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Helping You Choose the Right College

2015 Rankings of Best Historically Black Colleges & Universities



Our 2015 Rankings of Historically Black Colleges and Universities are based exclusively on factors actual college freshmen said were most important to their college decision.

According to the most recent nationwide survey published by the [Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA](#) , these factors include academic reputation, financial aid offerings, overall cost, and success of graduates in the post-college job market. Each of these factors were weighted equally in our ranking and data was derived from a variety of publicly available sources, including [U.S. News & World Report](#) , the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) , and [PayScale.com](#) .



Scroll Up



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Fayetteville State University

[Image Source](#)

Fayetteville(North Carolina) State University was founded in 1867 and is located on a 92-acre campus. It is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. There are more than 6,000 students enrolled as undergraduates at FSU. Academically, the school offers 43 undergraduate degree programs. New programs include forensics, fire science, communications, management information systems, art education, and birth through kindergarten. The school was one of 20 recognized as having exemplary educational practices based on results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The graduate program produces the highest number of mathematics graduates in the nation. Athletically, the Broncos of FSU are members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). Students have the opportunity for a more intimate learning environment as the student-to-faculty ratio is 19:1.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$7,305

Average net price: \$5,914

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

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Alabama A&M University



Image Source

Alabama A&M University is a public institution founded in 1875. It is located in Normal, Alabama, just outside of Huntsville, and sits on a stunning 2,300-acre campus. In 1890, it was designated as a land-grant institution by the federal government. Nearly 5,000 undergraduate students are enrolled at AAMU, 40 percent of which are first time college students. The school offers more than 40 undergraduate degrees through five undergraduate schools – Agricultural & Environmental, Arts & Sciences, Business, Education,

and Engineering & Technology. In 2009, AAMU ranked seventh in the nation in the production of African-American graduates in biological and biomedical sciences. Students should have an easy time connecting to the university, as there are more than 115 registered student organizations. Students who wish to study abroad may do so after completing two successful semesters and may choose from an innumerable selection of programs in regions such as North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Oceania.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$6,745

Average net price: \$12,887

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

23

Norfolk State University



Image Source

Norfolk(Virginia) State University is the home of the mighty Spartans where 6,000 students live and breathe green. The school is located on a 134-acre campus, a few miles from historic downtown Norfolk and nearby Virginia Beach. The school aims to provide outstanding academic programs, innovative research, scholarship and global outreach. Students enrolled in research programs conduct innovative research in areas such as biotechnology, materials, modeling, simulation and computing. The global influence of the student body is tangible as evidenced by the number of students who choose to serve with the Peace Corps after graduation – third highest among Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$8,635

Average net price: \$11,753

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

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Coppin State University



Image Source

Coppin State University has a long, exemplary history in teacher education. Located in Baltimore, the school was named after Fanny Jackson Coppin, a former slave who became a leading African-American visionary, humanitarian, and educator of her time. The school has trained future teachers and educators for more than 100 years and continues to advance the field of education through teaching and research. For more than ten years, bold steps have been taken by the university to place a strong emphasis on partnerships with local Baltimore schools to develop and deliver an effective achievement pipeline, where kids experience academic success at all levels. Coppin State University however, thrives in other academic areas as well, such as business and nursing. The Helene Fuld School of Nursing offers a bachelors, masters, and doctorate in nursing and nearly 100 percent of their students are

offered jobs prior to graduation

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$7,052

Average net price: \$9,667

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

21

Fisk University



Image Source

FiskUniversity shines as an institution able to mold influential leaders and produce veritable scholars. As Nashville's oldest educational

institution, scores of leaders have come from Fisk; leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Kym Whitley, and The Honorable John R. Lewis. Fisk balances this leadership tradition with a strong focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and business programs. In the past six years, it has awarded 13 doctorates in astronomy, physics, and material sciences to women and persons of color through the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master's-to-Ph. D. Bridge Program. Those with an interest in business may choose from seven academic concentrations offered by the school and participate in internships with companies such as Goldman Sachs and Google. Among Fisk's Class of 2018, biology is the most popular major, followed by business administration, political science, psychology and chemistry.

Academic reputation score: 39

Average financial aid: \$19,433

Average net price: \$19,460

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

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Florida Agricultural and
Mechanical University



Image Source

Students flock to the Sunshine State for more than just the sun, and one reason is Florida A&M University. Located in the state's capital of Tallahassee, FAMU is the home to nearly 11,000 students from more than 70 countries. And why do they come? It wouldn't be a stretch to suggest FAMU's popularity boils down to affordability, academic quality and strong school traditions. It has been recognized by the College Database for providing a high-quality education for an affordable price. The school offers an impressive program selection of 54 undergraduate degrees, 29 master's degrees, and 12 doctoral degrees. Popular undergraduate programs include architecture, journalism, computer information sciences and psychology. The Rattlers of FAMU are drawn together through their highly visible NCAA athletic programs, Greek fraternities and sororities and the more than 100 registered student clubs and organizations.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$8,423

Average net price: \$11,335

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

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Bowie State University



Image Source

Bowie(Maryland) State University is the oldest Historically Black College or University in the state and is located on a beautiful 300-acre wooded tract with large trees and open, pastoral space. BSU is a liberal arts institution and has maintained its strength as a teacher training university. Along with education, BSU's strongest programs include nursing, business, counseling and computer science. Demonstrating its commitment to health sciences and research, BSU recently began construction of a 149,000 square-foot center which will allow it to increase student enrollment in nursing programs and strengthen research initiatives. Students are not required to live on campus, but may choose to live in one of the two co-ed residence halls. Major nearby metropolitan centers include

Baltimore and Washington D.C.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$8,393

Average net price: \$11,009

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

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Langston University



Image Source

Langston University is the home of the roaring Lions, a public land-grant institution, founded in 1897. Located in Langston, Oklahoma, the school has additional campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. As the nation's population ages, Langston's reputable College of Nursing and Health Professions is admirably poised to respond to

the growing demand for nursing professionals. Similarly, Langston has re-doubled its efforts to offer the best physical therapy program in the region, as it recently broke ground on a multi-million dollar building for its School of Physical Therapy. Langston offers 47 undergraduate and nine graduate degree programs. The top five majors are business administration, nursing, biology, rehabilitation counseling, and criminal justice. In 2014-2015, a total of 2,400 undergraduates were enrolled in Langston's six colleges.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$7,194

Average net price: \$6,193

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

17

Spelman College



Image Source

Spelman College was founded in 1881 and is the country's oldest historically black women's college. Spelman's students are prepared to engage our culturally diverse world and to positively effect change within it. Spelman offers a diverse curriculum with over 25 programs in the arts, mathematics, sciences, social sciences and humanities and over 70 student organizations. Together, these academic and extra-curricular activities will cultivate students' leadership, inspire their creativity, and compel them to action. Spelman's 39-acre campus is located five minutes from downtown Atlanta.

Academic reputation score: 58

Average financial aid: \$12,769

Average net price: \$28,866

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

16

Tennessee State University



Image Source

Located in Nashville, “the Athens of the South,” Tennessee State University offers students academic excellence, a wide range of academic degree programs and world-class research. Situated near the Cumberland River on a 500-acre campus designated as a Tree Campus by the Arbor Day foundation, TSU is home to over 6,700 undergraduates. Through its student-centered curriculum, TSU

fosters a rich educational atmosphere by ensuring collaborative learning, meaningful student-faculty interaction, and opportunities for community engagement. Through its eight colleges and schools, it offers 45 bachelor's degrees, 24 master's degrees and seven doctorate degrees. Tennessee State University graduates the highest number of African-American bachelor degree holders in agriculture, agriculture operations, and agriculture-related sciences. The university's sponsored research budget exceeds \$32 million.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$8,217

Average net price: \$8,038

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

15

North Carolina A&T State University



Image Source

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro is a mid-size, land-grant university founded in 1891 that

aims to provide exemplary instruction to students, engage in innovative research and impact both the local and global community. During the Civil Rights Movement, it was students from NC A&T who led the way in sit-in lunch counter protests at Woolworth's. Today, NC A&T has become a trailblazer in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and business fields, graduating more African-American engineers and accountants than any of the historically black colleges and universities in America. New collaborations have enhanced STEM opportunities for NC A&T students, as evidenced by the newly created Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, which directs research in nanomaterials, nanobioelectronics, nanoenergy, and computational nanotechnology.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$7,888

Average net price: \$7,613

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

14

Prairie View A&M University

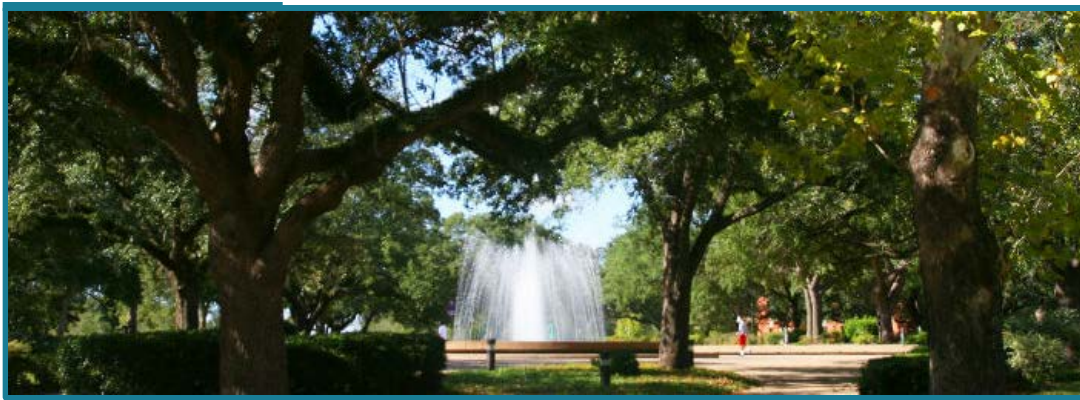


Image Source

Just forty miles north of Houston is the second oldest public institution in Texas, Prairie View A&M University. A member of the Texas A&M University system, Prairie View A&M, located in the city of Prairie View, specializes in teacher training, research and service. Over 6,000 undergraduates call Prairie View A&M home and choose demanding and popular programs such as engineering, nursing, and education. Multiple research centers such as the Center for Energy and Environmental Sustainability or the Thermal Science Research Center are spread throughout the campus and lead students in innovative areas such as nanotechnology, cybersecurity, communication systems, radiation systems, and wave-let based applications. There are over 90 clubs and organizations on campus, in addition to fraternities and sororities.

Academic reputation score: NA

Average financial aid: \$8,550

Average net price: \$8,576

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

 Philander Smith College

13



Image Source

PhilanderSmith College, founded in 1877 in Little Rock, Arkansas, was one of the first institutions west of the Mississippi to provide education to recently freed slaves. It is a small, private, four-year, liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Its curriculum is punctuated with undergraduate research, experiential learning and study abroad opportunities. PSC is aggressively creating opportunities for students to explore and excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. One example is the 3/2 program, managed in conjunction with the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UARK), which allows students to receive two STEM degrees in five years. A science degree (biology, mathematics, computer science) is obtained at PSC, and a second engineering degree (biological engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering) from UARK. PSC also inculcates the importance of social justice within its

students. Students are challenged to make the world a better place, being “grounded as advocates for social justice.” From organizing community gardens to opposing capital punishment, students learn to concretely engage the world they want to transform. Initiatives organized through the Social Justice Institute all have justice-focused components, from internships, to Freshman Colloquium.

Academic reputation score: 57

Average financial aid: \$10,044

Average net price: \$14,962

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

12

Virginia State University



[Image Source](#)

For more than 130 years, Virginia State University has been serving students from all parts of the globe. Just 20 minutes south of Richmond, the campus sits atop a bluff overlooking the scenic Appomattox River. More than 5,000 students study at VSU and benefit from the selection of the 55 baccalaureate and masters degree programs offered. The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business stands out as one of the best business schools in the nation as it is ranked among the top five percent of the nation's business schools by its accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The campus includes a 280,000-volume library, a new science and engineering center and a campus radio station.

Academic reputation score: 30

Average financial aid: \$5,884

Average net price: \$14,135

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

11

Delaware State University



Image Source

Tucked away in north-central Delaware, Delaware State University offers a small town charm with big city academic competitiveness. Located in Dover, the state's capital and second largest city, students enjoy a 400-acre campus accredited as an arboretum since 2013. DSU places a sharp focus on advancing cutting-edge research and technology. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1, professors remain accessible and the learning environment intimate. Students may choose from an astounding 53 undergraduate degree programs, 25 master's degree programs, and five doctoral degree programs. The top five most popular majors by degree awarded are business administration, psychology, mass communications, criminal justice & sociology and sports management.

Academic reputation score: 31

Average financial aid: \$8,286

Average net price: \$12,713

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

10

Xavier University of Louisiana



Image Source

New Orleans is the home to the only Catholic and Historically Black College or University in the nation, Xavier University of Louisiana. Grounded on the principles of service and leadership, Xavier has built a reputation for producing outstanding graduates in many academic programs, especially in the physical and health sciences. According to the U.S. Department of Education, Xavier ranks number one in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to African-American students in the biological and biomedical sciences, the physical sciences, and physics. Xavier balances academics with its Catholic faith tradition and offers ministry opportunities in social justice engagement, sacred dancing, gospel choir and Campus Ministry Leadership Council. In the fall of 2014, student enrollment reached nearly 3,000 students, making the student-to-faculty ratio a remarkable 14:1.

Academic reputation score: 33

Average financial aid: \$9,637

Average net price: \$17,829

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

9

North Carolina Central University



Image Source

North Carolina Central University is in Durham, smack-dab in the middle of one of the most advanced, research hubs in the state. The hub, known as the Research Triangle, is where the university advances its rigorous research endeavors, focusing on the biomedical, informational, computational, behavioral, and social and

health science fields. NCCU has the proud distinction of being the first public, liberal arts institution in the nation for African-Americans. Its programs excel in other areas as well, such as the School of Library and Information Sciences which has helped produce more African-American librarians than any other institution. In the spirit of service and community engagement, students are required to complete 120 hours of service before they graduate. There are a little more than 6,300 undergraduate students enrolled at NCCU and popular majors include business administration, criminal justice and family and consumer science.

Academic reputation score: 39

Average financial aid: \$8,684

Average net price: \$9,634

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

8

Elizabeth City State University



[Image Source](#)

ElizabethCity (North Carolina) State University is a small, public, research institution and belongs to the University of North Carolina system. Founded as a teaching school in 1891, ECSU aims to

provide a first-rate education, promote cutting-edge research, and advance premier scholarship. The school's 223-acre rural campus has seen a blitz of construction over the past ten years and has renovated or built more than 24 buildings, including a 52,500 square foot Pharmacy Complex. ECSU plays to its historic strength as a teacher training school, but also offers outstanding programs in other areas such as aviation, pharmaceutical science and business and economics. Nearly 2,000 students are enrolled at ECSU.

Academic reputation score: 67

Average financial aid: \$8,452

Average net price: \$1,993

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)



Howard University

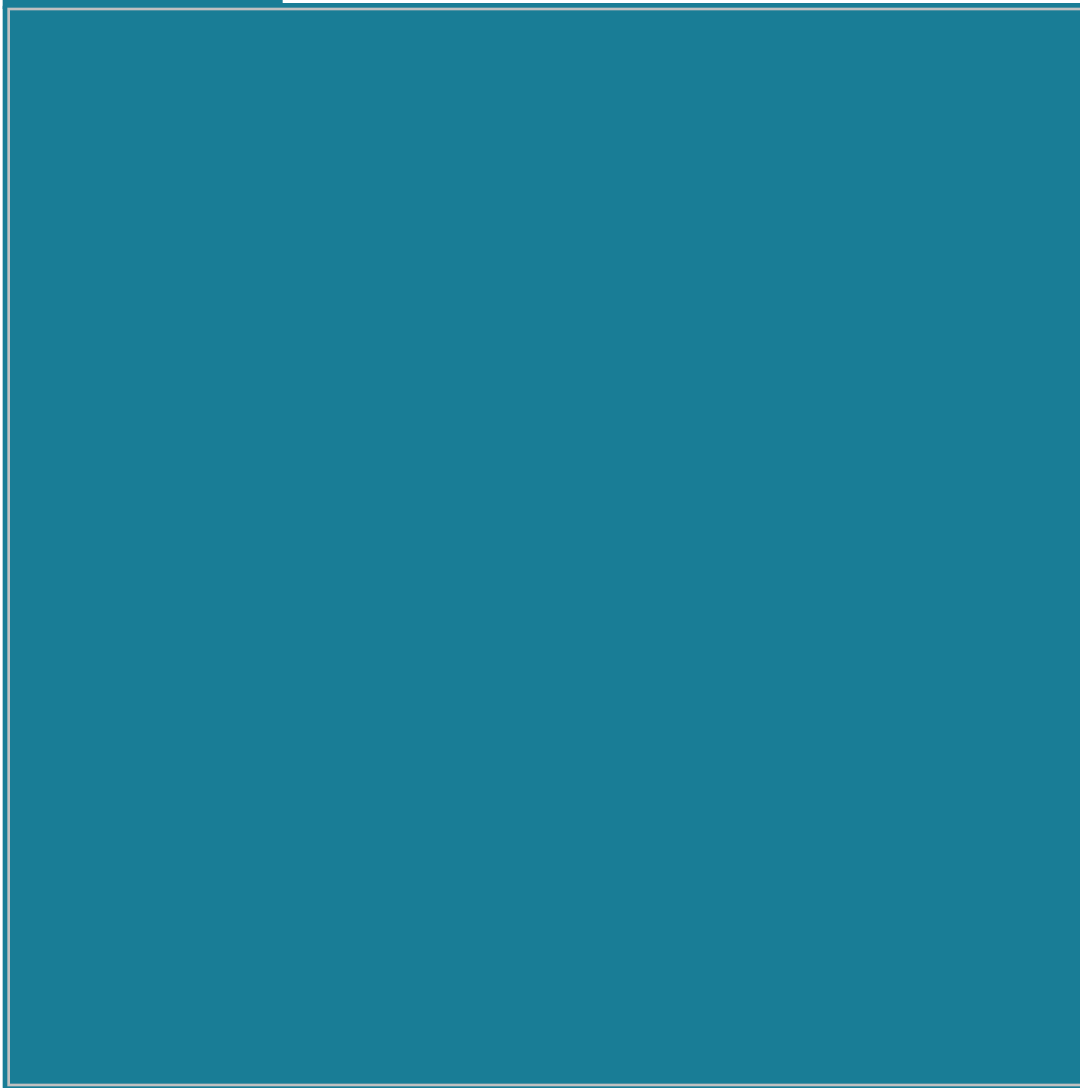


Image Source

The nation's capital is home to prestigious Howard University. Howard is a private, research university comprised of 13 schools and colleges with a total enrollment of 10,000 students. The University is situated two miles from the U.S. Capitol on an illustrious 256 acres of land. As a research university, Howard conducts innovative research in areas such as nanotechnology, human genome research and atmospheric science. Academic programs at Howard are second to none and do an exemplary job of preparing students for the future, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related fields. More minority doctoral graduates than any other university come from Howard. In addition, the National Science Foundation recently

recognized Howard as a top producer of undergraduates who go on to earn science and engineering doctoral degrees. Challenged by the University's motto of "Truth and Service," Howard students contribute thousands of hours each year to both local and international service projects.

Academic reputation score: 35

Average financial aid: \$18,148

Average net price: \$21,981

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

6

Morehouse College



Image Source

Legendary Morehouse College is the only African-American college exclusively for men in the United States. Located in Atlanta, Georgia, the school was established two years after the civil war, and has produced some of America's most influential leaders and creative minds such as Martin Luther King Jr., Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Earl F. Hilliard, Samuel L. Jackson, and Shelton "Spike" Lee.

Morehouse is a private, liberal arts school and is dedicated to shaping men who will “lead lives of leadership service”. Morehouse flexes its academic muscle by providing its undergraduates with a holistic, interdisciplinary, and challenging curriculum designed to prepare students for the labor market or post-graduation studies. Over the past decade, Morehouse has excelled in this area as it has consistently sent graduates on to top-tier professional and graduate schools.

Academic reputation score: 45

Average financial aid: \$16,592

Average net price: \$28,859

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

5

Winston-Salem State
University



Image Source

Founded in 1892, Winston-Salem (North Carolina) State University is a public, co-educational institution. It is a member of the University of North Carolina system and has an estimated total student enrollment of 6,000 students. WSSU offers top-notch academic programs through its four centers of excellence, which focus on teacher education, information technology, health sciences and financial services. Of the 40-plus degree programs offered at WSSU, arguably the most unique is its Bachelor of Science program in Motorsports Management, an experiential degree program designed to prepare students for one of the fastest growing spectator sports in the world. The Winston-Salem Division of Nursing offers baccalaureate, masters and doctoral level programs and is the third largest producer of nurses in North Carolina.

Academic reputation score: 42

Average financial aid: \$7,711

Average net price: \$8,340

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

4

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

[Image Source](#)

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is a 140 year-old, land-grant institution offering students from Arkansas and those from the far reaches of the globe excellent degree programs, affordable tuition and an electrifying campus atmosphere. Applications to the university continue to rise, and this is in part due to the university's efforts to make college more accessible. Many students are attracted to the increased number of academic scholarships available and the out-of-state tuition assistance available to those from nearby states. Over the past five years, the university's most popular majors are biology, business administration, criminal justice, early childhood education, psychology, computer sciences, human sciences, health and physical education, agricultural sciences and music. UAPB has more than 90 clubs and organizations, marching band, wind symphony and a competitive athletic program.

Academic reputation score: 57

Average financial aid: \$8,319

Average net price: \$7,298

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)

3

Bethune-Cookman University



Image Source

Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, is a small, private institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Just two miles away from relaxing beaches and sweeping views of the Atlantic, the university is located on an 82-acre campus consisting of more than 52 administrative and academic buildings, innovative technology centers and nine student residence halls. Guided by its core values to live out its deepest convictions and seek social

justice, the university has cultivated faith, scholarship and service for more than 100 years. Undergraduate curriculum emphasizes learning opportunities that promote social responsibility and civic participation. The university offers a strenuous academic program enriched by incredible faculty, hands-on service activities and a plethora of extra-curricular opportunities. Popular majors include criminal justice, nursing, business administration, psychology, mass communication and biology.

Academic reputation score: 61

Average financial aid: \$10,481

Average net price: \$16,518

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)

2

Hampton University



Image Source

Hampton(Virginia) University originated from the efforts of several altruistic people, chief among them, Mary Peake, an African-American who taught liberated slaves how to read and write under a common oak tree. Today, that tree still stands, and is known as Emancipation Oak. It is revered by the more than 4,000 students who call Hampton University home. Located near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, this fiercely, independent university brilliantly balances the need for technical training and traditional, liberal arts academic programs. The university is comprised of seven schools – business, education and human development, engineering and technology, liberal arts, nursing, pharmacy, science, Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications and the University College. Popular majors include psychology, nursing, biology and business administration. The Pirates of Hampton belong to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and compete in several men’s and women’s sports including football, basketball, cross-country, golf, tennis, track and volleyball.

Academic reputation score: 67

Average financial aid: \$11,176

Average net price: \$21,191

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

[Admissions website](#)



Tuskegee University



Image Source

Tuskegee(Alabama) University draws students from all over the world because of its remarkable history and unparalleled commitment to providing world-class academic programs. Located 20 minutes outside of the state capital, the university has a storied legacy. It is home to the heroic Tuskegee Airmen, the first group of black men to be trained as military airmen. Tuskegee is also home to some of the finest science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs in the country. Notable programs include science, engineering, and veterinary medicine. In fact, TU is the number one producer of African-American aerospace science engineers in the country and a leading producer of African-American engineering graduates in chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering. In Alabama, no other university graduates more students in math, science, and engineering than Tuskegee. In addition to stellar academic programs and a rigorous curriculum, Tuskegee offers an intimate learning environment with a student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1, a 300,000-volume research library and a recently launched on-line degree program.

Academic reputation score: 86

Average financial aid: \$5,376

Average net price: \$27,477

Average starting salary: [Payscale.com](#)

[Admissions website](#)



Find the right college.

1 Select a degree level...

2 Select a category...

3 Select a subject...

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