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WSJ / COLLEGE PULSE RANKINGS

2025 Best Colleges in the U.S.

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The WSJ/College Pulse 2025 Best Colleges in the U.S. ranking rates the top 500 universities in the country. The ranking was developed and executed in collaboration with our research partners [College Pulse](#) and [Statista](#). See the full methodology below.

Rank	School Name	Type	State	Score
41	University of Texas at Austin	Public	TX	81.1
42	St. Joseph's University	Private	PA	81
43	University of Detroit Mercy	Private	MI	81
44	Vanderbilt University	Private	TN	80.9
45	Duke University	Private	NC	80.8
46	California State University, San Bernardino	Public	CA	80.5
47	University of San Diego	Private	CA	80.4
48	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Public	CA	80.4
49	University of Southern California	Private	CA	80.3
50	Washington and Lee University	Private	VA	80.3
51	California State University, Fresno	Public	CA	80.2
52	Manhattan College	Private	NY	80
53	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Public	IL	79.8
54	Albion College	Private	MI	79.7
55	Marquette University	Private	WI	79.7
56	Carnegie Mellon University	Private	PA	79.7
57	Dartmouth College	Private	NH	79.6
58	Lafayette College	Private	PA	79.5
59	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Public	NC	79.5
60	Michigan State University	Public	MI	79.5

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Student Experience

College Rankings Student Experience Best Salaries Social Mobility Best Value

The WSJ College Pulse Student Experience ranking lists the best colleges in the U.S. to have a great experience while attending. This ranking is powered by one of the largest ever independent surveys of verified college students and recent graduates in the U.S. The ranking was developed and executed in collaboration with our research partners College Pulse and Statista. See the full methodology below.

Find a School Filter by State

Rank	School Name	Type	State	Score
21	California State University, Stanislaus	Public	CA	69.8
22	Loyola University Maryland	Private	MD	69.7
23	Lake Forest College	Private	IL	69.5
24	Iona University	Private	NY	69.3
25	Vassar College	Private	NY	69.1
26	College of Idaho	Private	ID	69.1
27	California State University, San Bernardino	Public	CA	69
28	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	Private	TX	69
29	California State University, Northridge	Public	CA	68.7
30	Prairie View A & M University	Public	TX	68.7
31	University of California, Los Angeles	Public	CA	68.7
32	Brown University	Private	RI	68.6
33	Dalton State College	Public	GA	68.6
34	Texas Woman's University	Public	TX	68.2
35	Texas Tech University	Public	TX	68.2
36	Clayton State University	Public	GA	68.1
37	University of North Texas	Public	TX	68.1
38	Grinnell College	Private	IA	68.1
39	Stockton University	Public	NJ	67.9
40	California State University, Sacramento	Public	CA	67.9

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Best Salaries

College Rankings Student Experience Best Salaries Social Mobility Best Value

The WSJ/College Pulse Best Salaries ranking lists schools in order of their impact on graduates' salaries and how this relates to the cost of attending the college. The ranking was developed and executed in collaboration with our research partners College Pulse and Statista. See the full methodology below.

Find a School Filter by State

Rank	School Name	Type	State	Score
101	University of Portland	Private	OR	81.1
102	California State University, Los Angeles	Public	CA	81.1
103	University of Dayton	Private	OH	81
104	California State University, Fresno	Public	CA	81
105	Hampden-Sydney College	Private	VA	80.9
106	Purdue University, Main Campus	Public	IN	80.8
107	California State University, San Bernardino	Public	CA	80.7
108	Siena College	Private	NY	80.7
109	Iona University	Private	NY	80.7
110	Washington & Jefferson College	Private	PA	80.3
111	Quinnipiac University	Private	CT	80
112	University of Chicago	Private	IL	79.9
113	Iowa State University	Public	IA	79.8
114	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Private	MA	79.8
115	University of Texas at Arlington	Public	TX	79.8
116	Emory University	Private	GA	79.8
117	University of St. Francis	Private	IL	79.6
118	College of the Holy Cross	Private	MA	79.6
119	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Public	NC	79.4
120	Clemson University	Public	SC	79.2



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Social Mobility

College Rankings Student Experience Best Salaries Social Mobility Best Value

The WSJ/College Pulse Social Mobility ranking lists colleges in order of how much they enhance their students' social mobility. It rewards universities that take in the highest proportion of students coming from lower-income families, while maintaining high graduation rates and having a positive impact on graduate salaries and minimizing the costs of attending the college. The ranking was developed and executed in collaboration with our research partners [College Pulse](#) and [Statista](#). See the full methodology below.

Find a School Filter by State

Rank	School Name	Type	State	Score
1	University of California, Merced	Public	CA	86.8
2	California State University, Stanislaus	Public	CA	82.1
3	California State University, San Bernardino	Public	CA	81.2
4	California State University, Fresno	Public	CA	80.4
5	California State University, Los Angeles	Public	CA	78.5
6	Florida International University	Public	FL	78.2
7	California State University, Long Beach	Public	CA	77
8	Baruch College, CUNY	Public	NY	76.8
9	California State University, Northridge	Public	CA	76
10	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	Public	CA	75.8
11	California State University, Fullerton	Public	CA	74.9
12	University of California, Riverside	Public	CA	73.1
13	California State University, Sacramento	Public	CA	71.7
14	Fresno Pacific University	Private	CA	69.5
15	Albion College	Private	MI	68.8
16	University of Illinois, Chicago	Public	IL	67.7
17	University of La Verne	Private	CA	66.4
18	Montclair State University	Public	NJ	64.9
19	California State University, San Marcos	Public	CA	64.6
20	San Francisco State University	Public	CA	63.9

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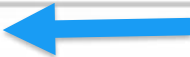
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Best Value

College Rankings Student Experience Best Salaries Social Mobility Best Value

The WSJ/College Pulse Best Value ranking lists schools in order of how quickly the difference between their graduates' salaries and those of comparable high-school graduates pays back the average net price of four years of study - what we call "Years to pay off net price." The ranking was developed and executed in collaboration with our research partners [College Pulse](#) and [Statista](#). See the full methodology below.

Rank	School Name	Type	State	Score	
21	University of Utah	Public	UT	97.1	▼
22	California State University, Long Beach	Public	CA	97	▼
23	Yale University	Private	CT	96.9	▼
24	Florida International University	Public	FL	96.8	▼
25	Claremont McKenna College	Private	CA	96.7	▼
26	University of Washington	Public	WA	96.5	▼
27	University of California, San Diego	Public	CA	96.4	▼
28	Harvard University	Private	MA	96.3	▼
29	Northern Kentucky University	Public	KY	96.2	▼
30	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Public	NC	96.1	▼
31	University of California, Berkeley	Public	CA	96	▼
32	Brigham Young University, Idaho	Private	ID	95.8	▼
33	Brigham Young University	Private	UT	95.7	▼
34	California State University, San Bernardino	Public	CA	95.6	▼
35	California State University, Northridge	Public	CA	95.5	▼
36	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	Public	CA	95.4	▼
37	University of Illinois, Chicago	Public	IL	95.3	▼
38	University of California, Los Angeles	Public	CA	95.1	▼
39	Colby College	Private	ME	95	▼
40	Florida Atlantic University	Public	FL	94.9	▼



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