

Grads at this college earn the most—and it's not MIT, Harvard or Stanford

[Abigail Hess](#) | [@AbigailJHess](#)

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Going to [a top college](#) can really pay off. On average, graduates from the best schools in the country earn [well over six-figures](#) mid-way through their careers. But as the [cost of college rises](#) and [wage growth remains stubbornly low](#), carefully deciding where to spend your college years has become more important than ever before.

Salary comparison site [PayScale](#) recently analyzed 2,646 associate and bachelor's degree-granting institutions throughout the U.S. in order to determine which students earned the most after graduation. When they looked at the median salaries of graduates who only had a bachelor's degree, they found that 10 colleges produced students with sky-high salaries five and 10 years into their careers.

Surprisingly, only two Ivy League schools made the list. In fact, the number one school for salary potential is a small liberal arts college with a total undergraduate enrollment of just 844.

Here are the 10 colleges where graduates earn the most, according to PayScale:



Jim Henderson | [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The north gate of SUNY Maritime College is shown in the Bronx, New York.

10. SUNY Maritime College

Early career salary: \$73,300

Mid-career salary: \$140,100

State: New York

9. Princeton University

Early career salary: \$72,700

Mid-career salary: \$141,300

State: New Jersey

8. United States Military Academy

Early career salary: \$79,300

Mid-career salary: \$141,900

State: New York

6. Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (tie)

Early career salary: \$80,200

Mid-career salary: \$142,600

State: New York

6. Harvard University (tie)

Early career salary: \$72,600

Mid-career salary: \$142,600

State: Massachusetts



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California Institute of Technology

4. California Institute of Technology (tie)

Early career salary: \$83,400

Mid-career salary: \$143,100

State: California

4. Stanford University (tie)

Early career salary: \$76,500

Mid-career salary: \$143,100

State: California

3. United States Naval Academy

Early career salary: \$78,600

Mid-career salary: \$149,800

State: Maryland

2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Early career salary: \$83,600

Mid-career salary: \$150,400

State: Massachusetts

1. Harvey Mudd College

Early career salary: \$85,600

Mid-career salary: \$157,400

State: California



Source: Harvey Mudd College

Harvey Mudd College science lab

Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California topped PayScale's list. Harvey Mudd alumni make an average of \$85,600 five years into their careers, and \$157,400 10

years into their careers. Founded in 1955, [Harvey Mudd](#) is a liberal arts college that focuses on undergraduate engineering and science.

Second on the list is the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT), which also has an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. Several other STEM-focused institutions ranked highly, including the [California Institute of Technology](#).

Studying in a STEM field may be the secret to high salaries from these schools. All 10 of the [10 highest paying majors](#) fit into the STEM category and across fields, [STEM majors consistently](#) have some of the highest rates of employment and the [highest incomes](#).

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