

Public versus Private College - What's the Difference?

	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
Funding	State taxes	Tuition, endowments, and donations
Cost	Often cheaper for in-state	Often more expensive than an in-state public college
Size	Usually larger than private colleges (Can be up to 20,000 undergraduates)	Smaller than most public colleges (Commonly around 2,000 undergraduates)
Class Size	Larger class sizes	Smaller class sizes
Programs & Courses	Wider selection of courses, majors, and degrees	Smaller selection of courses, majors, and degrees
Graduation Rates	Lower 4-year graduation rates (45.4%)	Higher 4-year graduation rates (51.3%)
Demographics	Large number of in-state residents	Greater geographic diversity
	Greater racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity	Lesser racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity
Campus Life	More extracurriculars, Greek life, and competitive sports offerings.	Smaller, quieter. More focus on academics than sports or social activities
Top Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Michigan ● University of Virginia ● University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA) ● United States Military Academy at West Point ● University of California - Berkeley ● Georgia Institute of Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ● Stanford University ● Harvard University ● Yale University ● Princeton University ● University of Pennsylvania