

PERSONAL FINANCE ([HTTPS://LENDEDU.COM/BLOG/CATEGORY/PERSONAL-FINANCE/](https://lendedu.com/blog/category/personal-finance/))

Top 250 Colleges & Universities That Provide the Most Need-Based Grant & Scholarship Money to Incoming Freshmen in 2016



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Today, the average student loan borrower graduates with over \$28,000 in student loan debt (<https://lendedu.com/blog/average-student-loan-debt-statistics>). This is no small chunk of change, and when interest is included, could balloon to a much higher amount. One of the best ways to avoid this often debilitating debt is to avoid taking on as much as possible. How is this possible?

Grants and scholarships.

These are so great because no repayment is required, no matter what they are given for. Grants and scholarships are especially beneficial for families with financial need, who may have extra trouble paying for college.

Here at LendEDU, our goal is to help students save as much money as possible while attending college. One of the ways we do this is by...you guessed it...helping students maximize their chances of winning grants and scholarships!

We have previously gone over the top schools for private scholarships and the top schools for creative arts scholarships, but this week we will go a little more in-depth.

This time around, we analyzed the **most affordable schools for incoming freshmen with financial need**. Simply put, using data licensed from Peterson's, we found which schools give the most need-based scholarships and grants to freshmen who were determined to have need.

Data from 2015 from over 1,700 4-year colleges and universities were analyzed in this study, and the top 250 in terms of average dollar amount given were ranked below. We also included what percent of freshmen with need were given a need-based scholarship or grant so students can judge whether they are likely to receive this type of aid at a specific school or not.

We hope that these results help students and their families make smarter financial decisions regarding where to attend college. If you do not see a specific school on the list, feel free to reach out to us for more information. We are always happy to help!

Percent of Students = Percent of freshmen who were determined to have financial need who received at least one need-based scholarship or grant from their colleges or universities.

Average Amount Given = The average amount a freshman who was determined to have financial need receives in need-based scholarships or grants from his or her college or university.

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
1	Yale University	100%	\$50,359
2	Amherst College	100%	\$49,514
3	Harvard University	100%	\$48,671
4	Williams College	99%	\$48,376
5	Columbia University	97%	\$48,172
6	Wellesley College	100%	\$46,277
7	Princeton University	100%	\$46,208
8	University of Chicago	98%	\$46,854
9	Swarthmore College	100%	\$46,053
10	Haverford College	98%	\$47,009
11	Pomona College	100%	\$45,689
12	Dartmouth College	97%	\$46,917
13	Colgate University	100%	\$45,417
14	Vassar College	98%	\$45,358
15	The Colorado College	97%	\$45,232
16	Barnard College	98%	\$44,840
17	Colby College	100%	\$43,762
18	Franklin & Marshall College	100%	\$43,342
19	Duke University	94%	\$45,517
20	Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering	100%	\$42,883
21	Middlebury College	100%	\$42,741

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
22	Pitzer College	100%	\$42,479
23	Bowdoin College	100%	\$42,165
24	Skidmore College	100%	\$42,000
25	University of Pennsylvania	99%	\$42,150
26	Stanford University	95%	\$43,291
27	Bates College	100%	\$41,230
28	Washington and Lee University	100%	\$40,857
29	Hamilton College	100%	\$40,802
30	Northwestern University	97%	\$42,088
31	Brown University	96%	\$42,109
32	Smith College	97%	\$41,802
33	Harvey Mudd College	97%	\$41,635
34	University of Rochester	100%	\$40,556
35	Trinity College	95%	\$42,325
36	Carleton College	100%	\$39,854
37	Wesleyan University	92%	\$43,059
38	Wake Forest University	93%	\$42,212
39	University of Richmond	99%	\$39,666
40	Kenyon College	97%	\$40,319
41	Cornell University	98%	\$39,787
42	Claremont McKenna College	98%	\$39,775
43	Washington University in St. Louis	95%	\$40,752
44	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	96%	\$39,882
45	Bryn Mawr College	100%	\$38,311
46	Georgetown University	89%	\$42,794
47	Bard College	98%	\$38,766
48	California Institute of Technology	100%	\$37,873
49	Hampshire College	99%	\$37,941
50	Davidson College	99%	\$37,846
51	Reed College	97%	\$38,279
52	St. Lawrence University	100%	\$37,312
53	Lafayette College	95%	\$39,316
54	Grinnell College	99%	\$37,426

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
55	Sarah Lawrence College	98%	\$37,713
56	Scripps College	100%	\$37,042
57	Vanderbilt University	89%	\$41,718
58	Tufts University	92%	\$40,048
59	Brandeis University	97%	\$38,299
60	Macalester College	99%	\$37,273
61	Johns Hopkins University	94%	\$38,946
62	College of the Atlantic	100%	\$36,362
63	Dickinson College	98%	\$36,639
64	University of Notre Dame	93%	\$38,335
65	Boston University	100%	\$35,715
66	Connecticut College	96%	\$37,224
67	Rice University	97%	\$36,568
68	Emory University	88%	\$40,031
69	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	100%	\$35,340
70	Union College	98%	\$35,750
71	Babson College	89%	\$38,761
72	Occidental College	90%	\$37,998
73	Wheaton College	100%	\$33,905
74	Lehigh University	96%	\$34,998
75	Denison University	100%	\$33,696
76	Mills College	93%	\$36,050
77	Ursinus College	100%	\$33,250
78	St. Olaf College	100%	\$33,224
79	Whitman College	100%	\$33,224
80	Berea College	100%	\$32,957
81	Hendrix College	100%	\$32,929
82	Oberlin College	99%	\$33,033
83	Drexel University	99%	\$32,838
84	Bennington College	98%	\$33,135
85	Allegheny College	100%	\$32,544
86	Drew University	100%	\$32,459
87	DePauw University	100%	\$32,431

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
88	Mount Holyoke College	100%	\$32,332
89	Knox College	99%	\$32,565
90	Furman University	100%	\$32,120
91	Gettysburg College	96%	\$33,314
92	Albion College	100%	\$32,079
93	Pepperdine University	99%	\$32,440
94	Illinois Institute of Technology	100%	\$32,136
95	Northeastern University	98%	\$32,339
96	McDaniel College	100%	\$31,233
97	Rosemont College	100%	\$31,000
98	St. John's College	100%	\$30,975
99	Earlham College	97%	\$31,777
100	St. John's College	99%	\$31,235
101	Cleveland Institute of Music	100%	\$30,789
102	University of Denver	100%	\$30,860
103	Carnegie Mellon University	96%	\$31,926
104	Clarkson University	99%	\$31,060
105	Beloit College	99%	\$31,060
106	Susquehanna University	100%	\$30,505
107	Albright College	100%	\$30,490
108	Lawrence University	96%	\$31,540
109	Boston College	88%	\$34,324
110	University of Southern California	86%	\$34,948
111	Hollins University	100%	\$30,113
112	Goucher College	100%	\$29,973
113	New York University	90%	\$33,374
114	Loyola University New Orleans	100%	\$29,994
115	Wofford College	100%	\$29,962
116	Rollins College	99%	\$30,035
117	Bentley University	98%	\$30,356
118	Southwestern University	99%	\$30,100
119	Washington College	100%	\$29,630
120	Coe College	100%	\$29,510

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
121	Lycoming College	100%	\$29,434
122	Tulane University	97%	\$30,318
123	The Juilliard School	94%	\$31,100
124	Lewis & Clark College	98%	\$29,808
125	Muhlenberg College	90%	\$32,445
126	Marlboro College	100%	\$29,231
127	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	99%	\$29,520
128	Centre College	100%	\$29,311
129	Trinity University	100%	\$29,089
130	Case Western Reserve University	97%	\$29,932
131	Austin College	100%	\$28,997
132	Gustavus Adolphus College	100%	\$28,974
133	Ohio Wesleyan University	100%	\$28,970
134	College of the Holy Cross	85%	\$34,015
135	The College of Wooster	97%	\$29,714
136	Stetson University	100%	\$28,926
137	College of Saint Benedict	98%	\$29,368
138	Willamette University	99%	\$29,199
139	Villanova University	91%	\$31,640
140	Presbyterian College	100%	\$28,790
141	Hampden-Sydney College	100%	\$28,626
142	Maryville College	100%	\$28,621
143	Widener University	98%	\$29,270
144	Kalamazoo College	97%	\$29,445
145	Saint Mary's College of California	100%	\$28,521
146	Wabash College	99%	\$28,590
147	Seattle Pacific University	100%	\$28,280
148	Saint John's University	98%	\$28,696
149	Whittier College	83%	\$33,748
150	Elmira College	100%	\$27,992
151	Cedar Crest College	100%	\$27,930
152	University of Dallas	99%	\$28,287
153	Arcadia University	100%	\$27,730

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
154	Philadelphia University	100%	\$27,568
155	Agnes Scott College	100%	\$27,535
156	Syracuse University	93%	\$29,715
157	Alma College	100%	\$27,491
158	Simmons College	100%	\$27,320
159	Wittenberg University	100%	\$27,177
160	Elizabethtown College	100%	\$27,128
161	Roanoke College	99%	\$27,462
162	Hartwick College	99%	\$27,415
163	Clark University	98%	\$27,747
164	Florida Institute of Technology	100%	\$27,045
165	Oglethorpe University	100%	\$27,004
166	Monmouth College	100%	\$26,884
167	The George Washington University	96%	\$27,843
168	Wells College	90%	\$29,886
169	Rhodes College	99%	\$26,954
170	Principia College	100%	\$26,689
171	Juniata College	99%	\$26,702
172	Pace University	100%	\$26,448
173	Whitworth University	99%	\$26,608
174	Saint Mary's College	99%	\$26,630
175	Illinois Wesleyan University	100%	\$26,251
176	Norwich University	100%	\$26,249
177	Bridgewater College	100%	\$26,134
178	Pacific Lutheran University	99%	\$26,137
179	Canisius College	100%	\$25,939
180	California College of the Arts	100%	\$25,768
181	Sweet Briar College	100%	\$25,651
182	Hood College	100%	\$25,594
183	Emory & Henry College	100%	\$25,667
184	University of Detroit Mercy	94%	\$27,115
185	Mercer University	100%	\$25,648
186	Randolph College	100%	\$25,373

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
187	Central College	100%	\$25,326
188	Lebanon Valley College	100%	\$25,445
189	Fairfield University	98%	\$25,764
190	Millsaps College	100%	\$25,280
191	American University	93%	\$27,104
192	Moravian College	100%	\$25,311
193	Spring Hill College	100%	\$25,257
194	Stonehill College	99%	\$25,498
195	Hamline University	100%	\$25,131
196	Goshen College	100%	\$25,103
197	Cornell College	100%	\$25,076
198	Hanover College	100%	\$25,014
199	Marymount California University	100%	\$25,010
200	Westmont College	99%	\$25,289
201	Notre Dame of Maryland University	100%	\$24,905
202	Menlo College	100%	\$24,873
203	West Virginia Wesleyan College	100%	\$24,785
204	Northland College	100%	\$24,770
205	Elmhurst College	100%	\$24,766
206	Ithaca College	97%	\$25,597
207	Curry College	100%	\$24,802
208	Soka University of America	100%	\$24,750
209	Milwaukee School of Engineering	100%	\$24,676
210	La Salle University	99%	\$24,997
211	Providence College	94%	\$26,300
212	Randolph-Macon College	100%	\$24,571
213	Green Mountain College	99%	\$24,799
214	Dominican University of California	100%	\$24,442
215	University of San Diego	96%	\$25,383
216	Linfield College	84%	\$28,864
217	Valparaiso University	99%	\$24,489
218	Luther College	100%	\$24,313
219	Texas Christian University	94%	\$25,971

Rank	College Name	Percent of Students	Average Amount Given
220	University of the Pacific	99%	\$24,608
221	Buena Vista University	98%	\$24,691
222	Bay Path University	100%	\$24,193
223	Virginia Wesleyan College	100%	\$24,141
224	Fordham University	98%	\$24,608
225	Sewanee: The University of the South	98%	\$24,549
226	John Carroll University	97%	\$24,834
227	California Lutheran University	100%	\$24,070
228	The Catholic University of America	98%	\$24,379
229	Eckerd College	100%	\$23,934
230	University of Puget Sound	98%	\$24,324
231	Augustana College	99%	\$24,025
232	Wartburg College	100%	\$23,885
233	North Central College	100%	\$23,861
234	Lynchburg College	100%	\$23,854
235	Rider University	99%	\$24,203
236	University of Saint Joseph	99%	\$23,958
237	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	100%	\$23,869
238	Westminster College	98%	\$24,300
239	Chestnut Hill College	100%	\$23,712
240	Transylvania University	100%	\$23,656
241	Simpson College	99%	\$23,831
242	Caldwell University	99%	\$23,994
243	Bellarmino University	100%	\$23,542
244	Notre Dame de Namur University	100%	\$23,418
245	Salve Regina University	98%	\$23,958
246	Wheelock College	100%	\$23,325
247	La Sierra University	99%	\$23,398
248	Mount Mary University	100%	\$23,250
249	Lenoir-Rhyne University	100%	\$23,232
250	Emmanuel College	100%	\$23,170



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In his role at LendEDU, Mike uses data, usually from surveys and publicly-available resources, to **analyze** emerging personal finance trends and tell unique stories. Mike's work, featured in major outlets like The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, provides consumers with a **personal finance measuring stick** and can help them make informed finance decisions.

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