

THE

ULTIMATE LIST

*of the Nation's*

# MOST GENEROUS COLLEGES

64

Schools That Meet

• • • 100% • • •

of Financial Need

*... and Dozens More That Come Close*

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 THE COLLEGE  
SOLUTION

While nearly 2,800 four-year colleges and universities exist in the United States, there are less than six dozen that claim to meet 100% of the demonstrated financial need of all or most of their students.

The list below includes the names of those schools. You'll also find institutions on this list that say that they typically meet at least 93% of financial need of their students.

It's important to understand that the institutions self report these figures. A school's generosity will depend heavily on the institutional financial aid formula that it uses.

Nearly all the schools on this list use the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, which is a financial aid application created by the College Board. In addition to the standard questions on the PROFILE, the application allows colleges to pick from hundreds of optional questions that are designed to measure the financial ability of families to pay for college.

For instance, Boston College says it meets 100% of a student's financial need, but its aid formula calculates the full value of a family's home equity (not a good thing!). Many schools haven't adopted such a harsh stance against home equity. Boston College also takes a much closer look at other aspects of a family's finances than some of the other schools you'll see below.

Consequently, even schools that are similarly priced could offer significantly different packages. For example, the average need-based aid package for Boston College students is \$32,146. Compare that to Amherst College's average aid package of \$48,105.

## What Does Meeting 100% of Financial Need Mean?

I often find that parents are confused by what this term—meeting 100% of financial need—means. I hope this clears up the confusion:

A school that meets 100% of need will provide an aid package that fills the gap between what a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is and a school's cost of attendance.

An EFC is what a family would be expected to pay, at a minimum, for one year of school. The financial aid formula determines what your EFC will be based on such factors as your income, assets, marital status and size of the household.

You can learn more by reading this post on my blog ([TheCollegeSolution.com](https://www.thecollegesolution.com)):

**Your Crucial 1st Step Before Looking for Colleges**

### EFC EXAMPLE

<b>Cost of attendance</b>	\$48,000
<b>EFC</b>	\$12,000
<b>Demonstrated need (gap)</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>

In this example, a school that meets 100% of financial need would provide \$36,000 in aid in a package that should be primarily grants/scholarships. Except for the most generous elite schools, institutions will routinely put the federal Direct Loan for a student in the aid package. The maximum federal Direct Loan for most freshmen will be \$5,500.

### ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP

While you can use this list to find potentially generous schools, you will definitely want to use a net price calculator to obtain an estimate of what a particular college will cost your family.

Check out this post from my blog that I wrote about why net price calculators are so important:

[\*\*Why You Must Use Net Price Calculators!\*\*](#)

## Schools That Meet a High Percentage of Need

School	%	School	%	School	%
Amherst College (MA)	100	Rice University (TX)	100	College of the Atlantic (ME)	95
Barnard College (NY)	100	Scripps College (CA)	100	Bentley University (MA)	95
Bates College (ME)	100	Skidmore College (NY)	100	Brandeis University (MA)	95
Boston College (MA)	100	Smith College (MA)	100	Bucknell University (PA)	95
Bowdoin College (ME)	100	Stanford University (CA)	100	Clark University (MA)	95
Brown University (RI)	100	Swarthmore College (PA)	100	Denison University (OH)	95
Bryn Mawr College (PA)	100	Thomas Aquinas College (CA)	100	Lehigh University (PA)	95
California Institute of Technology	100	Trinity College (CT)	100	Augustana University (SD)	94
Carleton College (MN)	100	Tufts University (MA)	100	Kalamazoo College (MI)	94
Claremont McKenna College (CA)	100	Union College (NY)	100	Wheaton College (MA)	94
Colby College (ME)	100	University of Chicago (IL)	100	College of the Wooster (OH)	94
Colgate University (NY)	100	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (NC)	100	Gustavus Adolphus College (MN)	93
College of the Holy Cross (MA)	100	University of Notre Dame (IN)	100	College of the Idaho (ID)	93
Columbia University (NY)	100	University of Pennsylvania (PA)	100	Northwestern College (IA)	93
Connecticut College (CT)	100	University of Richmond (VA)	100	College of Saint Benedict (MN)	93
Cornell University (NY)	100	University of Southern California (CA)	100	Saint John's University (MN)	93
Dartmouth College (NH)	100	University of Virginia (VA)	100	Soka University of America (CA)	93
Davidson College (NC)	100	Vanderbilt University (TN)	100	Trinity University (TX)	93
Duke University	100	Vassar College (NY)	100	Whitman College (WA)	93
Franklin & Marshall College	100	Wake Forest University (NC)	100		
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (MA)	100	Washington and Lee University (VA)	100		
Georgetown University (DC)	100	Washington University in St. Louis, (MO)	100		
Grinnell College (IA)	100	Wellesley College (MA)	100		
Hamilton College (NY)	100	Wesleyan University (CT)	100		
Harvard University (MA)	100	Williams College (MA)	100		
Harvey Mudd College (CA)	100	Yale University (CT)	100		
Haverford College (PA)	100	Colorado College (CO)	99		
Johns Hopkins University (MD)	100	Emory University (GA)	99		
Macalester College (MN)	100	Lafayette College (PA)	99		
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)	100	Dickinson College (PA)	98		
Middlebury College (VT)	100	University of Rochester (NY)	97		
Mount Holyoke College (MA)	100	Saint John's College (NM)	97		
Northwestern University (IL)	100	Babson College (MA)	96		
Oberlin College (OH)	100	Berea College (KY)	96		
Occidental College (CA)	100	Kenyon College (OH)	96		
Pitzer College (CA)	100	Loyola University Maryland (MD)	96		
Pomona College (CA)	100	Syracuse University (NY)	96		
Princeton University (NJ)	100	Tulane University (LA)	96		
Reed College (OR)	100	Wabash College (IN)	96		