Paying for your kids college education can be a daunting financial burden. Imagine for example, how much Rob and Carol Brady of the Brady Bunch would have to spend today if they were sending their brood to college. Absent any financial aid, it would probably amount to $1.5 million. No surprise then with per student four year costs hovering around a quarter of a million dollars that return-on-investment or ROI is front of mind in many households.

Our Top 100 Best Buy Colleges are calculated by taking their overall quality rank on Forbes annual list of America’s Top Colleges and dividing that number by the school’s tuition (in-state where applicable) and additional fees. Our “quality rank” assesses each school in the areas of teaching, career prospects, graduation rates and the levels of debt graduates tend to amass.

The zero-cost service academies occupy the top three spots: West Point #1, the Air Force Academy #2, and the Naval Academy #3. In addition, there are many low cost college options for incoming college students who do not want to join the military. New York City’s Cooper Union, which grants full scholarships to all students, snags the #4 slot. Other enticing best buys in the top ten include the College of the Ozarks (#5), Berea College (#7) and the University of Florida (#10).

These rankings are provided exclusively to Forbes by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a Washington D.C. think tank founded by Ohio University economist Richard Vedder. Click here for more about the overall rankings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Undergraduate Population</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>United States Military Academy</td>
<td>West Point, NY</td>
<td>4,624</td>
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<td>United States Air Force Academy</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
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<td>United States Naval Academy</td>
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<td>Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Berea College</td>
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<td>11,861</td>
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</table>
23. San Diego State University
LOCATION: SAN DIEGO, CA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 25,796
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $23,756
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $34,916

24. California Maritime Academy
LOCATION: VALLEJO, CA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 886
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $22,778
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $33,938

25. Louisiana State University
LOCATION: BATON ROUGE, LA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 23,977
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,414
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $32,422

26. University of North Florida
LOCATION: JACKSONVILLE, FL
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 14,363
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,057
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $33,938

27. CUNY, Queens College
LOCATION: FLUSHING, NY
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 16,559
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $23,449
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $32,445

28. North Carolina State University, Raleigh
LOCATION: RALEIGH, NC
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 25,176
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,386
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $32,223

29. SUNY, Stony Brook
LOCATION: STONY BOOK, NY
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 15,785
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $20,336
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $29,786

30. West Virginia University
LOCATION: MORGANTOWN, WV
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 22,711
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $16,874
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $29,044

31. CUNY, Brooklyn College
LOCATION: BROOKLYN, NY
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 13,096
TOTAL COST: N/A

32. Appalachian State University
LOCATION: BOONE, NC
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 15,460
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $15,948
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $27,996

33. University of Idaho
LOCATION: MOSCOW, ID
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 9,586
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,100
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $31,620

34. University of Washington
LOCATION: SEATTLE, WA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 29,022
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $24,059
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $41,543

35. Mississippi State University
LOCATION: STARKVILLE, MS
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 16,312
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,975
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $28,840

36. University of Central Florida
LOCATION: ORLANDO, FL
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 49,972
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $19,158
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $29,153

37. University of North Carolina, Wilmington
LOCATION: WILMINGTON, NC
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 11,950
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $17,332
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $29,153

38. James Madison University
LOCATION: HARRISONBURG, VA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 17,900
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $21,214
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $34,504

39. University of Virginia
LOCATION: CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 15,762
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $23,986
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $48,980

40. University of South Florida
LOCATION: TAMPA, FL
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 29,975
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $20,590
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $29,780

41. University of Montana
LOCATION: MISSOULA, MT
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 13,370
TOTAL COST (IN-STATE): $18,172
TOTAL COST (OUT-OF-STATE): $32,550
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Undergraduate Population</th>
<th>Total Cost (In-State)</th>
<th>Total Cost (Out-of-State)</th>
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<td>$36,182</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
60. University of Iowa  
LOCATION: IOWA CITY, IA  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 21,564  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $21,120  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $38,454

61. Jackson State University  
LOCATION: JACKSON, MS  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 6,844  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $18,746  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $26,736

62. University of Wisconsin, Madison  
LOCATION: MADISON, WI  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 29,880  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,449  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $38,199

63. Indiana University, Bloomington  
LOCATION: BLOOMINGTON, IN  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 32,543  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,049  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $42,065

64. University of Oregon  
LOCATION: EUGENE, OR  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 20,623  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,052  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $40,916

65. College of William and Mary  
LOCATION: WILLIAMSBURG, VA  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 6,071  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $24,974  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $47,804

66. University of Maryland, College Park  
LOCATION: COLLEGE PARK, MD  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 4,464  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $21,480  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $33,208

67. Louisiana Tech University  
LOCATION: RUSTON, LA  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 9,109  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $16,390  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $23,515

68. Virginia Tech  
LOCATION: BLACKSBURG, VA  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 23,700  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $23,869  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $37,840

69. Western Washington University  
LOCATION: BELLINGHAM, WA  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 13,783  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $20,789  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $31,136

70. Oklahoma State University  
LOCATION: STILLWATER, OK  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 19,136  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $20,787  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $32,135

71. University of Southern Mississippi  
LOCATION: HATTIESBURG, MS  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 13,618  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $18,426  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $26,382

72. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
LOCATION: ANN ARBOR, MI  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 27,407  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $25,204  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $50,352

73. University of Oklahoma, Norman  
LOCATION: NORMAN, OK  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 20,495  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,493  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $33,446

74. Auburn University  
LOCATION: AUBURN, AL  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 20,446  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,352  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $36,926

75. University of Alabama  
LOCATION: TUSCALOOSA, AL  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 26,234  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $23,939  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $37,239

76. Purdue University, West Lafayette  
LOCATION: WEST LAFAYETTE, IN  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 31,988  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $22,748  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $40,916

77. University of Arizona  
LOCATION: TUCSON, AZ  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 30,665  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $19,136  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $38,576

78. Truman State University  
LOCATION: KIRKSVILLE, MO  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 5,780  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $18,998  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $24,542

79. University of South Dakota  
LOCATION: VERMILLION, SD  
UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION: 4,464  
TOTAL COST (IN STATE): $21,480  
TOTAL COST (OUT OF STATE): $33,208
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>In-State Cost</th>
<th>Out-of-State Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</td>
<td>Knoxville, TN</td>
<td>$23,571</td>
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<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Virginia Military Institute</td>
<td>Lexington, VA</td>
<td>$23,305</td>
<td>$41,745</td>
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