepperdine	Northeastern
ASU	Drexel
Catholic University	Loyola Chicago
Fisk	Loyola Marymount
Southern Methodist	

Merit Aid p.5

Additional schools known for generous merit aid (high tuition discounters)

Beloit College

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$25,897

Juniata College

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$23,221

Syracuse

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$28,000

Auburn

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$16,500

Lafayette

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$26,000

University of Miami

- Sample merit award for high stats student: \$14,000-\$30,000



Merit Aid p.6

Additional scholarship programs that cover significant costs:

1. Bryan Cameron Education Foundation
2. Questbridge
3. Posse Foundation
4. UPS Earn & Learn
5. Stamps Scholars
6. Gates Millenium Scholars
7. Coca-Cola Scholars
8. Jack Kent Cooke Scholars
9. Hispanic Scholarship Fund
10. Scholastic Art & Writing Portfolio Awards

Additional financial and merit aid resources:

1. Tuition-free colleges: Colleges that don't charge tuition
2. National Merit Scholar: Some of these colleges offer steep discount to NMS finalists
3. Merit Aid chart by school: Listing typical merit aid per student for families with no financial need
4. Paying for College 101: Resources for finding low-cost options, including out-of-state public schools
5. Tuition Fit: Share your data to get information back on other students' merit offers
6. Road to College/College Insights: Subscription service that allows you to compare specific merit awards by school
7. Public Schools with lowest out-of-state tuition
8. Financial Aid programs by state

