



New York'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

CUNY	Kingsborough Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College	Queensborough Community College
Bronx Community College	Stella and Charles Guttman Community College



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



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Public financially safer community colleges

SUNY		Erie Community College
Schenectady County Community College	SUNY Corning Community College	Onondaga Community College
Cayuga County Community College	Hudson Valley Community College	Orange County Community College
Columbia-Greene Community College	Niagara County Community College	Rockland Community College
Ulster County Community College	Suffolk County Community College	Dutchess Community College
Nassau Community College	Monroe Community College	

Public financially safer colleges & universities

CUNY	SUNY		
Bernard M Baruch College	SUNY College at Geneseo	Stony Brook University	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Brooklyn College			
CUNY City College	Farmingdale State College	SUNY at Albany	SUNY Oneonta
Hunter College	SUNY at Fredonia	Binghamton University	SUNY Polytechnic Institute
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	State University of New York at New Paltz	SUNY College at Old Westbury	University at Buffalo
Queens College	SUNY Brockport	SUNY College at Plattsburgh	

Recommendations are current only for 2025-2026 academic year

See third page for private colleges & universities



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Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Albany
Bard College	Annandale-On-Hudson
Barnard College [^]	New York
Canisius College	Buffalo
Colgate University [^]	Hamilton
College of Mount Saint Vincent	Bronx
Columbia University [^]	New York
Cornell University [^]	Ithaca
Daemen University	Amherst
Hamilton College [^]	Clinton
Hobart William Smith Colleges	Geneva
Le Moyne College	Syracuse

College	City
New York University [^]	New York
Niagara University	Lewiston
Russell Sage College	Troy
Skidmore College [*]	Saratoga Springs
St. Bonaventure University	Bonaventure
St. Francis College	Brooklyn
St Lawrence University	Canton
St. Joseph's University - New York	Brooklyn
Syracuse University	Syracuse
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art [^]	New York
Union College [*]	Schenectady
University of Rochester [*]	Rochester
Vassar College [^]	Poughkeepsie

What does it mean if a college has an asterisk (*) or a carat (^) next to it?

Asterisks indicate 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. Carats indicate financially safer colleges that have an acceptance rate less than 25% and are **highly selective**.

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Source: Based on uAspire's analysis of the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard data from Spring 2025 and Third Way's economic mobility index.