

California's financially safer colleges

What is a "financially safer" college?

A college that supports its students better than other similar colleges in terms of **cost, graduation rate, debt burden, and mobility**, based on our analysis of College Scorecard data. [Click here for a detailed explanation of the data we use and how we analyze it.](#)



Families with low to moderate income pay less out of pocket



Low-income and students of color graduate at similar rates as their counterparts



Low-income students leave with less debt and are better able to repay their loans



Low-income students recoup the costs of their degree faster

Should I only apply to financially safer colleges?

uAspire strongly recommends that every student apply to at least **one financially safer college**. We also encourage you to include a variety of different types of colleges on your list.

What's the difference between community colleges and the other colleges & universities on this list?

Community colleges are sometimes referred to as "2-year colleges". They offer Associates degrees ("2-year degree") along with certificates. Public and private colleges & universities are often referred to as "4-year schools". They offer Bachelor's degrees ("4-year degree") and also advanced degrees. Students pursuing a Bachelor's degree often begin at community college and then transfer to another college/university to complete their program.

What's the difference between public and private colleges & universities?

Public and private colleges & universities differ in many ways, but most notably in cost of attendance. Among private colleges, those that meet full financial need are more likely to be affordable, but more difficult to get into.

Public financially safer community colleges

Bay Area			
Canada College	Skyline College	City College of San Francisco	Los Medanos College
College of San Mateo	Contra Costa College	Santa Rosa Junior College	Diablo Valley College



Scan or [click](#) to view all financially safer colleges in the West on a map, along with their average net prices

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Public financially safer community colleges

Northern Coast & Inland	Lassen Community College
Butte College	College of the Redwoods

Greater Sacramento & Gold Country	
Napa Valley College	American River College
Sacramento City College	Solano Community College
Woodland Community College	Cosumnes River College
Sierra College	Yuba College

South Central Coast	Ventura College
Cuesta College	College of the Canyons
Moorpark College	Oxnard College

San Joaquin Valley	
Clovis Community College	West Hills College - Lemoore
College of the Sequoias	Porterville College
Fresno City College	Reedley College

Inland Empire	
Copper Mountain Community College	Riverside City College
Chaffey College	Crafton Hills College
Norco College	College of the Desert

Central Coast	
Chabot College	Las Positas College
De Anza College	Mission College
Evergreen Valley College	San Jose City College
Foothill College	West Valley College

Los Angeles	El Camino Community College District
Glendale Community College	Los Angeles Valley College
Los Angeles Pierce College	Los Angeles Southwest College
Santa Monica College	Pasadena City College

Orange County	Citrus College
Santiago Canyon College	Mt San Antonio College
Irvine Valley College	Cypress College
Golden West College	Orange Coast College

San Diego & Imperial Valley	
Imperial Valley College	San Diego Miramar College
Grossmont College	Palomar College
MiraCosta College	Southwestern College

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Public financially safer colleges & universities

University of California	UC Irvine	California State University			CSU Monterey Bay	Sacramento State
UC Berkeley	UCLA	Cal Poly Pomona	Cal State LA	CSU Dominguez - Hills	CSU San Bernardino	San Diego State
UC Davis	UC San Diego	Cal State Fullerton	CSU Bakersfield	CSU Long Beach	Fresno State	Stanislaus State

Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City	College	City
University of San Diego	San Diego	California Institute of Technology*	Pasadena
Concordia University - Irvine	Irvine	Claremont McKenna College*	Claremont
University of the Pacific	Stockton	Harvey Mudd College*	Claremont
California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Occidental College*	Los Angeles
University of Redlands	Redlands	Pitzer College*	Claremont
Whittier College	Whittier	Pomona College*	Claremont
Saint Mary's College of California	Moraga	Scripps College*	Claremont
Fresno Pacific University	Fresno	University of Southern California*	Los Angeles
Northeastern University - Oakland Campus	Oakland	Thomas Aquinas College	Santa Paula
Soka University of America	Aliso Viejo	Stanford University*	Stanford
Vanguard University of Southern California	Costa Mesa	Point Loma Nazarene University	San Diego

What does it mean if a college is bold with an asterisk next to it?

These are financially safer colleges that **meet students' full financial need**, which means they guarantee to provide the full amount of financial aid they determine a student needs.

Recommendations are current only for 2023-2024 academic year