Free college research tools

Every tool below is free on CollegesRef and uses U.S. Department of Education data (College Scorecard and IPEDS). Type the address into any browser.

Find and compare colleges

Search colleges
Search by name or browse the directory, then open any college for its admissions, cost and outcome data.
www.collegesref.com/college

Match my college
Answer six questions about grades and budget to get a reach, target and likely list with the data behind each match.
www.collegesref.com/match

Compare colleges
Put up to three colleges side by side: net price, graduation rate, earnings and debt.
www.collegesref.com/compare

Best colleges by major
Pick a major to see colleges ranked by graduate earnings, debt and net price for that field.
www.collegesref.com/best-colleges

Work out the cost

College cost estimator
Search a college to see its sticker price beside what aided students pay, and a four-year total.
www.collegesref.com/tools/cost-estimator

Pell Grant estimator
Enter the Student Aid Index from the FAFSA to estimate this year's federal Pell Grant.
www.collegesref.com/tools/pell-grant-estimator

Can I afford this college?
Compare a planned loan payment with the college's graduate earnings.
www.collegesref.com/tools/college-affordability-check

Scholarships and grants
Search verified federal and state programs by state, grade level and major, each linked to its official page.
www.collegesref.com/scholarships

Loans, deadlines and terms

Student loan limits
See how much a student can borrow in federal loans each year, and what is left of the net price.
www.collegesref.com/tools/student-loan-limits

Loan repayment calculator
Estimate monthly payments under the standard plan and the Repayment Assistance Plan.
www.collegesref.com/tools/student-loan-repayment

Application timeline
Count down to FAFSA, early, regular and Decision Day dates with a printable checklist.
www.collegesref.com/tools/application-timeline

College glossary
Plain-English definitions of admissions and aid terms, from SAI to yield.
www.collegesref.com/tools/glossary

Data for classes and research

College data stories
State-by-state and major-by-major analyses of net price, payback and debt, each with a CSV download.
www.collegesref.com/data

Your state in the data
Pick a state to see its figures from every story beside the national median.
www.collegesref.com/data#by-state