

Schools That Meet 100% of Financial Need

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While there are nearly 2,800 four-year colleges and universities in the United States, there are less than six dozen that claim that they meet 100% of the demonstrated financial need of all or most of their students.

The list below includes the names of those schools. I've also included institutions on this list that say that they meet at least 93% of financial need or higher. Those are the bold-faced institutions.

You need to keep in mind that the institutions self report these figures. A school's generosity will depend heavily on the institutional aid formula that it uses.

For instance, Boston College says it meet 100% of need, but its aid formula calculates the full value of a family's home equity. It also takes a much closer look at a family's finances than some of the other schools you'll see below.

Consequently, even schools that are similarly priced could offer significantly different packages. For example, the average need-based aid package for Boston College students is \$32,146. Compare that to Amherst College's average aid package of \$47,553.

WHAT DOES MEETING 100% OF FINANCIAL NEED MEAN?

I often find that parents are confused by what this term—meeting 100% of financial need—means. I hope this clears up the confusion:

A school that meets 100% of need will provide an aid package that fills the gap between what a family's Expected Family Contribution is and a school's cost of attendance.

Cost of attendance	\$48,000
EFC	\$12,000
Demonstrated need (gap)	\$36,000

The school would provide \$36,000 in aid in a package that should be primarily grants/scholarships.

SCHOOLS THAT MEET A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF NEED

1. **Albright College (PA)**
2. Amherst College (MA)
3. **Babson College (MA)**
4. Barnard College (NY)
5. Bates College (ME)
6. **Bentley University (MA)**
7. **Berea College (KY)**
8. Boston College (MA)
9. **Brandeis University (MA)**
10. Brown University (RI)
11. Bryn Mawr College (PA)
12. Bowdoin College (ME)
13. Bucknell University (PA)
14. California Institute of Technology
15. Carleton College (MN)
16. Claremont McKenna College (CA)
17. Colby College (ME)
18. Colgate University (NY)
19. **College of the Atlantic (ME)**
20. College of the Holy Cross (MA)
21. **College of Wooster (OH)**
22. **Colorado College (CO)**
23. Columbia University (NY)
24. Connecticut College (CT)
25. Cornell University (NY)
26. Dartmouth College (NH)
27. Davidson College (NC)
28. **Denison University (OH)**
29. **Dickinson College (PA)**
30. Duke University (NC)
31. Emory University (GA)
32. Franklin and Marshall College (PA)
33. Franklin W. Olin College
34. Georgetown University (DC)
35. Grinnell College (IA)
36. **Gustavus Adolphus College (MN)**
37. Hamilton College (NY)
38. Harvey Mudd College (CA)
39. Haverford College (PA)
40. Harvard University (MA)
41. Johns Hopkins University (MD)
42. **Kalamazoo College (MI)**
43. **Kenyon College (OH)**
44. **Lafayette College (PA)**
45. **Lehigh University (PA)**
46. Macalester College (MN)
47. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)
48. Middlebury College (VT)
49. Mount Holyoke College (MA)
50. Northwestern University (IL)
51. Oberlin College (OH)
52. Occidental College (CA)
53. Pitzer College (CA)
54. Pomona College (CA)
55. Princeton University (NJ)

56. Reed College (OR)
57. Rice University (TX)
58. **Saint John's College (NM)**
59. Saint Olaf College (MN)
60. Scripps College (CA)
61. Skidmore College (NY)
62. Smith College (MA)
63. Stanford University (CA)
64. Swarthmore College (NY)
65. **Syracuse University (NY)**
66. Thomas Aquinas College (CA)
67. Trinity College (CT)
68. **Trinity University (TX)**
69. Tufts University (MA)
70. **Tulane University (LA)**
71. Union College (NY)
72. University of Chicago (IL)
73. University of Notre Dame (IN)
74. University of Pennsylvania (PA)
75. University of Richmond (VA)
76. University of Rochester (NY)
77. University of Southern California
78. University of Virginia
79. Vanderbilt University (TN)
80. Vassar College (NY)
81. Wabash College (IN)
82. Wake Forest University (NC)
83. Washington and Lee University (VA)
84. Washington University, St. Louis, (MO)
85. Wellesley College (MA)
86. Wesleyan University (MA)
87. Williams College (MA)
88. **Wheaton College (MA)**
89. Yale University (CT)