

# Best National Liberal

Rank	School (State) (* Public)	Overall score	Peer assessment score (5.0=highest)	High school counselor assessment score	Graduation and retention rank	Average first-year student retention rate	2015 graduation rate		Over-performance (+) Under-performance (-)	Faculty resources rank
							Predicted	Actual		
1.	Williams College (MA)	100	4.7	4.7	3	97%	96%	96%	None	4
2.	Amherst College (MA)	95	4.7	4.5	1	98%	95%	95%	None	23
3.	Wellesley College (MA)	94	4.5	4.6	11	96%	93%	93%	None	13
4.	Middlebury College (VT)	93	4.4	4.4	4	96%	96%	94%	-2	23
4.	Swarthmore College (PA)	93	4.6	4.5	4	97%	96%	94%	-2	14
6.	Bowdoin College (ME)	92	4.4	4.6	4	97%	96%	93%	-3	31
7.	Carleton College (MN)	90	4.3	4.4	4	97%	94%	95%	+1	12
7.	Pomona College (CA)	90	4.4	4.4	1	98%	96%	94%	-2	31
9.	Claremont McKenna College (CA)	89	4.2	4.5	11	96%	96%	92%	-4	5
9.	Davidson College (NC)	89	4.2	4.3	4	96%	94%	93%	-1	10
11.	Washington and Lee University (VA)	87	3.8	4.1	17	96%	96%	91%	-5	3
12.	Colby College (ME)	86	4.0	4.3	17	93%	89%	94%	+5	14
12.	Colgate University (NY)	86	4.0	4.5	17	95%	91%	90%	-1	14
12.	Hamilton College (NY)	86	3.9	4.3	11	95%	95%	92%	-3	11
12.	Haverford College (PA)	86	4.1	4.4	4	97%	96%	90%	-6	55
12.	Smith College (MA)	86	4.3	4.6	37	93%	83%	87%	+4	23
12.	United States Naval Academy (MD)*	86	4.2	4.8	25	98%	87%	86%	-1	44
12.	Vassar College (NY)	86	4.2	4.6	11	95%	92%	91%	-1	30
19.	Grinnell College (IA)	85	4.3	4.2	28	94%	89%	86%	-3	14
19.	United States Military Academy (NY)*	85	4.1	4.8	46	95%	83%	83%	None	20
21.	Harvey Mudd College (CA)	84	4.4	4.6	11	98%	96%	92%	-4	104
21.	Wesleyan University (CT)	84	4.1	4.5	10	95%	92%	94%	+2	40
23.	Scripps College (CA)	82	3.8	4.3	28	93%	91%	92%	+1	18
24.	Colorado College	81	3.8	4.1	28	95%	89%	87%	-2	8
24.	Macalester College (MN)	81	4.0	4.4	21	95%	89%	90%	+1	51
24.	Oberlin College (OH)	81	4.1	4.4	28	93%	90%	88%	-2	21
27.	Barnard College (NY)	80	4.0	4.4	17	96%	87%	91%	+4	76
27.	Bates College (ME)	80	4.0	4.3	21	94%	91%	88%	-3	65
27.	Kenyon College (OH)	80	3.9	4.3	25	95%	87%	87%	None	44
27.	University of Richmond (VA)	80	3.8	4.1	42	94%	86%	88%	+2	6
31.	Bryn Mawr College (PA)	79	4.0	4.2	46	92%	86%	85%	-1	44
32.	Bucknell University (PA)	78	3.8	4.3	21	94%	87%	90%	+3	80
32.	College of the Holy Cross (MA)	78	3.6	4.1	11	95%	87%	92%	+5	51
32.	Pitzer College (CA)	78	3.6	4.2	37	92%	83%	90%	+7	23
32.	United States Air Force Acad. (CO)*	78	3.9	4.6	46	93%	89%	81%	-8	92
36.	Lafayette College (PA)	76	3.5	4.0	21	94%	87%	90%	+3	61
36.	Mount Holyoke College (MA)	76	3.9	4.2	53	91%	84%	85%	+1	61
38.	Skidmore College (NY)	75	3.6	4.2	33	94%	79%	86%	+7	44
38.	Trinity College (CT)	75	3.6	4.1	43	89%	83%	86%	+3	44
38.	Union College (NY)	75	3.3	3.9	37	92%	84%	88%	+4	21
41.	Dickinson College (PA)	73	3.5	4.1	43	91%	81%	85%	+4	40
41.	Soka University of America (CA)	73	2.4	3.1	33	96%	80%	86%	+6	1
41.	Whitman College (WA)	73	3.4	3.9	28	94%	87%	87%	None	36
44.	Centre College (KY)	72	3.5	4.1	43	90%	81%	86%	+5	92
44.	Occidental College (CA)	72	3.7	4.0	33	93%	83%	88%	+5	80
44.	Rhodes College (TN)	72	3.5	4.1	59	91%	72%	83%	+11	55
47.	Franklin and Marshall College (PA)	71	3.6	4.0	37	92%	90%	87%	-3	54
47.	Sewanee—University of the South (TN)	71	3.5	4.2	69	89%	81%	78%	-3	23
49.	Bard College (NY)	70	3.4	4.1	87	87%	92%	78%	-14	18
50.	Connecticut College	69	3.5	4.1	46	90%	85%	83%	-2	76

# Arts Colleges

% of classes under 20 ('15)	% of classes of 50 or more ('15)	Student/faculty ratio ('15)	Selectivity rank	SAT/ACT 25th-75th percentile ('15)	Freshmen in top 10% of HS class ('15)	Acceptance rate ('15)	Financial resources rank	Alumni giving rank	Average alumni giving rate
78%	3%	7/1	4	1330-1550	93% <sup>5</sup>	18%	5	2	56%
70%	3%	8/1	5	1360-1560	86% <sup>5</sup>	14%	9	9	48%
73%	0%	7/1	11	1290-1490	80% <sup>5</sup>	30%	7	4	52%
67%	1%	8/1	9	1270-1500	79% <sup>5</sup>	17%	4	6	51%
76%	3%	8/1	5	1340-1530	88% <sup>5</sup>	12%	10	18	40%
68%	3%	9/1	7	1375-1535 <sup>2</sup>	84% <sup>5</sup>	15%	11	2	56%
71%	1%	9/1	14	29-33	71% <sup>5</sup>	21%	33	7	50%
68%	1%	8/1	1	1360-1530	92% <sup>5</sup>	10%	7	46	31%
84%	1%	8/1	21	1340-1530	73% <sup>5</sup>	11%	13	24	38%
73%	0%	10/1	16	1260-1440	74% <sup>5</sup>	22%	24	4	52%
74%	0%	8/1	8	30-33	85% <sup>5</sup>	24%	25	8	49%
76%	1%	10/1	23	1270-1460 <sup>2</sup>	63% <sup>5</sup>	23%	25	17	41%
71%	2%	9/1	16	1250-1450	75% <sup>5</sup>	27%	29	16	41%
76%	1%	9/1	11	1300-1470	77% <sup>5</sup>	25%	20	21	40%
71%	3%	9/1	3	1320-1530	96% <sup>5</sup>	25%	13	14	42%
68%	4%	9/1	33	1240-1460 <sup>2</sup>	62% <sup>5</sup>	38%	13	34	34%
70%	0.1%	8/1	31	1180-1380	58%	9%	3	117	19%
66%	0.3%	8/1	14	1330-1490	72%	26%	18	52	30%
69%	0%	9/1	9	30-33	81% <sup>5</sup>	25%	21	41	32%
97%	0%	7/1	35	26-31	52%	10%	6	45	31%
59%	9%	9/1	1	1400-1560	93% <sup>5</sup>	13%	13	52	30%
72%	4%	8/1	19	1250-1470 <sup>2</sup>	72% <sup>5</sup>	22%	47	25	38%
83%	1%	10/1	16	1280-1448	72% <sup>5</sup>	28%	25	41	32%
71%	0%	10/1	19	28-32 <sup>2</sup>	68% <sup>5</sup>	17%	29	90	23%
68%	0.4%	10/1	24	29-32	65% <sup>5</sup>	39%	50	30	35%
77%	2%	9/1	26	1260-1450	61% <sup>5</sup>	29%	34	52	29%
71%	10%	10/1	11	1260-1450	81% <sup>5</sup>	20%	53	70	25%
67%	3%	10/1	21	1190-1416 <sup>2</sup>	72% <sup>5</sup>	22%	45	14	42%
68%	1%	10/1	26	1240-1420	61% <sup>5</sup>	24%	38	23	39%
69%	0.1%	8/1	31	1220-1420	61% <sup>5</sup>	31%	29	74	24%
73%	4%	8/1	33	1240-1460 <sup>2</sup>	63% <sup>5</sup>	39%	19	27	37%
59%	2%	9/1	26	1210-1390	65% <sup>5</sup>	25%	42	46	30%
66%	1%	9/1	52	1220-1380 <sup>2</sup>	61% <sup>5</sup>	37%	53	11	47%
73%	0%	10/1	46	1250-1440 <sup>2</sup>	60% <sup>5</sup>	13%	29	41	32%
66%	0%	8/1	26	28-33	52%	17%	2	163	14%
61%	1%	10/1	26	1200-1380	70% <sup>5</sup>	30%	34	41	32%
70%	2%	10/1	35	1230-1465 <sup>2</sup>	58% <sup>5</sup>	50%	38	38	32%
72%	1%	8/1	50	1110-1343 <sup>2</sup>	41% <sup>5</sup>	37%	47	90	23%
73%	1%	9/1	43	1150-1340 <sup>2</sup>	64% <sup>5</sup>	33%	25	52	29%
71%	1%	10/1	24	1240-1400 <sup>2</sup>	71% <sup>5</sup>	38%	50	36	33%
75%	0%	9/1	46	1190-1380 <sup>2</sup>	46% <sup>4</sup>	47%	59	59	27%
96%	0%	8/1	68	1070-1390	33% <sup>5</sup>	46%	1	61	26%
70%	0%	8/1	37	1200-1420	54% <sup>5</sup>	43%	53	38	33%
60%	0%	10/1	43	26-31	54%	71%	76	12	46%
64%	0.2%	10/1	38	1200-1380	55% <sup>5</sup>	45%	59	111	20%
69%	0%	10/1	38	27-32	54% <sup>5</sup>	47%	99	29	36%
62%	1%	9/1	62	1210-1400 <sup>2</sup>	48% <sup>5</sup>	32%	38	61	26%
63%	0.3%	10/1	58	26-30 <sup>2</sup>	29% <sup>5</sup>	41%	59	34	34%
77%	0.3%	10/1	70	1160-1370 <sup>2</sup>	49% <sup>5</sup>	32%	13	30	35%
70%	1%	9/1	64	1220-1400 <sup>2</sup>	49% <sup>5</sup>	40%	45	70	25%

## What Is a National Liberal Arts College?

The country's 239 liberal arts colleges emphasize undergraduate education and award at least half of their degrees in the arts and sciences, which include such disciplines as English, the biological and physical sciences, history, foreign languages, and the visual and performing arts but exclude professional disciplines such as business, education and nursing. There are 219 private and 20 public liberal arts colleges; none are for-profit. The top public colleges appear below.

## The Top Public Colleges

Rank School (State)

1. United States Naval Academy (MD)
2. United States Military Academy (NY)
3. United States Air Force Acad. (CO)
4. Virginia Military Institute
5. New College of Florida
6. St. Mary's College of Maryland
7. University of Minnesota-Morris
8. U. of North Carolina-Asheville