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Best national universities

National Universities include large public universities economically advantageous to in-state residents, and the storied private universities catering to the nation's elite students. Schools included in our national universities category must offer a wide variety of undergraduate majors, as well as a variety of masters and doctoral programs.

Interested in how we calculate our rankings? [Read our methodology.](#)



389 Results
(Showing 20 of 389)

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National Universities

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National Universities

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Sort By

Net cost **Payback** Earnings Earnings^{Plus} **Rankings** [Ranking methodology](#)

- #1 in National University

Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

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Economic score: **0.31**

<p>Net cost: \$11,317 Payback: Under a year</p>	<p>Earnings: \$95,689 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$50,066</p>	<p>Admission rate: 6% Graduation rate: 97%</p>
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- #2 in National University

Stanford University
Stanford, California

[View school](#)

Economic score: **0.36**

<p>Net cost: \$11,496 Payback: Under a year</p>	<p>Earnings: \$97,798 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$47,119</p>	<p>Admission rate: 6% Graduation rate: 96%</p>
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- #3 in National University

CUNY City College
New York, New York

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Economic score: **0.37**

<p>Net cost: \$2,385 Payback: Under 6 months</p>	<p>Earnings: \$55,741 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$51</p>	<p>Admission rate: 51% Graduation rate: 54%</p>
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- #4 in National University

University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

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Economic score: **0.45**

<p>Net cost: \$6,302 Payback: Under a year</p>	<p>Earnings: \$64,463 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$19,742</p>	<p>Admission rate: 32% Graduation rate: 88%</p>
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- #5 in National University

Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

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Economic score: **0.49**

<p>Net cost: \$14,739 Payback: 1 year</p>	<p>Earnings: \$88,196 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$46,303</p>	<p>Admission rate: 22% Graduation rate: 90%</p>
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- #6 in National University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Economic score: **0.50**

<p>Net cost: \$16,636 Payback: Under a year</p>	<p>Earnings: \$111,222 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$43,464</p>	<p>Admission rate: 8% Graduation rate: 96%</p>
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- #7 in National University

California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

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Economic score: **0.52**

<p>Net cost: \$24,274 Payback: 1.2 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$112,166 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$61,487</p>	<p>Admission rate: 7% Graduation rate: 93%</p>
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- #8 in National University

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Economic score: **0.70**

<p>Net cost: \$15,336 Payback: 1.2 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$75,842 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$31,796</p>	<p>Admission rate: 27% Graduation rate: 93%</p>
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- #9 in National University

Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

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Economic score: **0.70**

<p>Net cost: \$27,020 Payback: 1.6 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$93,115 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$51,044</p>	<p>Admission rate: 8% Graduation rate: 96%</p>
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- #10 in National University

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Economic score: **0.71**

<p>Net cost: \$25,802 Payback: 1.4 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$103,246 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$49,668</p>	<p>Admission rate: 9% Graduation rate: 97%</p>
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- #11 in National University

University of California-Berkeley
Berkeley, California

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Economic score: **0.74**

<p>Net cost: \$15,329 Payback: 1.2 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$80,364 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$29,685</p>	<p>Admission rate: 18% Graduation rate: 93%</p>
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- #12 in National University

Missouri University of Science and Technology
Rolla, Missouri

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Economic score: **0.74**

<p>Net cost: \$14,262 Payback: 1.3 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$80,289 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$32,969</p>	<p>Admission rate: 82% Graduation rate: 68%</p>
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- #13 in National University

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

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Economic score: **0.75**

<p>Net cost: \$19,432 Payback: 1.4 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$79,872 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$36,117</p>	<p>Admission rate: 12% Graduation rate: 94%</p>
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- #14 in National University

Rice University
Houston, Texas

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Economic score: **0.77**

<p>Net cost: \$16,999 Payback: 1.3 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$77,683 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$32,736</p>	<p>Admission rate: 11% Graduation rate: 95%</p>
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- #15 in National University

Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia

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Economic score: **0.82**

<p>Net cost: \$28,909 Payback: 1.6 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$96,375 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$47,089</p>	<p>Admission rate: 17% Graduation rate: 94%</p>
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- #16 in National University

University of California-Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

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Economic score: **0.83**

<p>Net cost: \$14,279 Payback: 1.2 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$73,744 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$23,065</p>	<p>Admission rate: 15% Graduation rate: 92%</p>
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- #17 in National University

University of California-San Diego
La Jolla, California

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Economic score: **0.85**

<p>Net cost: \$14,232 Payback: 1.3 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$74,771 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$24,092</p>	<p>Admission rate: 37% Graduation rate: 89%</p>
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- #18 in National University

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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Economic score: **0.86**

<p>Net cost: \$12,352 Payback: 1.3 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$61,915 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$19,844</p>	<p>Admission rate: 26% Graduation rate: 90%</p>
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- #19 in National University

University of Washington-Seattle Campus
Seattle, Washington

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Economic score: **0.88**

<p>Net cost: \$13,297 Payback: 1.3 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$68,925 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$23,966</p>	<p>Admission rate: 56% Graduation rate: 84%</p>
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- #20 in National University

Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Economic score: **0.89**

<p>Net cost: \$15,386 Payback: 1.1 years</p>	<p>Earnings: \$84,918 Earnings^{Plus}: +\$17,160</p>	<p>Admission rate: 6% Graduation rate: 98%</p>
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