

Ranking the Colleges...

...for getting into Yale Med, Chicago Business and all those other elite business, medical and law schools. Below, our list of the top 50 “feeder schools,” based on our count of how many of their alumni started this fall at 15 select grad programs (see “Behind the Rankings”). The rankings are based on the number of students a college sends to a grad school divided by the college’s class size—our Feeder Score.

RANK	SCHOOL	CLASS SIZE	# ATTENDING	FEEDER SCORE	COMMENTS
1	Harvard University Cambridge, Mass.	1,666	358	21.49%	There’s no such thing as a sure bet. But for getting into a good grad school, a Harvard bachelor’s degree remains the next best thing.
2	Yale University New Haven, Conn.	1,286	231	17.96%	What happened to school loyalty? More Yalies (40) are going to Harvard Law this fall than Yale Law (30).
3	Princeton University Princeton, N.J.	1,103	174	15.78%	One of the few Ivies without its own professional school, Princeton held its first grad-school fair last year.
4	Stanford University Stanford, Calif.	1,692	181	10.70%	Based on our numbers, does a particularly strong job at spawning future MBA stars; med school could use work.
5	Williams College Williamstown, Mass.	519	47	9.06%	An up-and-comer for some time, this “Little Ivy” did better than many of the actual Ivies.
6	Duke University Durham, N.C.	1,615	139	8.61%	Students do well here but may take their time; only 25% of graduates here go immediately to a professional school.
7	Dartmouth College Hanover, N.H.	1,101	93	8.45%	Recently put its “credentials file” online to help students track recommendation letters from professors.
8	Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Cambridge, Mass.	1,187	92	7.75%	One of the best on our list at getting kids into business school, including more than two dozen into Harvard Business this fall alone.
9	Amherst College , Amherst, Mass.	431	33	7.66%	Encourages use of grad-school advising services even after graduation.
10	Swarthmore College Swarthmore, Pa.	336	25	7.44%	Enrollment has tripled in seven years for an honors program here that’s meant to mimic grad school with small seminars.
11	Columbia University New York	1,652	118	7.14%	You’d think undergrads here would have an edge getting into its elite law and medical schools. But several other Ivies sent more students.
12	Brown University , Providence, R.I.	1,506	98	6.51%	Sixth-ranked Ivy tilted toward law in our figures; no formal pre-law program.
13	Pomona College , Claremont, Calif.	362	23	6.35%	One of our bigger surprises. Nearly half of undergraduates say they’re going straight to grad school, up from 32% last year.
14	University of Chicago Chicago	948	59	6.22%	Has 11 of its graduates at Wharton this year; its business school has new program encouraging seniors to return to Chicago for their MBA.
15	Wellesley College Wellesley, Mass.	585	35	5.98%	Close to the Crimson: Pre-business association has field trips to Harvard Business, where eight alums started this fall.
16	University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia	2,785	153	5.49%	Penn’s medical school (not one of our survey schools) has the highest percentage of Penn undergrads in six years.
17	Georgetown University Washington, D.C.	1,666	85	5.10%	Its highest numbers were at Harvard Business and Harvard Law—12 students each this fall.
18	Haverford College , Haverford, Pa.	291	13	4.47%	Recently reinstated a grad-school orientation program.
19	Bowdoin College , Brunswick, Maine	404	16	3.96%	Now has online service to help kids compile grad-school applications.
20	Rice University , Houston	764	29	3.80%	President Malcolm Gillis says numbers in “surprising “ findings seem low.
21	Northwestern University Evanston, Ill.	1,978	73	3.69%	Feeding itself: New option gives incoming freshmen in the undergrad engineering program a slot in at business grad school, too.
22	Claremont McKenna College Claremont, Calif.	271	10	3.69%	Aspiring lawyers could do worse: School’s students landed at Chicago, Harvard, Michigan and Yale law schools.
23	Middlebury College Middlebury, Vt.	660	24	3.64%	Officials say it’s a “feeder” for Dartmouth’s MBA, but our survey turned up only two alums there this fall (10 are at Harvard B-school).
24	Johns Hopkins Univ. , Baltimore	1,272	45	3.54%	Med school remains the most popular grad choice here.
25	Cornell University , Ithaca, N.Y.	3,565	115	3.23%	Increased funding to advise women and minorities on grad school. Spokesman disputes “lasting meaning” of our survey.
26	Bryn Mawr College , Bryn Mawr, Pa.	310	9	2.90%	Grad-school history: One of the first Ph.D. programs for women in the U.S.
27	Wesleyan University Middletown, Conn.	731	21	2.87%	Within five years of graduating, 80% of Wesleyan grads wind up at some form of graduate or professional school.
28	California Institute of Technology , Pasadena, Calif.	249	7	2.81%	Lighter on law than most in our top 50.
29	Morehouse College , Atlanta	501	14	2.79%	This all-male, traditionally black college says it has actually scaled back student trips to top Northeast grad schools.
30	University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich.	5,720	156	2.73%	Grad schools in our survey “should pay a bit more attention to geographic diversity,” honors-program chief says.
31	New College of Florida Sarasota, Fla.	113	3	2.65%	At this “honors college” of the Florida state schools, professors give “narrative evaluations” instead of letter grades.
32	Vassar College , Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	581	15	2.58%	Says it’s good for future doctors, but none at Harvard or Yale this fall.
33	University of Virginia Charlottesville, Va.	3,213	82	2.55%	The No. 3 public college on our list doesn’t have a university-wide honors program.
34	United States Military Academy , West Point, N.Y.	966	23	2.38%	Chief executives, Army-style: A surprising showing at Harvard Business (13 students this year) boosted West Point’s score.
35	University of Notre Dame South Bend, Ind.	1,985	45	2.27%	Less success at medical schools than some others in our group.
36	Emory University , Atlanta	1,509	33	2.19%	Dean says of ranking: “Ivy begets Ivy.”
37	United States Naval Academy Annapolis, Md.	986	21	2.13%	All business, sir: The bulk of its grad-school students ended up at Harvard, MIT and Wharton business programs.
38	Macalester College St. Paul, Minn.	406	8	1.97%	Less widely known than some Eastern liberal-arts colleges, it pushes internships in health-care to help med-school prospects.
39	Brandeis University , Waltham, Mass.	815	16	1.96%	School says it’s bringing in top grad schools for admissions fair.
40	Bates College , Lewiston, Maine	417	8	1.92%	Taps alumni to help students get key internships.
41	University of California, Berkeley , Berkeley, Calif.	6,198	118	1.90%	Says its kids are accepted to top grad schools in far greater numbers than choose to attend.
42	Barnard College , New York	588	11	1.87%	Placed much lower than Columbia, the Ivy it’s affiliated with.
43	Trinity College , Hartford, Conn.	485	9	1.86%	Grads of this liberal-arts school seemed to favor MBA programs.
44	Grinnell College , Grinnell, Iowa	337	6	1.78%	For kids interested in a specific grad program, networking program ties them with an alum who attended or worked there.
45	Tufts University , Medford, Mass.	1,246	22	1.77%	Far from tops in Boston, but still edged out Boston College (No. 79).
46	Colby College , Waterville, Maine	471	8	1.70%	Lags Maine rivals Bates and Bowdoin.
47	Washington University , St. Louis	1,709	29	1.70%	Made our top 50, but one of the more expensive schools on our list (tuition is \$28,300 a year). Says it’s “very successful” at placing students.
48	Washington and Lee , Lexington, Va.	413	7	1.69%	No New Haven: School made our cut—but nobody at Yale Med or Law.
49	Case Western Reserve University , Cleveland	729	12	1.65%	They’re working on it, with new annual conference giving advice on applying to graduate schools.
50	Reed College , Portland, Ore.	304	5	1.64%	Sure, Carnegie Mellon—No. 51 on our list—had more students (19) get into our top schools, but Reed had slightly higher success rate.