

# Types and Classifications of American Universities

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# Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education

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# Carnegie Classification

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- Created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 1973.
- Used to identify groups of comparable institutions.
- First updated in 1976.
- Starting in 2000, updates every 5 years.
- Organized around 3 categories:
  - Undergraduate/Graduate Instructional Program Classifications - what is taught.
  - Enrollment and Undergraduate Profiles - the students.
  - Size and Setting - setting of the institutions.



# Public v.s. Private

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# Private

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- Operated as non-profit educational and research organizations and are not supported/operated by the government
- (May receive tax breaks and public student loans and grants)
- Class sizes for private universities have smaller sizes with easy access to professors
- Private colleges offer a smaller range of majors, but often
- Some are affiliated and operated by religious organizations



# Public

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- Most are founded and operated by state government entities
- Partially supported by public means (State Universities)
- Class sizes for public have higher enrollment numbers in some classes, especially in lower-division courses

2 Year v.s. 4 Year

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# 2 Year

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- Cheaper, quicker, and highly vocational, two-year schools offer students the chance to start their careers sooner and with less (or no) debt.
- Two-year students typically either focus on taking general pre-requisite courses that can transfer to a four-year institution or courses in their specific trade.
- According to the College Board, the average cost of tuition and fees at a two-year school is only \$3,131, just over one-third of the cost for a year at a four-year public institution.



# 4 Year

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- Though four-year schools require at least twice the amount of time as two-year schools AND three times the tuition, they offer students on- and off-campus learning opportunities you simply can't find anywhere else.
- Those who want a well-rounded education and a flexible degree. While four-year students are required to take a much broader range of courses than two-year vocational students, four-year students graduate with degrees that can be used for a wide spectrum of jobs in the real world.
- What you'll take? Everything—math, biology, English, history, even music therapy.
- Get ready to cough it up. The College Board reports that the average cost of one year of in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year school is \$8,655. Tack on another \$9,205 in room and board costs and you're looking at an average yearly bill of \$17,860.

# Liberal Arts v.s. University

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# Liberal Arts

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- LACs are typically private.
- LACs are generally small.
- LACs have relatively higher tuition than public universities, but they're often more generous with financial aid and scholarships.
- Undergraduate education is the primary level in LACs.
- LACs require students to take a wide variety of courses to give them exposure to a variety of liberal arts studies with a broader base of knowledge. In general, they don't focus on career-related classes as heavily as universities do.
- LACs have relatively fewer student organizations and clubs.

# University

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- Universities are private or public (including state universities).
- Universities are larger than LACs, especially state universities.
- Public universities have lower tuition than private universities and LACs, but there're fewer financial aid opportunities to international students especially in state universities.
- Universities generally consist of graduate schools, professional schools (engineering, law, business, medical, etc.) as well as undergraduate programs.
- Universities focus on students' major with relatively fewer general core requirements. They offer classes more tailored to the students' specific career needs especially for those who want to pursue a technical career path.
- There are more events/activities on and off campus and more options of student organizations and clubs.