

**The  
Princeton  
Review®**

Financial Aid  
Ratings—Plus  
100 Best Value  
Colleges List

# The Best **371** Colleges

2010 Edition

**Based on 122,000 Student Ratings**

**RANKINGS** report the top 20 colleges in 62 categories for everything from best dorms to career centers.

**RATINGS** in 6 categories: financial aid, academics, eco-friendliness, and more.

**BONUS SECTION:** Great colleges for the 15 most popular majors.

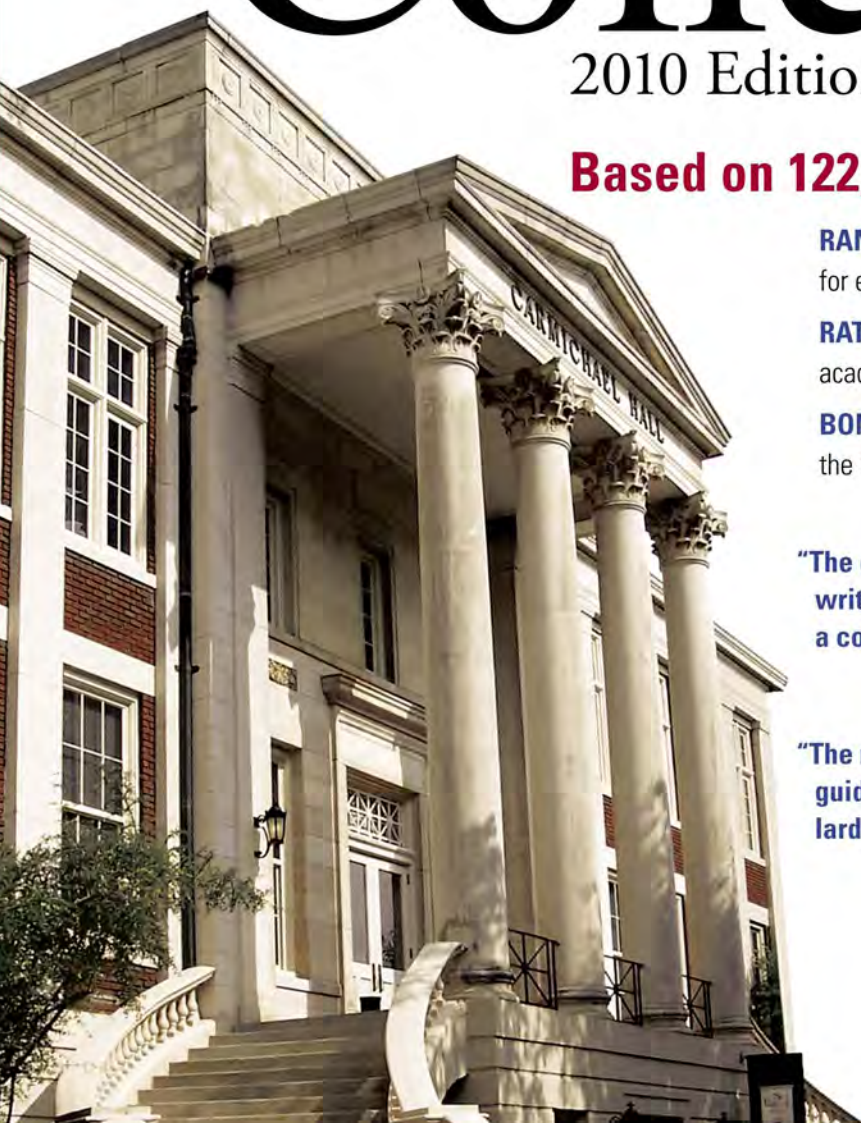
**“The offbeat indexes, along with the chattily written descriptions of each school, provide a colorful picture of each campus.”**

**—The New York Times**

**“The most efficient of the college guidebooks. Has entertaining profiles larded with quotes from students.”**

**—Rolling Stone**

Robert Franek with Tom Meltzer, et al.



# The Best **371** Colleges

2010 Edition

What makes **The Best 371 Colleges** the most popular college guide?

- Revealing answers from college students cover each school's unique character and give you the best insight into their classes, financial aid, social life, and everything in between. Students are the experts, after all, and we surveyed 122,000 of them!
- One-of-a-kind rankings reveal the top colleges in 62 categories based on how students rated their school's financial aid, dorms, professors, classroom experience, food, athletic facilities, and more.
- All the application essentials—tuition, admissions criteria, deadlines, phone numbers, addresses, demographics, student/faculty ratios, and most popular majors—make for quick reference and easy comparison when you're narrowing down your choices.
- An Index of Schools by Cost allows you to search all colleges in the book by price.

**"A great book...it's a bargain." —CNN**

**"Our favorite college guidebook." —*Seventeen***

**"Provides the kind of feedback students would get from other students in a campus visit." —*USA Today***



## And There's More!

The Princeton Review has been a pioneer and leader in helping students achieve their higher education goals for more than 25 years through college and graduate school test preparation and private tutoring. With more than 165 print and digital publications and a free website, the company provides students and their parents with the resources to research, apply to, prepare for, and learn how to pay for higher education.

Our tools will help you navigate the college process from A to Z, including:

- Admissions Guidance
- Online School Services
- Private and Small Group Tutoring
- Online and Classroom Courses

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# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

22 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH, NEW YORK, NY 10011 • ADMISSIONS: 212-998-4500 • FAX: 212-995-4902

## CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	72
Fire Safety Rating	79
Green Rating	96
Type of school	private
Environment	metropolis

## STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	20,780
% male/female	39/61
% from out of state	64
% from public high school	65
% live on campus	52
% in (# of) fraternities	1 (14)
% in (# of) sororities	2 (10)
% African American	4
% Asian	20
% Caucasian	48
% Hispanic	8
% international	6
# of countries represented	99

## SURVEY SAYS . . .

*Lots of liberal students*

*Students love New York, NY*

*Great off-campus food*

*Intercollegiate sports are unpopular or nonexistent*

*Frats and sororities are unpopular or nonexistent*

## ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	83
Calendar	semester
Student/faculty ratio	12:1
Profs interesting rating	62
Profs accessible rating	62
Most common reg class size	10–19 students
Most common lab size	10–19 students

## MOST POPULAR MAJORS

drama and dramatics/theatre arts  
finance

liberal arts and sciences/liberal studies

## STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

### Academics

Located in the heart of Manhattan’s Greenwich Village, New York University feeds off its great home city. The school’s layout reinforces this relationship; academic buildings and dormitories are scattered around Washington Square Park and are virtually indistinguishable from the private residences, hotels, and restaurants that are its neighbors. Asked to identify the school’s greatest asset, so many students respond “location, location, location” that one could be forgiven for thinking that NYU is a training school for real-estate agents. Nonetheless, the school’s location “attracts superb professors and well-known researchers and lecturers” and “It’s pretty much guaranteed that you’ll have a couple good connections in your field when you leave NYU.” While at school, you’ll find opportunities for “amazing internship possibilities and real-life experiences,” and you’ll learn the “independence, maturity, and time-management skills” that come with living in an “expensive place where space is limited but you have access to the best of everything.” Students note that NYU “offers a great program for nearly anything you want to major in,” including a world-renowned arts school, and excellent programs in business, the humanities, and education. The school’s weak spot, undergrads agree, is the administration, where “too much red tape” creates an experience reminiscent of “a daily trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles.” A relatively small price to pay, most here agree, for the “endless cultural, culinary, musical, artistic, and academic opportunities” that NYU offers.

### Life

NYU isn’t merely located in “the city that never sleeps.” It is, in fact, located in one of the city’s hottest social and cultural areas, an agora of restaurants, clubs, concert venues, movie theaters, retail shops, and galleries. Village life ain’t cheap, however, and students warn that “money is always an issue. Kids are either worried about getting more money out of their parents or managing what money they have. But money seems to be considerably less of an issue when we’re all going out on a Friday night. There is any number of ways to entertain yourself—it’s New York City!” Inexpensive diversions include many of the city’s famous museums, cheap ethnic eats, and the ever-popular pastime of people-watching. There are also “many free/discounted events put on by the university (like concerts, plays, forums, etc).” Don’t expect a typical college party scene here, however, as “There are no frat parties at NYU, as Greek life is virtually nonexistent, even frowned upon by many students. Instead, students prefer to go out to bars and clubs on weekends.” Dorm and apartment parties also “aren’t too abundant, though pre-gaming is very popular.” In fact, “NYU doesn’t really provide much of an emphasis on campus activities, especially during the weekend. You’re basically left to find your own entertainment which, thankfully, is always possible.”

### Student Body

Students agree that “NYU is just as diverse as the city it is surrounded by,” noting that the campus “is a conglomeration of the atypical. If you are looking for a student body wearing J. Crew and discussing the next frat party, this isn’t the school for you.” Each college has a specific archetype—“The somewhat eccentric theater student in Tisch, the mostly international Stern business students, the Steinhardt musicians reminiscent of the band groups in high school”—but “The vast majority of students are really pretty average, just doing their own thing like everybody else.” The community “is known for its acceptance of students of any ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or race. We live in New York, so absolutely nothing shocks us, and virtually everything is accepted.” The lack of a traditional campus attracts students of an “independent” bent and, on occasion, drives away those who discover they crave a more conventional college experience.

## THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

### Admissions

*Very important factors considered include:* Application essay, academic GPA, recommendation(s), rigor of secondary school record, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities. *Important factors considered include:* Class rank, character/personal qualities, talent/ability. *Other factors considered include:* Alumni/ae relation, first generation, racial/ethnic status, volunteer work, work experience. SAT or ACT required; ACT with Writing component required; TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. *Academic units required:* 4 English, 3 mathematics, 3 science, (2 science labs), 2 foreign language, 4 history. *Academic units recommended:* 4 English, 4 mathematics, 4 science, 3 foreign language, 4 history.

### Financial Aid

*Students should submit:* FAFSA, state aid form. Early Decision applicants may submit an institutional form for an estimated award. Regular filing deadline is 2/15. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after 1/1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* Federal Pell, SEOG, state scholarships/grants, private scholarships, the school's own gift aid. *Loan aid offered:* FFEL Subsidized Stafford, FFEL Unsubsidized Stafford, FFEL PLUS, Federal Perkins, Federal Nursing. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 4/1. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are excellent.

### The Inside Word

Undergraduate applicants may apply only to one of NYU's undergraduate schools and colleges. Students applying to the Silver School of Social Work, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, the Tisch School of the Arts, or the School of Continuing and Professional Studies must indicate an intended major (those applying to the College of Arts and Sciences or the Stern School of Business may indicate that they are undecided on their majors). This is different from the application process at most schools and obviously requires some forethought. Remember that this is a highly competitive school; if your application does not reflect a serious interest in your intended area of study, your chances of getting in will be diminished.

## THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

### From The Admissions Office

“Located in Greenwich Village, New York University (NYU) is unlike any other U.S. institution of higher education in the United States. When you enter NYU, you become part of a close-knit community that combines the nurturing atmosphere of a small- to medium-sized college with the myriad offerings and research opportunities of a global, urban university. The energy and resources of New York City serve as an extension of our campus, providing unique opportunities for research, internships, and job placement. With thousands of undergraduate course offerings and over 160 areas of study from which to choose, you can explore and develop your intellectual and professional passions from your very first semester. Along with this extraordinary range of courses and programs, each of our schools offers a strong liberal arts foundation, introducing you to the traditions of scholarship and inquiry that are the keys to success at NYU and throughout life. NYU's intellectual climate is fostered by a faculty of world-famous scholars, researchers, and artists who teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. In addition, an integral element of the NYU academic experience is our study abroad programs. NYU offers ten international academic centers for study abroad—in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, Ghana, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Shanghai, and Tel Aviv, along with a complete branch campus in Abu Dhabi scheduled to open in fall 2010.

“At NYU, you will become part of one of the most dynamic universities in the country, in one of the most exciting cities in the world, making NYU's tradition of innovation, learning, and success a part of your future.”

## SELECTIVITY

<b>Admissions Rating</b>	<b>96</b>
# of applicants	37,245
% of applicants accepted	32
% of acceptees attending	38
# accepting a place on wait list	1,037
% admitted from wait list	52
# of early decision applicants	2,994
% accepted early decision	33

## FRESHMAN PROFILE

Range SAT Critical Reading	620–720
Range SAT Math	630–720
Range SAT Writing	620–720
Range ACT Composite	28–31
Average HS GPA	3.6
% graduated top 10% of class	68
% graduated top 25% of class	92
% graduated top 50% of class	100

## DEADLINES

Early decision	
Deadline	11/1
Notification	12/15
Regular	
Deadline	1/1
Notification	4/1
Nonfall registration?	no

## FINANCIAL FACTS

<b>Financial Aid Rating</b>	<b>77</b>
Annual tuition	\$36,586
% frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	51
% UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	48
% frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	49
% UG rec. need-based self-help aid	47
% frosh rec. any financial aid	58
% UG rec. any financial aid	57
% UG borrow to pay for school	58
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$34,850

# UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN—ANN ARBOR

1220 STUDENT ACTIVITIES BUILDING, ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1316 • ADMISSIONS: 734-764-7433 • FAX: 734-936-0740

## CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	85
Fire Safety Rating	87
Green Rating	89
Type of school	public
Environment	city

## STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	25,865
% male/female	50/50
% from out of state	36
% live on campus	37
% in (# of) fraternities	17 (37)
% in (# of) sororities	17 (22)
% African American	6
% Asian	13
% Caucasian	69
% Hispanic	5
% Native American	1
% international	4
# of countries represented	120

## SURVEY SAYS . . .

*Students love Ann Arbor, MI*  
*Great off-campus food*  
*Everyone loves the Wolverines*  
*Student publications are popular*  
*Political activism is popular*

## ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	83
Calendar	semester
Student/faculty ratio	15:1
Profs interesting rating	65
Profs accessible rating	71
% classes taught by TAs	39
Most common reg class size	10–19 students
Most common lab size	20–29 students

## MOST POPULAR MAJORS

business administration and management  
 mechanical engineering  
 psychology

## STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

### Academics

Among the many allures of the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor is that the school offers “a great environment both academically and socially.” One student explains, “It has the social, fun atmosphere of any Big Ten university, but most people are still incredibly focused on their studies. It’s great to be at a place where there is always something to do, but your friends completely understand when you have to stay in and get work done.” With “an amazing honors program,” a “wide range of travel-abroad opportunities,” and “research strength” all available “at a low cost,” it’s no wonder students tell us that UM “provides every kind of opportunity at all times to all people.” Academically, Michigan “is very competitive, and the professors have high academic standards for all the students.” In fact, some here insist that “Michigan is as good as Ivy League schools in many disciplines.” Standout offerings include business (“We have access to some of the brightest leaders” in the business world, students report), a “great engineering program,” and “a good undergraduate program for medical school preparation.” Those seeking add-on academic experiences here will find “a vast amount of resources. Internships, career opportunities, tutoring, community service projects, a plethora of student organizations, and a wealth of other resources” are all available, but “you need to make the first move” because no one “will seek you out.”

### Life

Michigan is a huge university, meaning that students have endless extracurricular options here. One explains: “If you seek it out, you can find organizations for ANY interest. There are always people out there who share your interests. That’s part of the benefit of 40,000+ students!” There is a robust party scene. Students tell us that “most students go to house parties [or] hit the bars.” There’s also a vigorous social scene for the non-drinking crowd, with “great programs like UMix...phenomenal cultural opportunities in Ann Arbor especially music and movies,” and “the hugely popular football Saturdays. The sense of school spirit here is impressive.” Michigan students tend to be both academically serious and socially outgoing, which “is great because you can have a stimulating conversation with someone one day, and, the next day, be watching a silly movie or playing video games with this person.”

### Student Body

The Michigan student body “is hugely diverse,” which “is one of the things Michigan prides itself on.” “If you participate in extracurricular activities and make an effort to get to know other students in class and elsewhere, you’ll definitely end up with a pretty diverse group of friends,” undergrads assure us. Although varied, students tend to be similar in that they “are social but very academically driven.” A number of students “are on the cutting edge of both research and progressive thinking,” and there is a decided liberal tilt to campus politics. Even so, there’s a place for everyone here, because “there are hundreds of mini-communities within the campus, made of everything from service fraternities to political organizations to dance groups. If you have an interest, you can find a group of people who enjoy the same thing.”

## THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

### Admissions

*Very important factors considered include:* rigor of secondary school record, *Important factors considered include:* Application essay, academic GPA, recommendation(s), standardized test scores, character/personal qualities, first generation. *Other factors considered include:* Class rank, alumni/ae relation, extracurricular activities, geographical residence, level of applicant's interest, state residency, talent/ability, volunteer work, work experience. SAT or ACT required; ACT with Writing component required. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. *Academic units required:* 4 English, 3 mathematics, 3 science, (1 science labs), 2 foreign language, 3 social studies, 1 academic electives. *Academic units recommended:* 4 English, 4 mathematics, 4 science, (1 science labs), 4 foreign language, 3 social studies, 2 history, 2 visual/performing arts, 1 computer science, 1 academic electives.

### Financial Aid

*Students should submit:* FAFSA, CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE Regular filing deadline is 5/29. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after 1/1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* Federal Pell, SEOG, state scholarships/grants, private scholarships, the school's own gift aid, Academic Competitive Grant (ACG); National SMART. *Loan aid offered:* Direct Subsidized Stafford, Direct Unsubsidized Stafford, Direct PLUS, Federal Perkins, Federal Nursing, college/university loans from institutional funds, Health Professional student loans. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 3/14. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are excellent.

### The Inside Word

Michigan admissions are extremely competitive. Just to give you an idea of how competitive: 28 percent of the 2008 incoming freshman class graduated in the top one percent of their high school class. The volume of applications—Michigan received nearly 30,000 applications for the aforementioned class—means the admissions office must rely heavily on numbers to make its decision, so do what you can to get those test scores and GPAs as high as you can. Michigan admits on a rolling basis, a process that favors those who apply early.

## THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

### From The Admissions Office

“Michigan is a place of incredible possibility. Students shape that possibility according to their diverse interests, goals, energy, and initiative. Undergraduate education is in the academic spotlight at Michigan, offering more than 220 fields of study in 12 schools and colleges; more than 150 first-year seminars with 20 or fewer students taught by senior faculty; composition classes of 20 or fewer students; more than 1,200 first- and second-year students in undergraduate research partnerships with faculty; and numerous service learning programs linking academics with volunteerism. Some introductory courses have large lectures, but these are combined with labs or small group discussions where students get plenty of individualized attention. A Michigan degree is one of distinction and promise; graduates are successful in medical, law, and graduate schools all over the nation and world. A year after graduation, more than 95 percent of UM alumni report that they are in the “next step” of their career—whether that is graduate or professional school, working, or volunteering.”

### SELECTIVITY

<b>Admissions Rating</b>	<b>99</b>
# of applicants	29,105
% of applicants accepted	41
% of acceptees attending	47

### FRESHMAN PROFILE

Range SAT Critical Reading	610–720
Range SAT Math	660–760
Range SAT Writing	610–720
Range ACT Composite	28–32
Minimum paper TOEFL	570
Minimum computer TOEFL	230
Minimum web-based TOEFL	88
Minimum IELTS	6.5
Average HS GPA	3.75
% graduated top 10% of class	94
% graduated top 25% of class	99
% graduated top 50% of class	100

### DEADLINES

Early action	
Deadline	11/1
Notification	12/24
Regular	
Deadline	2/1
Notification	rolling
Nonfall registration?	yes

### APPLICANTS ALSO LOOK AT AND OFTEN PREFER

Michigan State University  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Northwestern University

### AND SOMETIMES PREFER

Washington University in St. Louis  
New York University  
Cornell University

### AND RARELY PREFER

University of Wisconsin—Madison  
University of California—Berkeley

### FINANCIAL FACTS

<b>Financial Aid Rating</b>	<b>91</b>
Annual in-state tuition	\$11,549
Annual out-of-state tuition	\$34,041
Room and board	\$8,590
Required fees	\$189
Books and supplies	\$1,048
% frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	24
% UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	24
% frosh rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	70
% UG rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	53
% frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	40
% UG rec. need-based self-help aid	46
% frosh rec. athletic scholarships	2
% UG rec. athletic scholarships	2
% UG borrow to pay for school	46
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$25,586

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