



CALIFORNIA COLLEGE GUIDE

Niche has the most comprehensive data on U.S. colleges and universities. We analyze this data along with millions of reviews from students and alumni to help you understand what a college is really like.

WHAT IS A NICHE GRADE?

The Overall Niche Grade is a comprehensive assessment based on rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, and student life data along with millions of reviews from students and alumni.

MOST POPULAR COLLEGES IN CALIFORNIA

- 1 **A+** Univ. of California - Los Angeles
Public • Los Angeles
Undergrads 29,004
- 2 **A+** Univ. of California - Santa Barbara
Public • Santa Barbara
Undergrads 20,243
- 3 **A+** Univ. of Southern California
Private • Los Angeles
Undergrads 18,208
- 4 **A+** Stanford University
Private • Stanford
Undergrads 7,000
- 5 **A+** Univ. of California - Berkeley
Public • Berkeley
Undergrads 26,622
- 6 **A** California Polytechnic State Univ. - San Luis Obispo
Public • San Luis Obispo
Undergrads 19,318
- 7 **A-** San Diego State University
Public • San Diego
Undergrads 26,010
- 8 **A** Univ. of California - Davis
Public • Davis
Undergrads 27,453
- 9 **A** Univ. of California - Irvine
Public • Irvine
Undergrads 24,854
- 10 **A** Univ. of California - San Diego
Public • La Jolla
Undergrads 25,922
- 11 **A-** Univ. of California - Santa Cruz
Public • Santa Cruz
Undergrads 15,823
- 12 **A** Santa Clara University
Private • Santa Clara
Undergrads 5,303
- 13 **A-** Chapman University
Private • Orange
Undergrads 6,080
- 14 **A-** California State Univ. - Long Beach
Public • Long Beach
Undergrads 27,829
- 15 **A** Loyola Marymount Univ.
Private • Los Angeles
Undergrads 6,030
- 16 **A+** Pomona College
Private • Claremont
Undergrads 1,651
- 17 **B-** San Jose State Univ.
Public • San Jose
Undergrads 21,638
- 18 **A-** Univ. of San Francisco
Private • San Francisco
Undergrads 6,448
- 19 **B-** San Francisco State Univ.
Public • San Francisco
Undergrads 22,206
- 20 **A** University of San Diego
Private • San Diego
Undergrads 5,441

Most Popular Colleges In California



College	Niche Report Card					Public/ Private	Undergrads	Net Price	Acceptance Rate	SAT Range	ACT Range	Student to Faculty	Grad. Rate	Most Popular Majors
	Overall	Academics	Value	Student Life	Diversity									
1 University of California - Los Angeles Los Angeles	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	Public	29,004	\$13,816	17%	1180-1470	28-33	16:1	91%	Economics, Political Science and Government, Sociology, Psychology, Biology
2 University of California - Santa Barbara Santa Barbara	A+	A	A+	A+	A	Public	20,243	\$16,211	33%	1090-1360	26-31	17:1	81%	Sociology, Economics, Research and Experimental Psychology, Communications, International Studies
3 University of Southern California Los Angeles	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	Private	18,208	\$31,384	17%	1270-1500	30-33	9:1	92%	Business Administration and Management, Communications, Biology, Accounting, International Relations and National Security Studies
4 Stanford University Stanford	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	Private	7,000	\$19,245	5%	1390-1580	31-35	11:1	94%	Biology, Computer Science, Engineering, Economics, Liberal Arts and Humanities
5 University of California - Berkeley Berkeley	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	Public	26,622	\$16,601	17%	1250-1510	30-34	17:1	92%	Economics, Cellular Biology, Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Political Science and Government
6 California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo San Luis Obispo	A	A	A+	A	A-	Public	19,318	\$18,238	31%	1130-1340	26-31	22:1	76%	Business Administration and Management, Mechanical Engineering, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Biology, Animal Sciences and Husbandry
7 San Diego State University San Diego	A-	B+	A-	A	A	Public	26,010	\$14,048	34%	1010-1230	22-28	28:1	68%	Business Administration and Management, Psychology, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Criminal Justice and Safety Studies, Communications
8 University of California - Davis Davis	A	A	A+	A	A	Public	27,453	\$16,841	38%	1070-1340	25-31	18:1	85%	Research and Experimental Psychology, Economics, Managerial Economics, Neuroscience and Neurobiology, Communications
9 University of California - Irvine Irvine	A	A	A	B+	A	Public	24,854	\$14,662	39%	1030-1290	24-29	19:1	88%	Biology, Social Psychology, Public Health, Managerial Economics, Criminology
10 University of California - San Diego La Jolla	A	A+	A	B	A	Public	25,922	\$14,933	34%	1220-1450	28-33	19:1	87%	Economics, Computer Science, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Psychology, Anatomy
11 University of California - Santa Cruz Santa Cruz	A-	A-	A-	B-	A	Public	15,823	\$17,550	50%	1050-1300	25-30	18:1	78%	Psychology, Sociology, Managerial Economics, Computer Science, Cellular Biology
12 Santa Clara University Santa Clara	A	A	A+	A	A	Private	5,303	\$37,198	49%	1210-1400	27-32	12:1	84%	Finance, Communications, Political Science and Government, Economics, Accounting
13 Chapman University Orange	A-	A	A-	B	A	Private	6,080	\$36,602	48%	1100-1290	25-30	14:1	79%	Business Administration and Management, Cinematography and Video Production, Psychology, Communications, Corporate Communications
14 California State University - Long Beach Long Beach	A-	B+	A	A-	A	Public	27,829	\$9,597	34%	930-1170	20-26	24:1	67%	Business Administration and Management, Psychology, Communications, Family Studies and Consumer Sciences, Sociology
15 Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles	A	A	A	A-	A	Private	6,030	\$40,226	51%	1110-1300	25-30	11:1	79%	Marketing, Psychology, Communications, Finance, English
16 Pomona College Claremont	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	Private	1,651	\$18,423	10%	1360-1530	30-34	7:1	94%	Economics, Mathematics & Statistics, Psychology, Computer Science, Neuroscience and Neurobiology
17 San Jose State University San Jose	B-	B-	A-	B	A	Public	21,638	\$13,642	55%	920-1180	20-26	27:1	57%	Business Administration and Management, Psychology, Communications, Early Childhood Education, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies
18 University of San Francisco San Francisco	A-	A-	A	B+	A+	Private	6,448	\$35,641	64%	1070-1260	24-28	14:1	71%	Business Administration and Management, Nursing, Finance, Communications, Psychology
19 San Francisco State University San Francisco	B-	B-	B+	C+	A	Public	22,206	\$12,941	68%	860-1090	18-24	25:1	51%	Business Administration and Management, Biology, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Psychology, English
20 University of San Diego San Diego	A	A	A	B+	A	Private	5,441	\$35,950	52%	1110-1310	26-30	14:1	79%	Finance, Business Administration and Management, Communications, Accounting, Marketing

The Most Popular Colleges are the schools that receive the most views on Niche.com.

Niche Grades evaluate specific aspects of campus life based on rigorous data analysis along with millions of student reviews.

Public colleges receive state funding and offer in-state residents lower tuition. **Private colleges** don't distinguish between in-state and out-of-state.

Net Price is average cost after financial aid for students receiving grant or scholarship aid, as reported by the college.

Acceptance Rate is the percentage of students who apply to a college and are accepted.

A college's **SAT and ACT ranges** represent the test scores of the 25th and 75th percentile of students who are enrolled.

Student Faculty Ratio is the number of students who attend a college, divided by the number of faculty. A ratio of 10:1 indicates 10 students for every one faculty.

Graduation Rate is the percentage of undergraduate students who receive their degree within six years.

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