

# Mid-Atlantic 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
Allegheny College	Meadville
Bard College	Annandale-On-Hudson
Barnard College*^	New York
Boricua College	New York
Bryn Mawr College*	Bryn Mawr



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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## Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City	College	City
Canisius College	Buffalo	Haverford College*^	Haverford
Carnegie Mellon University*^	Pittsburgh	Hobart William Smith Colleges	Geneva
Colgate University*^	Hamilton	Holy Family University	Philadelphia
College of Mount Saint Vincent	Bronx	Hood College	Frederick
Columbia University*^	New York	Johns Hopkins University*^	Baltimore
Cornell University*^	Ithaca	Juniata College	Huntingdon
D'Youville University	Buffalo	Lafayette College*	Easton
Daemen University	Amherst	Le Moyne College	Syracuse
Dickinson College	Carlisle	Lehigh University*	Bethlehem
Drew University	Madison	Lycoming College	Williamsport
Fairleigh Dickinson University - Florham Campus	Madison	Manhattan College	Riverdale
Franklin and Marshall College*	Lancaster	McDaniel College	Westminster
Geneva College	Beaver Falls	Mercy College	Dobbs Ferry
George Washington University	Washington	Messiah University	Mechanicsburg
Georgetown University*^	Washington	Mount St. Mary's University	Emmitsburg
Gettysburg College	Gettysburg	Muhlenberg College	Allentown
Hamilton College*^	Clinton	New York Institute of Technology	Old Westbury
Harrisburg University of Science and Technology	Harrisburg	New York University^	New York

**Recommendations are current only for 2024-2025 academic year**

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## Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City	College	City
Niagara University	Niagara	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art^	New York
Princeton University*^	Princeton	Thomas Jefferson University	Philadelphia
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Troy	Trinity Washington University	Washington
Russell Sage College	Troy	Union College*	Schenectady
Saint Peter's University	Jersey City	University of Pennsylvania*^	Philadelphia
Saint Vincent College	Latrobe	University of Rochester*	Rochester
Skidmore College*	Saratoga Springs	Vassar College*^	Poughkeepsie
St Bonaventure University	Saint Bonaventure	Washington & Jefferson College	Washington
St. Lawrence University	Canton	Wells College	Aurora
St. John Fisher University	Rochester	Westminster College	New Wilmington
St. Joseph's University - New York	Brooklyn	Yeshiva University	New York
Swarthmore College*^	Swarthmore	York College of Pennsylvania	York

### 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 2024 and Third Way's [economic mobility index](#).