

New England 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
Amherst College*^	Amherst
Assumption University	Worcester
Babson College^	Wellesley
Bates College*^	Lewiston
Bay Path University	Longmeadow
Bennington College	Bennington
Bentley University	Waltham



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

See second page for more private colleges & universities

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Private financially safer colleges & universities

College	City	College	City
Boston College*^	Chestnut Hill	Middlebury College^	Middlebury
Boston University*^	Boston	Mount Holyoke College*	South Hadley
Bowdoin College*^	Brunswick	Northeastern University*^	Boston
Brandeis University*	Waltham	Norwich University	Northfield
Brown University*^	Providence	Providence College	Providence
Clark University	Worcester	Saint Michael's College	Colchester
Colby College*^	Waterville	Simmons University	Boston
College of the Atlantic	Bar Harbor	Smith College*^	Northampton
College of the Holy Cross*	Worcester	Stonehill College	Easton
Connecticut College*	New London	The New England Conservatory of Music	Boston
Dartmouth College*^	Hanover	Trinity College*	Hartford
Franklin W Olin College of Engineering*^	Needham	Tufts University*^	Medford
Gordon College	Wenham	Wellesley College*^	Wellesley
Hampshire College	Amherst	Wesleyan University^	Middletown
Harvard University*^	Cambridge	Williams College*^	Williamstown
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*^	Cambridge	Yale University*^	New Haven

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**.

Recommendations are current only for 2024-2025 academic year

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.