

**College Preparatory
Information Package
2018-2019**

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Preparing For College: The High School Plan

College is something that you need to be thinking about now. A college education will help you take charge of your future. A college degree means more career opportunities and a greater earning potential; but, it takes some planning and preparation. Don't wait! Now is the time to take charge and aim high! Beginning where you are now, plan your high school program using the checklist below. Meet with your school counselor several times a year to gain further information and to ensure that you are on the right track to meet your future college and career goals.

9th or 10th Grade – The Freshman and Sophomore Years

- The most important step is to get started.
- Develop an organization system to log your assignments, exams, social events, appointments, job interviews, etc. This will help you manage your time and develop organizational skills.
- Be sure the courses you sign up for are "college prep." These courses will best prepare you for college. Seek the advice of your parents and/or a counselor. Challenge yourself! Take honors and advanced courses when appropriate.
- Begin to explore careers and talk to people in jobs that interest you. What education do those jobs require? Your school library or career center are good places to start.
- Get involved in school and community activities. Develop leadership skills. Involvement may lead to scholarships and/or summer jobs. But don't overdo it; your grades are very important!
- Discuss with your parents **now** about college costs. You can help too by starting to save money from part-time jobs, gifts, etc. Start learning about college costs and financial aid. It is not too early to investigate for more information.
- Read books continuously. Reading helps you to build your vocabulary and has been proven to help increase math ability as well. Just think, if you read a lot about the things that interest you, you will eventually become an 'expert' in those areas.
- Organize any college information you receive, such as brochures. Even if it just means putting them in the same pile somewhere. Familiarize yourself with the college application process, so you're not surprised when it comes time to apply. Don't be the one saying 'Man, I knew that I should have taken that more challenging class!'

11th Grade – The Junior Year

- Continue to take challenging courses and to explore careers. This is a very important year. Colleges usually base their decision on your sophomore and junior year grades.
- In October, take the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). Good scores may lead to a merit scholarship, so take this test seriously.
- Compile a list of your top 7-10 college choices. Write the colleges for information. Compare entrance requirements, cost, size, unique programs, facilities, your intended field of study, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Talk to friends or relatives who have attended.
- Plan to attend at least one college fair. It's a good time to gather information about a lot of colleges and ask questions. College recruiters want to help you prepare for success and answer your questions regarding their schools.
- Visit your high school's counseling office often to see when representatives for the colleges you are interested in will be visiting your school. Schedule to meet them. Also check for new incoming information about colleges and scholarships.
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT during the spring semester of your junior year. Find out which test the colleges you are interested in require. Consult with your counselor, or college admissions offices, if you're unsure of your score. Don't be afraid to take either test again to go for a higher score.
- If you're taking an AP course, get ready for the May exams. You want to score a 3, 4 or 5!
- Start learning about college costs and financial aid. Use financial aid calculators to estimate how much your family will be expected to pay. Set aside money for college from part-time jobs, gifts, or any other source. Saving any amount can make a big difference in what you can afford to pay for college. Continue to check into scholarships. There are books and online searches with scholarship lists.
- Plan your summer activities. Consider a career-related summer job, summer courses at a local college, community service, or volunteer work. The summer before your senior year is also a good time to visit your top three college choices.

12th Grade - The Senior Year

- Don't get "Senioritis! " Your senior courses and grades do make a difference. Being a senior means following through on college applications and preparing for the big transition to college.

12th Grade - The Senior Year (continued)

- You can still take or retake the SAT and ACT. See your counselor for dates. Early in the fall is best.
- If you're taking an AP course, get ready for the May exams.
- Continue to visit colleges that you missed during the summer.
- Send your college applications in early. Provide all requested materials, e.g. transcripts, recommendations, test scores, and essays. If necessary, ask your counselor about a waiver for the application fee.
- Applying for financial aid? Complete the required forms (e.g. FAFSA form). You should be able to get them from the guidance office at your high school or check online. Submit them in January or February for early processing. The earlier in January the better!
- **Note: ALWAYS TURN IN A FINANCIAL AID FORM, REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH INCOME YOUR FAMILY HAS. ANY MONEY FOR COLLEGE IS BETTER THAN NO MONEY!**
- Fat envelopes start arriving in March and April. Contact the admission office of any college that hasn't sent you a "Congratulations!" or "We're sorry, but..." letter by April 15. After you've decided on the college you plan to attend, you should notify all other colleges of your decision.
- If you're "waitlisted" by a college, contact the admission director to reiterate your interest in the school. If you're not admitted to any of the colleges to which you applied, see your counselor immediately - you still have options. Search to find colleges whose application deadlines haven't passed.
- Colleges mail financial aid decisions in the spring. Read the letters carefully and completely. Wait until you've received a letter from each college before you begin comparing awards. Complete any aid-related forms, sign the award letter, and return any requested materials by the deadline. Funds are limited - the college may offer your award to another student after the deadline passes.
- Make sure your final transcript and final grades are sent to your college. Colleges like to see strong second semester grades. Send thank-you notes to those who wrote letters of recommendation for you
- Looks like a great deal of work? It's not really. Just take one step at a time. If you have already missed some steps, don't panic. See your guidance counselor for alternatives.
- Also, never be discouraged by what doubtful people may tell you. Get the facts. Use all of your resources. **Have the courage to pursue your dreams to no end! Your hard work WILL pay off!**

General College Application Requirements

Applications vary from college to college, but most require some or all of the following parts:

Application form

Most colleges will accept one of two application options; students can submit a handwritten or typed form or apply electronically. Applications are available on the colleges' websites.

Application fee

College application fees range from \$25 - \$90. The fee is usually nonrefundable, even if you're not offered admission. Many colleges offer fee waivers for applicants from low-income families. If you need a fee waiver, call the college's admission office for more information.

High school transcript

This form is filled out by an official of your high school. If it comes with your admission materials, you should give it to the guidance office to complete as early as possible. Some colleges send this form directly to your school after receiving your application.

Admission test scores

At many colleges, you have to submit SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT test scores. Many colleges require admission tests because they are a standard way of measuring a student's ability to do college-level work.

Letters of recommendation

Many colleges ask you to submit one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who knows you well. When asking someone to write such a letter, be sure to do so well before the college's deadline.

Essay

Essays are playing an increasingly important role in the college application process. Whether you're writing an autobiographical statement or an essay on a specific theme, take the opportunity to express your individuality in a way that sets you apart from other applicants.

Interview

This is required or recommended by some colleges. Even if it's not required, it's a good idea to set up an interview because it gives you a chance to make a personal connection with someone who will have a voice in deciding whether or not you'll be offered admission. If you're too far away for an on-campus interview, try to arrange to meet with an alumnus in your community.

Audition/portfolio

If you're applying for a program such as music, art, or design, you may have to document prior work by auditioning on campus or submitting an audiotape, slides, or some other sample of your work to demonstrate your ability.

Remember, all parts of your application should come together to create an accurate portrait of who you are, of what you'll bring to the college. If possible, there should be a theme running through it.

The College Application Form

Filling out the Application

- Type, or **Print Neatly**
- Make sure all information is accurate and complete
- ALWAYS type your essays

Listing extra-curricular activities

- Create and attach a resume consisting of Awards/School & Church Involvement/Sports/Work Experience, etc. Many schools prefer that you do not add attachments, so only list important Extra Curricular Activities on the application space provided.
- List activities in chronology or in order of importance.
- Do not list fleeting experiences that don't show a strong commitment (i.e. many one-time memberships on clubs or athletic teams).

Getting Teacher Recommendations

- Request teacher recommendations from at least two (2) teachers who know you well and will speak well of you.
- Make sure the teachers are in academic disciplines, and only request recommendations of art teachers when applying to art programs.
- Meet with teachers and give them a resume so that they may write informed, quality recommendations.
- Ask teachers at least thirty (30) days in advance of the application deadline or whenever you plan on sending in your application.
- Give the teacher an envelope addressed to each school requiring a recommendation, the teacher recommendation form, and 2 stamps for each envelope.

Pay attention to deadlines

- Give everything to your counselor at least **3 weeks in advance** or get your transcript and secondary school report/counselor report forms ready and sealed at least a week ahead of the deadline, ready to be sent (depending on how the application process works at your school).
- Your teacher recommendations may often be mailed off separately, but make sure to remind your teachers of the deadlines.
- Know whether the deadline on your school's application is a postmark deadline or a received by deadline; received by deadlines require 5 mailing days (excl. Sunday) to reach in time.

The Importance of the Transcript

Colleges want to see an upward trend in grades from year to year

- Your high school freshman year, often considered a transition year, may not be considered.
- Do not stray from college prep, honors, and advanced placement courses (i.e. not opting not to take 4 years of math or science).
- Set GPA goals; have a transcript (to the best of your ability) consisting only of As and Bs.
- Buckle down junior year (often considered the most important).

Senior Year

- Do not “take senior year easy”.
- Take a challenging course load with honors and AP classes to the best of your ability, and completing 3/4 years in every subject area (your senior classes will appear on your transcript even at the beginning of the year).
- Your first semester grades/mid-year report can make all the difference in regular decision admissions; work hard!
- Stay involved and gain leadership positions within activities that you are already involved in so that colleges see that you are committed.

Grades are important

- Grades, while only part of your application, are the most important piece of information in your file.
- Good grades are believed to be a better predictor of future success in advanced coursework than standardized test scores.
- Work hard across the board; do not slack off in certain subject areas and work hard only in others.
- Bs in honors/AP often mean more than As in easier classes.

Admissions Testing

Make sure you take your standardized tests by the end of junior year

- *ACT in April, June, or July
- *SAT in March, May, or June
- Review ACT and SAT practice tests and prep books over the summer before senior year.

Take the ACT and SAT examinations early in Senior year

- *SAT in August or October.
- *ACT in September or October.
- *Review your scores ASAP to see if you need to retest in December (last recommended month for seniors) and register accordingly; both tests are offered in October and December, and the SAT is also offered in November.
- *Make sure you have taken both tests at least once (SAT & ACT), and your preferred test at least twice (SAT **or** ACT). Hint: The preferred one is usually the one you score highest on, not necessarily the one you like better.

Take the PSAT junior year

- It is offered in October by the College Board at almost every high school in America; register by early September if your school doesn't register you automatically.
- Scoring well will qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship, or other scholarships, and many schools offer full scholarships to students who do exceptionally well on the PSAT.

Consider taking SAT Subject Tests

- Required or recommended for admission at every ivy-league school, and most other big-named private schools (e.g. Duke & Northwestern) along with the SAT.
- There are many subject areas offered including writing (a required test for every school that requests SAT Subject Tests), Math IC & IIC, US History, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, World History, Sciences, etc.
- It is best to take SAT Subject Tests at the end of junior year (May or June) in subjects that you are completing (US History, Chemistry, etc.).
- You may take up to three (3) tests in one day, and most schools require three; the tests are one hour each.

Consider taking Advanced Placement examinations (APs)

- Taken by high school juniors and seniors in May at the best high schools around the country in many subject areas including English, Calculus, US History, foreign languages, sciences, etc.
- Scores range from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, and scores of 4 and 5 earning college credit at most colleges.
- AP classes give students an edge in college admission because they are evidence of a rigorous college preparatory schedule.
- 3 hour exams, \$94 fee per exam. Often paid by the school at public high schools.

Essay Writing

Start working on essays at least one or two months in advance

- Get the application essay questions ahead of time from the paper applications or on the college's website.
- Start brainstorming and thinking of ideas before you write.

Answer the Question!!!

- Start with a focused, on topic, interesting thesis in the first paragraph to guide your essay; Make sure the thesis is relevant to the question!
- Stick to your thesis throughout the essay.
- Be as specific as possible i.e. "show, don't tell".
- Revert to the 5 paragraph essay when you cannot figure out how to organize your thoughts.

Make sure your essay is interesting

- Show who you are in the essay, because college admissions people do not know you personally.
- Include experiences and ideas in your essays that distinguish you from other people.

Check for Errors!

- Run a spell-check on your essay.
- Read it aloud once, and to yourself at least twice.
- Have two (2) adults proofread your essay, one being a teacher for clarity and grammar.
- Work on your essay in drafts for the best results.

General Essay Points

- Keep it short and sweet, less than two pages.
- Stick to the word limit!
- Stay away from generalities in your personal statement.
- Remember that there are no good or bad topics.

Examples of generalizations that DO NOT impress admissions counselors in essays and personal statements:

- Simple lists of things that you like/do not like doing, pros and cons, or things that you support/do not support.
- Generic Positive Statements such as "World Peace is Important".
- Trying too hard to impress college admissions with your extra-curricular achievements through essays such as being responsible for your school winning "the big game" or "single-handedly" leading something at your school. Do not take all the credit; be modest while being descriptive.
- Describing your room, your car, your house, or a single dull possession that describes "who you are."
- Generic statements about being "a motivated person with diverse interests".
- Long autobiographies
- Elaborating on sad events to make admissions counselors feel bad for you; make sure that your essay has a positive spin despite negative factors.

Sample College Essay

Harvard Application

Of all the characters that I've "met" through books and movies, two stand out as people that I most want to emulate. They are Attacus Finch from *To Kill A Mockingbird* and Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham from *Field of Dreams*. They appeal to me because they embody what I strive to be. They are influential people in small towns who have a direct positive effect on those around them. I, too, plan to live in a small town after graduating from college, and that positive effect is something I must give in order to be satisfied with my life.

Both Mr. Finch and Dr. Graham are strong supporting characters in wonderful stories. They symbolize good, honesty, and wisdom. When the story of my town is written I want to symbolize those things. The base has been formed for me to live a productive, helpful life. As an Eagle Scout I represent those things that Mr. Finch and Dr. Graham represent. In the child/adolescent world I am Mr. Finch and Dr. Graham, but soon I'll be entering the adult world, a world in which I'm not yet prepared to lead.

I'm quite sure that as teenagers Attacus Finch and Moonlight Graham often wondered what they could do to help others. They probably emulated someone who they had seen live a successful life. They saw someone like my grandfather, 40-year president of our hometown bank, enjoy a lifetime of leading, sharing, and giving. I have seen him spend his Christmas Eves taking gifts of food and joy to indigent families. Often when his bank could not justify a loan to someone in need, my grandfather made the loan from his own pocket. He is a real-life Moonlight Graham, a man who has shown me that characters like Dr. Graham and Mr. Finch do much much more than elicit tears and smiles from readers and movie watchers. Through him and others in my family I feel I have acquired the values and the burning desire to benefit others that will form the foundation for a great life. I also feel that that foundation is not enough. I do not yet have the sophistication, knowledge, and wisdom necessary to succeed as I want to in the adult world. I feel that Harvard, above all others, can guide me toward the life of greatness that will make me the Attacus Finch of my town.

**** ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS ****

This essay is a great example of how to answer this question well. This applicant chose characters who demonstrated specific traits that reflect on his own personality. We believe that he is sincere about his choices because his reasons are personal (being from a small town, and so forth). He managed to tell us a good deal about himself, his values, and his goals while maintaining a strong focus throughout.

Additional Note: There are MANY more samples of actual college application essays online. Many of them also have the admissions committee's comments. Reading strong essays can give you great insight for how to structure and strengthen your own original essay.

Financial Aid

Don't wait until senior year to explore ways to pay for college. The sooner you have a plan, the less shocked you will be in this age of increasing tuition costs. Types of financial aid include grants, scholarships, loans and work-study.

Grants

- **Federal Pell** grants are available to low and moderate income families. Other forms of financial aid can be added to Pell grants received.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)** are available to families that demonstrate exceptional financial need and are Pell grant recipients.
- **Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)** are available to first and second year college students that completed rigorous high school curriculums and maintain a 3.0 GPA.
- **National SMART Grants** are available during the third and fourth years of undergraduate study to full-time students who are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant and who are majoring in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, or engineering or in a foreign language determined critical to national security.
- **College grants** are offered by many colleges to help close the gap between college costs and what a family is expected to pay.
- **State grants** are available in many states but may require that you study in state. They are often called merit grants or merit scholarships.

Scholarships

Scholarships are monies awarded to individuals to assist with paying for college. They vary greatly in amounts, ranging from <\$50 to amounts that cover full tuition and fees. Scholarships are based on many different criteria. These include:

- academic promise or excellence
- special talent like music or dance
- special interests like being an equestrian
- selected college major
- racial/ethnic group
- religious beliefs
- disabilities

There are many books and websites designed to assist with the scholarship searching process. The more scholarships that you apply for the more likely you are to reap substantial amounts of money.

Look at the following sites for numerous resources related to getting money for school including questions and answers, financial aid tips, college cost calculators and thousands of scholarships \$\$\$

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.cappex.com

More Financial Aid

Loans

Federal Stafford Loan

Interest rates are usually very favorable on Stafford Loans. Dependent college freshman can borrow up to \$5,500, sophomores up to \$6,500; juniors and seniors up to \$7,500 per year. Depending on the student's need, the loans can be subsidized (government assumes interest while student in college) or unsubsidized (interest accumulates while in college).

Federal Perkins Loan

A Federal Perkins Loan is a low-interest (5 percent) loan for both undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. Federal Perkins Loans are made through a school's financial aid office. Your school is your lender, and the loan is made with government funds. You must repay this loan to your school. Repayment begins 9 months after graduation from school.

PLUS loans

Parent's Loan for Undergrad Students (PLUS) has a variable interest rate and hinges on an examination of the family's credit history. Repayment of PLUS loans must begin within 60 days of disbursement. These are sometimes used to help cover unexpected or overlooked costs that you need a little more time to pay.

Work-Study

If a student qualifies for financial aid, they will most likely be expected to participate in the Federal Work-Study program. The government allocates resources to colleges to enable the college to pay students who work in campus jobs. The money earned in a work-study job is paid directly to the college.

Financial Aid Forms

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

You must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if you want to apply for federal and state financial aid. Many colleges and universities, especially public institutions, also require the FAFSA. You must submit the FAFSA every year that you want aid.

You can fill out the web-based FAFSA at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> (step-by-step instructions are provided on this site). FAFSA on the Web offers several benefits, including:

- You will get your Student Aid Report (SAR) sooner than with the paper form.
- Your FAFSA will be more accurate than a paper application, since the FAFSA on the Web has built-in edit checks to catch simple errors and you avoid errors introduced by the OCR process.
- You will save the federal government money by reducing their processing costs.

If you have technical questions about using FAFSA on the Web, call 1-800-433-3243.

FinAid's [Financial Aid Estimation Form](#) may be used to compute an estimate of your eligibility for financial aid. This may help you understand a bit about how the federal need analysis system works.

The CollegeBoard CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs. The CSS Profile is required by many private colleges and universities to determine your eligibility for non-government financial aid, such as the institution's own grants, loans and scholarships.

The biggest differences between the CSS PROFILE and the FAFSA are:

- **Submission dates:** The CSS PROFILE can be submitted in the fall, as early as Oct. 1, 2017; the FAFSA cannot be submitted before January 1, 2018.
- **Specific questions:** The CSS PROFILE contains questions specific to the school or program you're applying to; FAFSA contains the same questions for everyone.
- **Different methodology:** The CSS PROFILE determines your financial need differently than the FAFSA, taking into account such factors as whether your family owns a home. In general, the CSS PROFILE asks for more detailed information than FAFSA.
- **Minimum student contribution:** The CSS PROFILE requires this; the FAFSA doesn't.
- **Greater reliance on professional judgment:** The CSS PROFILE gives financial aid counselors greater freedom to grant aid based on a student's particular circumstances.
- **Cost:** CSS PROFILE costs \$25 plus \$16 for each additional school or scholarship program selected. Fee waivers may be available. The FAFSA is free to complete.

You can find more information about the CSS PROFILE at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>.

When you register for the CSS PROFILE, you will need the PROFILE code of the school or program to which you are applying. The correct codes can be found online at

<https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

National Colleges and Universities

University ACT Score Information						
Private National Universities	Composite		English		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
Brown	31	34	32	35	29	35
Columbia	32	35	33	35	30	35
Cornell	31	34	31	35	30	35
Duke	31	34	32	35	30	35
Emory	30	33				
Hampton University	20	24	20	24	19	25
Harvard	32	35	33	35	31	35
Howard University	21	27	21	28	19	26
Princeton	32	35	32	35	31	35
U Penn	32	35	32	35	30	35
Georgetown	30	34	31	35	28	34
Johns Hopkins	32	24	33	25	31	35
MIT	33	35	33	35	34	36
Morehouse	18	23	16	23	17	24
Northwestern	32	34	32	34	32	34
Spelman	22	26	19	25	21	26
Stanford	31	35	32	35	30	35
University of Chicago	32	35	33	35	31	35
Vanderbilt	32	35	32	35	30	35
Public National Universities	Composite		English		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
Florida State	25	29				
Georgia Tech	30	34	31	35	30	35
Ohio State	27	31	26	33	27	31
Penn State	25	29	25	31	25	30
U of California - Berkeley	31	34	31	35	29	35
U of California - LA	28	33	28	35	27	34
U of Maryland - College Park						
U of Michigan - Ann Arbor	29	33	29	34	27	33
U of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	28	33	28	34	27	32
U of Texas - Austin	26	32	26	33	26	33
University of Virginia	29	33	29	35	29	35

National Colleges and Universities

University SAT Score Information						
Private National Universities	Composite		English		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
Brown	1370	1570	680	780	690	790
Columbia	1410	1590	700	790	710	800
Cornell	1330	1530	650	750	680	780
Duke	1380	1570	680	770	700	800
Emory	1290	1500	630	730	660	770
Hampton University	940	1090	470	540	470	550
Harvard	1430	1600	710	800	720	800
Howard University	990	1220	500	610	490	610
Princeton	1400	1590	690	790	710	800
U Penn	1380	1570	680	770	700	800
Georgetown	1320	1520	660	760	660	760
Johns Hopkins	1400	1570	690	770	710	800
MIT	1460	1590	700	790	760	800
Morehouse	870	1100	440	550	430	550
Northwestern	1400	1560	690	760	710	800
Spelman	980	1170	500	590	480	580
Stanford	1380	1580	680	780	700	800
University of Chicago	1450	1600	720	800	730	800
Vanderbilt	1420	1590	700	790	720	800
Public National Universities	Composite		English		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
Florida State	1120	1280	560	640	560	640
Georgia Tech	1320	1500	640	730	680	770
Ohio State	1170	1390	560	670	610	720
Penn State	1090	1300	530	630	560	670
U of California - Berkeley	1270	1540	620	750	650	790
U of California - LA	1160	1470	570	710	590	760
U of Maryland - College Park	1210	1420	590	690	620	730
U of Michigan - Ann Arbor	1310	1500	640	730	670	770
U of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	1210	1420	600	700	610	720
U of Texas - Austin	1170	1410	570	690	600	720
University of Virginia	1240	1460	620	720	620	740

National Colleges and Universities

College and University Profile Data								
Private National Universities	Location	Undergrad Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Student/ Faculty Ratio	Acceptance Rate	Tuition Cost 2016-17	Total Cost 2016-17	Graduation Rate (4/6yr)
Brown	Providence, RI	6,652	9,458	9:1	9%	\$51,366	\$68,106	84 / 96
Columbia	New York, NY	8,124	29,372	6:1	7%	\$55,056	\$71,785	84 / 94
Cornell	Ithaca, NY	14,566	22,319	9:1	14%	\$50,952	\$67,613	87 / 94
Duke	Durham, NC	6,609	15,735	6:1	11%	\$51,265	\$69,169	86 / 95
Emory	Atlanta, GA	6,861	14,067	9:1	25%	\$47,994	\$65,080	85 / 91
Hampton University	Hampton, VA	4,646	3,793	9:1	69%	\$24,242	\$38,826	13 / 63
Harvard	Cambridge, MA	9,915	29,908	7:1	5%	\$47,074	\$66,900	86 / 97
Howard University	Washington, DC	5,899	10,002	7:1	49%	\$24,908	\$41,488	40 / 60
Princeton	Princeton, NJ	5,400	8,181	5:1	7%	\$45,320	\$63,690	89 / 97
U Penn	Philadelphia, PA	11,716	24,960	6:1	9%	\$51,464	\$69,340	85 / 95
Georgetown	Washington, DC	7,453	18,525	11:1	17%	\$50,547	\$69,313	90 / 94
Johns Hopkins	Baltimore, MD	6,042	23,917	7:1	13%	\$50,410	\$67,650	87 / 92
MIT	Cambridge, MA	4,524	11,376	3:1	8%	\$48,452	\$65,478	84 / 93
Morehouse	Atlanta, GA	2,108	N/A	12:1	76%	\$26,742	\$47,952	41 / 51
Northwestern	Evanston, IL	8,791	21,823	7:1	11%	\$50,855	\$70,496	84 / 94
Spelman	Atlanta, GA	2,125	N/A	11:1	36%	\$27,314	\$46,409	71 / 77
Stanford	Palo Alto, CA	7,034	17,184	4:1	5%	\$47,940	\$66,696	75 / 94
University of Chicago	Chicago, IL	6,001	15,775	6:1	8%	\$53,649	\$72,717	89 / 94
Vanderbilt	Nashville, TN	6,871	12,587	8:1	11%	\$45,610	\$64,654	87 / 92
Public National Universities	Location	Undergrad Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Student/ Faculty Ratio	Acceptance Rate	Tuition Cost 2016-17	Total Cost 2016-17	Graduation Rate (4/6yr)
Florida State	Tallahassee, FL	32,933	41,173	24:1	56%	\$21,673	\$37,741	62 / 79
Georgia Tech	Atlanta, GA	15,489	26,839	19:1	26%	\$34,404	\$47,612	41 / 86
Ohio State	Columbus, OH	45,831	59,482	19:1	49%	\$28,229	\$25,847	59 / 83
Penn State	State College, PA	41,359	47,789	16:1	51%	\$32,382	\$50,240	64 / 86
U of California - Berkeley	Berkeley, CA	29,310	40,154	17:1	17%	\$40,191	\$63,051	76 / 92
U of California - LA	Los Angeles, CA	30,873	43,548	17:1	18%	\$39,602	\$60,738	74 / 91
U of Maryland - College Park	College Park, MD	28,472	39,083	17:1	45%	\$32,045	\$47,927	69 / 86
U of Michigan - Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor, MI	28,983	44,718	15:1	29%	\$45,410	\$59,784	77 / 91
U of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	18,522	29,468	13:1	27%	\$33,916	\$49,980	84 / 91
U of Texas - Austin	Austin, TX	40,168	51,331	18:1	39%	\$35,682	\$50,724	52 / 80
University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	16,331	23,898	15:1	30%	\$45,756	\$60,530	88 / 94

Sources:

www.act.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.usnews.com
<https://nces.ed.gov/>