

[nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

*It's a Big  
World Out  
There*

Find Your  
Best Fit

With more than 6,700 schools, colleges, and universities, most offering multiple programs, the options for continuing your education are almost endless! College Navigator makes it easy to find schools that fit your academic, personal, and financial needs. Search our database by the criteria that matter to you, like

- majors/programs;
- tuition and fees;
- geographic location;
- campus setting;
- degree choices; and
- varsity athletic offerings.

Think outside the box, and you're likely to learn about opportunities you didn't even know existed.



### Where the Data Come From

Each year, the National Center for Education Statistics gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs through a series of surveys known as the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS ([nces.ed.gov/ipeds](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds)). IPEDS surveys collect information on institutional characteristics and prices, enrollment, student aid, degrees and certificates conferred, student persistence and success, and institutional human and fiscal resources.

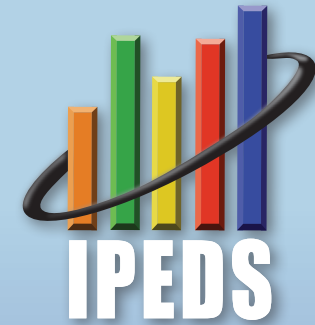
IPEDS surveys cover seven important areas: institutional characteristics and prices, enrollment, student aid, degrees and certificates conferred, student persistence and success, and institutional human and fiscal resources. Congress, federal agencies, state governments, professional associations, private businesses, media, students and parents, and others rely on this information.

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

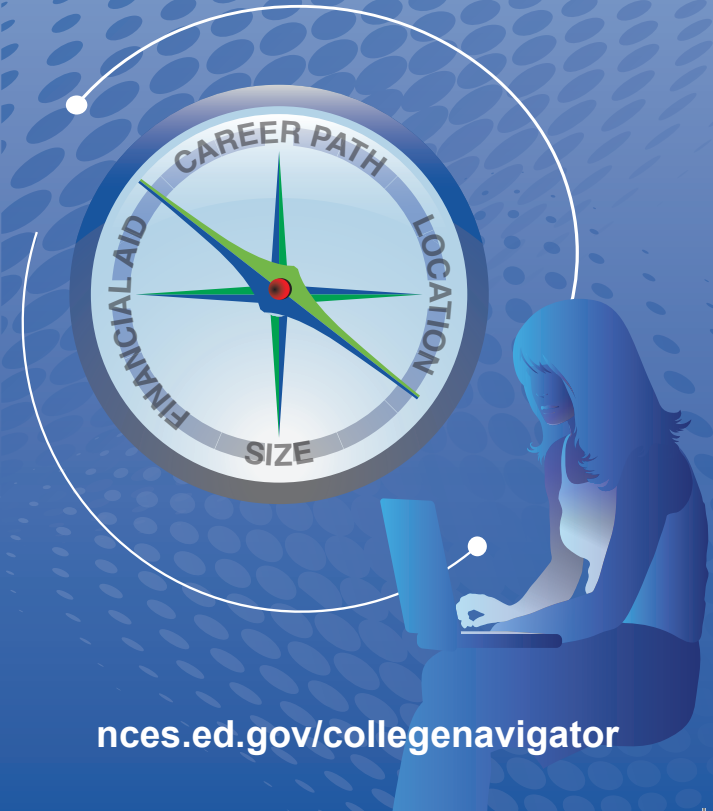


[ies.ed.gov](http://ies.ed.gov)

NCES 2010-189



Your First Step in Finding the  
Right College



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## Cosmetology or the Cosmos

### Find Your Way to the Future

- Base your search on location, major, tuition and fees, or other factors that matter to you.
- Compare schools within a single state or across the entire country.
- Get valuable information about planning for college for you and your family.

## Biotechnology or Auto Technology

### It's Up to You

College Navigator makes it easy to find schools that offer programs in your area of interest. You'll be searching a database that includes information from colleges, universities, community colleges, fine arts schools, vocational schools, technical schools, and more. Whether you want a 2-year certificate, a 4-year degree, an M.D., or a Ph.D., every school that participates in federal student aid programs is in the database.

## Big City or Countryside

### Find Your Comfort Zone

Use the geographic location and campus setting search options to sort schools according to your priorities. Whether you want to find a school close to home or somewhere new, in a big city or out in the countryside, College Navigator can help you find the place that meets your needs.

## What College Costs

### Compare Schools on Both Costs and Financial Aid

Concerned that the costs of continuing your education will keep you from achieving your personal goals? Two out of every three students receive some kind of financial aid to help pay for the cost of their education. Using College Navigator, you can find out the costs of tuition, fees, and other expenses for attending the schools or colleges that interest you, as well as information on how much financial aid is awarded to students.

## No Experience Required

### College Navigator Is Easy to Use

Massive online database? Yes.  
Complicated to use? No.

The College Navigator home page gets you started quickly. Make selections from the search menu or choose the "Guide Me" option. Before you know it, you'll be building a list of schools, making side-by-side comparisons, and pinpointing locations on an interactive map.

When you want to end your session, you can export your results to a spreadsheet. If you prefer, save your session—including search options, results, and favorites—for a future visit.

## Planning Ahead

### Career and Financial Resources

Maybe applying to colleges is still a few years into the future. To learn more about what it takes to prepare for different careers and how to apply for financial aid, look for links on the College Navigator home page or visit [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov).

Want to know what careers are expected to be hot once you graduate, and what it will take to get those jobs? You can learn about different types of jobs in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. It includes descriptions of the work and the education and training required, expected job prospects and earnings, working conditions, and more.

Links to the Federal Student Aid website can help you plan ahead to pay for college. And, when you're ready, you can apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

