

West region'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 public and private colleges & universities?

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

Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City
California Institute of Technology*	Pasadena
California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks
Claremont McKenna College*	Claremont
Gonzaga University	Spokane
Harvey Mudd College*	Claremont



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

West region's financially safer colleges

Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City
Lewis & Clark College	Portland
Mills College	Oakland
Occidental College*	Los Angeles
Pacific Lutheran University	Tacoma
Pitzer College*	Claremont
Point Loma Nazarene University	San Diego
Pomona College*	Claremont
Reed College*	Portland
Saint Martin's University	Lacey
Saint Mary's College of California	Moraga
Santa Clara University	Santa Clara
Scripps College*	Claremont
Seattle Pacific University	Seattle

College	City
Stanford University*	Stanford
Thomas Aquinas College	Santa Paula
Touro University Worldwide	Los Alamitos
University of Puget Sound	Tacoma
University of Redlands	Redlands
University of San Diego	San Diego
University of San Francisco	San Francisco
University of Southern California	Los Angeles
University of the Pacific	Stockton
Vanguard University of Southern California	Costa Mesa
Whitman College	Walla Walla
Whittier College	Whittier
Willamette University	Salem

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