



College Planning Resources

Support the college search, admission, and financial aid processes

U.S. Department of Education Resources

Two college-planning websites offer comprehensive career, financial aid, and academic program information. The Scorecard allows you to compare colleges based on outcomes related to graduation rates, job placement and average starting salaries:

College Navigator: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Scorecard: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Standardized Testing Websites

Both sites contain detailed information about the tests they sponsor as well as registration forms, sample tests, score reporting portals. The College Board website also provides a significant amount of financial aid information related to the CSS/Profile Application for Student Aid. (NOTE: The College Board Big Future search engine is the most comprehensive available online.)

College Board: <https://student.collegeboard.org/>

Act: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html>

The Common Application

The Common Application form is used by approximately 540 colleges and universities. By completing the Common Application, a student can submit information to multiple participating colleges without having to complete multiple forms.

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

The National Association for College Admission Counseling

A national organization comprised of colleges, high schools and school districts that focuses on the transition from high school to college. In addition to resources for professional educators, the NACAC website also contains general college planning information and guidelines for students and parents.

<http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx>

FinAid.org

This link goes to an article that provides information on maximizing eligibility for need-based financial aid. Other helpful information is available throughout the FinAid.org website.

<http://www.finaid.org/fafsa/maximize.phtml>

U.S. News & World Report College Resources

This section of the U.S News website provides access to their rankings and a range of other helpful resources. In particular, the Advice section offers articles on a range of relevant topics.

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges>

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/advice>

Presbyterian Colleges

This website provides a listing of 55 colleges and universities—from Spokane, Washington to St. Petersburg, Florida—that are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Click on “Our Schools” menu item to see the names and locations of each school. You can then connect directly to the websites of the schools you wish to learn more about.

<http://www.presbyteriancolleges.org>

Payscale

PayScale’s cloud compensation software is used by more than 3,000 customers including Bloomberg BNA, Cummins, Warby Parker, Clemson University and Signature HealthCARE. Their research is created through cloud software, crowdsourced data and unique algorithms that form the world’s largest real-time database of rich salary profiles.

<http://www.payscale.com/>

Additional College Search/Guidance Engines

There are advantages and disadvantages to every college search engine. The following sites provide options that complement the other websites referenced above. Each offers slightly different output options and may yield different results based on the same set of inputs. It is wise to utilize more than a single engine to verify your results and gain additional insights into offerings at various colleges and universities.

Big Future (College Board—includes a “similar colleges” option)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College Confidential (includes online forum)

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/>

College Raptor (includes avg net cost info)

<https://www.collegeraptor.com/>

CollegeWeek Live (online tours, video chats, information sessions)

<http://www.collegeweeklive.com/>

Niche (reviews—rather than rankings)

<https://colleges.niche.com/>

Noodle (articles, advice, paid services)

<https://www.noodle.com/>