

### ***What a college degree is worth***

The following charts show colleges and their rank on the PayScale analysis; the average return on investment, or ROI, after 30 years for graduates with a bachelor's degree; and the 2009 average starting salary for graduates. The degree cost is based on the annual cost of attendance multiplied by the average number of years it takes the majority of students to graduate. The ROI is calculated as the gain in median pay over a high school graduate over 30 years.

<b>Top colleges</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Degree cost</b>	<b>30-year ROI</b>	<b>Avg. salary</b>
MIT	1	\$189,300	\$1,688,000	\$71,100
California Institute of Tech.	2	\$181,100	\$1,644,000	\$69,700
Harvard University	3	\$189,600	\$1,631,000	\$60,000
Harvey Mudd College	4	\$187,700	\$1,627,000	\$60,000
Dartmouth College	5	\$188,400	\$1,587,000	\$58,200
Stanford University	6	\$191,800	\$1,565,000	\$67,500
Princeton University	7	\$187,700	\$1,517,000	\$65,000
Yale University	8	\$194,200	\$1,392,000	\$56,000
University of Notre Dame	9	\$181,900	\$1,384,000	\$55,300
University of Pennsylvania	10	\$191,300	\$1,361,000	\$60,400
<b>New Jersey colleges</b>				
Stevens Institute of Tech.	30	\$222,600	\$1,111,000	\$59,400
NJIT	81	\$117,400	\$783,900	\$55,000
TCNJ	116	\$92,810	\$692,500	\$44,300
Rutgers	177	\$108,400	\$555,900	\$50,000
Ramapo College	292	\$108,500	\$419,600	\$42,900
Seton Hall University	293	\$198,700	\$418,400	\$48,100
Montclair State Univ.	300	\$107,400	\$412,700	\$44,600
Rider University	334	\$186,900	\$385,000	\$43,700
Monmouth	379	\$169,200	\$354,000	\$43,400
Fairleigh Dickinson	383	\$208,700	\$350,000	\$47,100
Stockton College	395	\$105,600	\$344,300	\$41,700
Rowan University	461	\$122,600	\$298,500	\$42,100
Kean University	543	\$93,500	\$236,000	\$42,400

Source: [www.payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com)