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2017 Best Colleges in America

The Best Colleges ranking is based on rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, financial, and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions of reviews from students [More](#)

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1 [Stanford University](#)

Stanford, CA

[1,081 reviews](#)

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College Sophomore: Stanford is truly the most amazing place in the world. Before my freshman year I never felt like a really had a home, but I have finally found one at the Farm. The academics are amazing and [More](#)

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2 [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Cambridge, MA

[576 reviews](#)

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College Junior: Everyone around me is passionate about some topic. It's inspiring to see what my classmates are up to, whether it's research or startups or personal projects. The atmosphere can be stressful, [More](#)

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 Share Tweet G+ Share3 [Yale University](#)

New Haven, CT

909 reviews

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College Junior: I absolutely love attending Yale University. I feel that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am entering my third year in the fall and couldn't imagine being anywhere else. What drew [More](#)

Ranking Factors ▾

[View Profile >](#)4 [Harvard University](#)

Cambridge, MA

616 reviews

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College Sophomore: There's not a school out there quite like Harvard. Simply put, the quality and diversity of the student body has made my time so far a remarkable experience. The intellectual attitudes and [More](#)

Ranking Factors ▾

[View Profile >](#)5 [Princeton University](#)

Princeton, NJ

381 reviews

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College Senior: As a graduating senior, I can definitively say that my four years at Princeton have been the best four years of my life. No-loan financial aid, a wealth of quality opportunities, and the best student [More](#)

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6 [Rice University](#)


Houston, TX

958 reviews

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College Sophomore: I'm incredibly happy with my decision to come to Rice. It's a small campus, so you'll have pretty small class sizes (max 150 for intro STEM classes, once you get past those its usually 15-40 p [More](#)

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 Share Tweet Share**Bowdoin College**

Brunswick, ME

640 reviews

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College Sophomore: I feel like my school has even more to offer than I thought it did and while there are definitely issues, I can't imagine myself being anywhere else.

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[View Profile >](#)**8 University of Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia, PA

1,104 reviews

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College Junior: Very diverse undergraduate class socioeconomically and culturally. Penn's resources spanning across all 12 graduate schools are available to undergraduates, truly enhancing the learning experience.

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[View Profile >](#)**9 Washington University in St. Louis**

Saint Louis, MO

1,316 reviews

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College Sophomore: I love everything about Wash U. The location is amazing, STL has so much to offer. Everyone around is so driven, smart, and kind. The campus, dorms, and food are great. The classes are challenging.

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[View Profile >](#)**10 Brown University**

Providence, RI

915 reviews

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College Sophomore: I just transferred into Brown and I honestly have to say that it's one of the best decisions I've made in my life. Brown is a wonderful place to be and being here made me realize how great it is.

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College Sophomore: Duke is amazing, but I would choose it again if I had to do it all over. The classes make me think, the basketball is fantastic, and the people are amazing. [More](#)

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[View Profile >](#)**12** **Columbia University**

New York, NY

1,080 reviews

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College Junior: For those interested in Columbia College, not CEAS (the Engineering School): As a political science major with a German concentration (Columbia-speak for minor), I have been very satisfie

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[View Profile >](#)**13** **Dartmouth College**

Hanover, NH

652 reviews

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College Junior: Although Dartmouth has its problem, I've had an amazing time. I've grown as a person in so many respects, learned so much about my field, and have had the opportunity to study abroad tw

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[View Profile >](#)**14** **Vanderbilt University**

Nashville, TN

1,153 reviews

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College Sophomore: I love Vandy even though it's super hard and my first year was really tough. The classes are really challenging but the social life and the people you meet here make up for it. [More](#)

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College Junior: ... college is extremely special. It's honestly the people here that make the school, but the good weather doesn't hurt. :) A large majority of the students here are open-minded, extremel

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16 California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, CA

105 reviews

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College Sophomore: Caltech is probably the best place for geology in the country. There are lots of field trips, brilliant professors (the tops in their fields), and it's easy even for freshman to find research oppor

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17 University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

3,298 reviews

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College Sophomore: It feels extremely personal. There are opportunities everywhere and especially as an engineer we're encouraged to mix and match the parts of USC that matter to us. For me, I work on

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18 University of Notre Dame

South Bend, IN

1,210 reviews

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College Junior: The community aspect of the University of Notre Dame is unmatched by any other school that I applied to during my college application process. It was the perfect fit for me from a social, an aca

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College Sophomore: Chicago lives up to its standards of being diverse, academically rigorous, and a safe place for inquiry of all kinds. My experience so far has been fantastic, and I'm excited to come back for tl [More](#)

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[View Profile >](#)20 **Washington & Lee University**

Lexington, VA

386 reviews

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College Senior: I love this place. If I had to make this decision again 1000 times over, I would make the same choice every time. W&L has given me so many opportunities for personal and intellectual growth. [More](#)

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[View Profile >](#)21 **Carleton College**

Northfield, MN

464 reviews

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College Sophomore: Carleton is an incredible place to go to school--the people really care about academics, real issues, and each other. There are also literally hundreds of activities to get involved with, so tl [More](#)

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[View Profile >](#)22 **Colgate University**

Hamilton, NY

957 reviews

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College Junior: I'd be lying if I said I 100% loved everything about Colgate. It definitely has its downsides and I felt very uncomfortable during orientation when stuck with a bunch of rich kids talking about thei [More](#)

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College Sophomore: I am currently studying at the University of Michigan, which is known for its business and engineering programs. But I'm currently triple-majoring in Linguistics, Spanish, and Japanese

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24 Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

1,233 reviews

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College Senior: Northwestern has given me the opportunities to learn professional skills outside of the classroom through networking, internships, and student group participation.

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25 Tufts University

Medford, MA

854 reviews

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College Sophomore: I am very happy with my choice of Tufts University. The size of the student body, the size of my classes, my major, my instructors and playing on the lacrosse team. I have made significant fri

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