



# The 10 Best Non-Ivy League Universities

in the US

Your complete guide to studying at the 10 highest-ranked,  
non-Ivy League universities in the US



A CRIMSON EDUCATION PUBLICATION

The US is one of the most sought-after destinations for students around the world seeking a top-quality education to kickstart their successful future. While it is known as the home of the Ivy League, a group of 8 of the most prestigious institutions in the world, the US is also home to many other world-leading universities that stack up to the Ivy League in academics and resources!

To help you understand just how far the US's elite education system expands, we've broken down the 10 [highest-ranked](#), non-Ivy League universities in the US. Their classes are just as challenging, their professors just as distinguished, their alumni networks just as esteemed, and their acceptance rates just as competitive.

From MIT (the [#1 ranked university](#) in the world) to Johns Hopkins (the first-ever research university in the US) to Caltech (where 7 Nobel laureates currently teach) — each of these universities offers a unique set of advantages for the lucky few students they admit.

If you're aiming to study at a world-leading university in the US, it's crucial that you consider schools outside of the renowned Ivy League (even if you plan to apply to the Ivies, too!). With different locations, sizes, academic focuses and research opportunities to take into account, you may find that your best-fit university is one you hadn't previously considered!

Are you ready for a complete breakdown of the 10 highest-ranked, non-Ivy league universities in the US? Read on to find out what makes each one unique and why one may suit you better than the others. Crimson has helped thousands of students gain admission to top US universities, with more students getting accepted year after year — so let's help you join them soon.





# The 10 Best Non-Ivy League Schools At a Glance

UNIVERSITY	LOCATION	CLASS OF 2025 ACCEPTANCE RATE	TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT (APPROX.)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, Massachusetts	4%	4,530
Stanford University	Palo Alto, California	5.2% (approx.)	6,366
University of Chicago	Chicago, Illinois	6% (approx.)	6,306
California Institute of Technology	Pasadena, California	6% (approx.)	901
Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore, Maryland	7.4%	6,256
Northwestern University	Evanston and Chicago, Illinois	6.8%	8,372
Duke University	Durham, North Carolina	5.8%	6,542
Vanderbilt University	Nashville, Tennessee	6.7%	7,057
Rice University	Houston, Texas	9.3%	3,989
Washington University in St. Louis	St. Louis, Missouri	13%	7,822

# MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

 Cambridge, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of the most highly regarded private universities in the United States. The coeducational, independent institution maintains a strong focus on scientific and technological research. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, MIT sits on the Charles River not far from its highly prestigious neighbour Harvard University.

MIT comprises 30 departments across five schools and colleges and offers undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral degree programs. It was founded in 1861 by William Barton Rogers, who served as the university's first president and envisioned a "new polytechnic institute" for technical and scientific education.



## MIT ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**4%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1520 - 1580**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**34 - 36**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES\*

**AAA/A  
43+**



## MIT BY THE NUMBERS

**1**

QS World  
University ranking

**4**

US News  
ranking

**54**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**3:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**29%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**92%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$95,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## MIT'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Computer Science
- 02** Mechanical Engineering
- 03** Mathematics
- 04** Physics
- 05** Electrical Engineering

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Researchers at MIT identified  
the first genes responsible for  
cancer in humans!*

\*These are the score ranges we recommend that students applying from Singapore aim for, in order to have a competitive shot at admissions. Scoring below this range does not preclude you from applying.

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY

 Palo Alto, California

Stanford University is one of the largest college campuses in the United States, sitting on a sprawling 8,180 acres in Palo Alto, California. The private, 4-year liberal arts university is nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley and has a reputation for producing entrepreneurial students who go on to produce, invent, develop and champion globally significant initiatives.

Stanford houses 18 interdisciplinary research institutes and seven schools on its single campus. It was founded in 1885 by California senator Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane, who sought advice from the presidents of Harvard, Cornell and MIT on their vision to open a university to "promote the public welfare by exercising an influence on behalf of humanity and civilization."



## STANFORD ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**5.2%**  
(approx.)

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1460 - 1580**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**32 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
43+**



## STANFORD BY THE NUMBERS

**2**

QS World  
University ranking

**6**

US News  
ranking

**58**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**5:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**24%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**97%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$93,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## STANFORD'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Engineering
- 02** Computer and Information Sciences
- 03** Human Biology
- 04** Economics
- 05** Mathematics and Statistics

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Stanford is the alma mater of  
30 living billionaires and 17  
current astronauts!*

# UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

 Chicago, Illinois

The University of Chicago is an urban research university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Located in Chicago, Illinois, the private, medium sized 4-year institution has a reputation for its professional schools, including the Pritzker School of Medicine, the Booth School of Business, and the Harris School of Public Policy.

UChicago was established in 1856 with a commitment to rigorous academics and "opportunities for all departments of higher education to persons of both sexes on equal terms." Its academic programs span 14 different schools and colleges, and the university manages two US Department of Energy laboratories as well as the world-renowned Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL).



## UCHICAGO ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**6%**  
(approx.)

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1500 - 1560**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
43+**



## UCHICAGO BY THE NUMBERS

**9**

QS World  
University ranking

**6**

US News  
ranking

**52**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**5:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**13%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**55%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$68,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## UCHICAGO'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Economics
- 02** Biological Sciences
- 03** Mathematics
- 04** Political Science
- 05** Public Policy

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*With over 11 million volumes, the University of Chicago Library is the tenth largest research library in North America!*

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

 Chicago, Illinois

California Institute of Technology is a world-renowned science and engineering institute located in Pasadena, California, about 10 miles north of Los Angeles. The small, private university is known for its academic excellence in STEM fields, receiving grants from the likes of NASA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Health and Human Services.

CalTech's undergraduates can choose from 28 majors across six academic divisions with a curriculum that focuses on interdisciplinary education and research. It was founded in 1891 as Throop University and became the California Institute of Technology in 1920 on the principle that "the fundamental science of one generation is the applied science of the next."



## CALTECH ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**6%**  
(approx.)

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1530 - 1570**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**35 - 36**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
43+**



## CALTECH BY THE NUMBERS

**4**

QS World  
University ranking

**9**

US News  
ranking

**28**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**3:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**8%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**94%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$105,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## CALTECH'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Engineering
- 02** Computer Science
- 03** Physical Sciences
- 04** Mathematics and Statistics
- 05** Biological Sciences

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*64 Caltech faculty and alumni have received a National Medal of Science, and the uni has 7 Nobel laureates currently in residence!*

# JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

 Baltimore, Maryland

Johns Hopkins University was the first research university in the US, and today it puts more funding into research than any other US academic institution. Located in Baltimore, Maryland, Johns Hopkins is a medium-sized, 4-year, private university offering certificate, diploma, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

JHU was founded in 1876 on the belief that teaching and research go hand in hand and "the advancement of individual scholars, who by their excellence will advance the sciences they pursue, and the society where they dwell." The university's nine academic divisions include more than 260 programs from the arts and humanities to engineering and business.

## JHU ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**7.4%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1530 - 1570**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
43+**

## JHU BY THE NUMBERS

**25**  
QS World  
University ranking

**9**  
US News  
ranking

**52**  
Undergraduate  
fields of study

**7:1**  
Student-  
Faculty ratio

**19%**  
Percentage of  
international  
students

**49%**  
Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$68,000 USD**  
Median starting salary for graduates

## JHU'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Neuroscience
- 02** Public Health Studies
- 03** Biomedical Engineering
- 04** Economics
- 05** Computer Science

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Researchers at JHU took the first images of the Earth's curvature, landed the first spacecraft on an asteroid, and sent a spacecraft to Mercury to see its entire surface for the first time!*

# NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

 Evanston, Illinois

Northwestern University has two primary campuses located on the massive Lake Michigan: the 240-acre main campus in Evanston, Illinois and a 25-acre campus about 12 miles away in Chicago, Illinois. The 4-year, medium-sized private institution consists of 12 schools and colleges including its most recently established campus in Doha, Qatar!

Northwestern was founded by nine visionary men in 1855 when its doors opened with just two faculty members and 10 students. It offers over 4,000 courses annually and the great majority of undergraduates at Northwestern combine two or more areas of study in their time at the university.



## NORTHWESTERN ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**6.8%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1440 - 1550**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**32 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
41+**



## NORTHWESTERN BY THE NUMBERS

**29**

QS World  
University ranking

**9**

US News  
ranking

**90**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**6:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**17%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**60%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$53,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## NORTHWESTERN'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Economics
- 02** Psychology
- 03** Political Science
- 04** Journalism
- 05** Biological Sciences

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Northwestern students put on an annual 30-hour-long dance marathon that has raised over \$16 million USD since its inception and is the largest charity event run by students in the US!*

# DUKE UNIVERSITY

 Durham, North Carolina

Duke University is one of the wealthiest private universities in the world, nestled in the vibrant suburbs of Durham, North Carolina. The private, 4-year liberal arts university is home to 10 different colleges as well as 11 institutes and centers dedicated to research and engagement outside the classroom.

Duke was founded in 1838 as a preparatory school for boys and was chartered as a teaching college in 1851. It is now home to one of the top 10 private research library systems in the US as well as the Duke Marine Laboratory, known for its cutting-edge research and field work on marine ecosystems.



## DUKE ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**5.8%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1500 - 1560**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
41+**



## DUKE BY THE NUMBERS

**42**

QS World  
University ranking

**12**

US News  
ranking

**53**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**6:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**21%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**85%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$65,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## DUKE'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Computer Science
- 02** Economics
- 03** Public Policy
- 04** Biological Sciences
- 05** Biomedical Engineering

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Duke's campus houses the Duke Lemur Center, the world's largest sanctuary for rare and endangered prosimian primates!*

# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

 Nashville, Tennessee

Vanderbilt University is a private, medium-sized university in the southern US city of Nashville, Tennessee. Its 10 schools offer undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, engineering, music, education and human development, and graduate programs in Medicine, Law, Management and more.

Vanderbilt was founded in 1873 by business magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt, who envisioned an institution devoted to “strengthening the ties which should exist between all sections of our common country” and prides itself on the sense of community fostered by its closely connected campus.



## VANDERBILT ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**6.7%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1460 - 1560**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
39+**



## VANDERBILT BY THE NUMBERS

**187**

QS World  
University ranking

**14**

US News  
ranking

**70**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**8:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**10%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**94%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$63,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## VANDERBILT'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Social Sciences
- 02** Engineering
- 03** Interdisciplinary Studies
- 04** Biological Sciences
- 05** Mathematics and Statistics

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Vanderbilt's campus is home to more than 300 tree and shrub varieties and was designated an arboretum in 1988!*

# RICE UNIVERSITY

 Houston, Texas

Rice University is a private, medium-sized research university situated on a 300-acre campus in the heart of Houston, Texas. It comprises eight schools including its unique Institute for Public Policy, a nonpartisan think tank offering coursework, internships and lectures. The university also offers research experiences for undergraduates at schools around the world!

Rice was chartered by businessman William Marsh Rice in 1891, who requested that work on the university only begin after his death. The institution opened as a university "of the highest grade" in 1912 with just 77 students and an international faculty of 12.



## RICE ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**9.3%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1470 - 1570**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
39+**



## RICE BY THE NUMBERS

**89**

QS World  
University ranking

**16**

US News  
ranking

**74**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**6:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**24%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**75%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$68,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## RICE'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Computer and Information Sciences
- 02** Mechanical Engineering
- 03** Cognitive Science
- 04** Economics
- 05** Biochemistry

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

*Rice has collaborated closely on research with NASA since the agency was founded in 1959!*

# WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

 St. Louis, Missouri

Washington University in St. Louis is a medium-sized, private university based in the charming city of St. Louis, Missouri. Four of its seven schools serve undergraduate students: the College of Arts & Sciences, Olin Business School, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, and McKelvey School of Engineering.

WashU was founded in 1853 by St. Louis merchant Wayman Crow and pastor William Greenleaf Eliot Jr., who were concerned about the lack of institutions for higher education in the growing midwest region of the US. It began with only evening classes for the working class and in 50 years grew to an institution offering a full slate of courses across a wide range of disciplines.



## WASHU ADMISSION STATS

CLASS OF 2025  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**13%**

AVERAGE SAT  
SCORE

**1480 - 1560**

AVERAGE ACT  
SCORE

**33 - 35**

RECOMMENDED  
A-LEVEL/IB SCORES

**AAA/A  
41+**



## WASHU BY THE NUMBERS

**105**

QS World  
University ranking

**16**

US News  
ranking

**91**

Undergraduate  
fields of study

**8:1**

Student-  
Faculty ratio

**20%**

Percentage of  
international  
students

**72%**

Percentage of  
students living  
on campus

**\$63,000 USD**

Median starting salary for graduates



## WASHU'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

- 01** Business
- 02** Engineering
- 03** Biological Sciences
- 04** Social Sciences
- 05** History

**? DID YOU KNOW? ?**

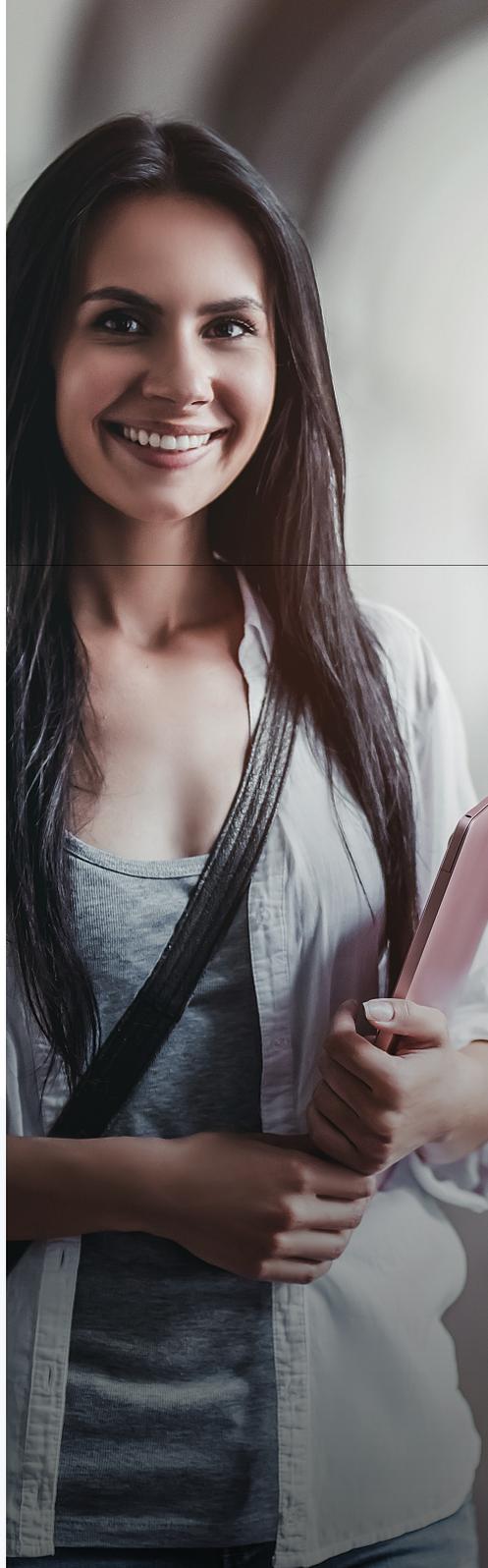
*In 2009, WashU became the first US university to ban the sale of single-used plastic water bottles!*

# Do you dream of studying in the US?

**Applying to top universities in the US is an exciting, though demanding, process that rewards qualified students with a first-rate education that can set them on the path to lifelong success. We hope this booklet has helped you understand a bit more about what leading universities in the US have to offer.**

Crimson students are up to 4x more likely to gain admission to top universities than students who apply on their own. Click the link below to learn more about how we guide students all over the world on the path to their dream university.

[Learn More](#)





Make your dream possible with

# Crimson Education



## Who We Are

Crimson Education is an education consulting company that helps students around the world get into their best-fit universities by creating personalized teams comprised of the top tutors, mentors, and admissions experts.

Our one-on-one sessions ensure that Crimson students get the support they need to stand out in today's highly competitive college admissions race.



## Our Services

Crimson's bespoke services help you to achieve your educational aims.



Admissions Consulting



Career and Mentoring



Standardized Test Tutoring



Extracurricular and Leadership



Merit & Need Based Scholarships



Sports Recruitment

## Our Results

**366**

Offers to the Ivy league

**133**

Offers to Oxford and Cambridge

**2200+**

Offers to US Top 50 universities

**900+**

Offers to the UK Top 10 universities

# Why Crimson?



## Our Network

2400+

2,400 expert tutors, mentors, and strategists located around the world



The Crimson Team includes alumni from top 25 US & UK universities in over 20 offices around the world



Our elite board of advisors and sponsors include prestigious influencers at the top of their chosen industry

## Our Methodology

### One-On-One Mentoring

We provide our students with personalized one-on-one programs, with the best tutors and mentors from around the world. Our advice is tailored for each individual student!

### Roadmaps

Each student will receive a fully-personalized program with a roadmap that outlines every detail of the college admission process.

### Resources

We believe in giving students and parents around the world access to vital information. We have the largest YouTube channel of any educational company that depicts college life and answers all of your big questions!

## Our Technology

### Crimson App

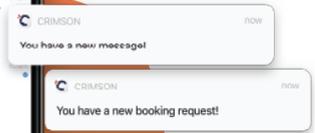
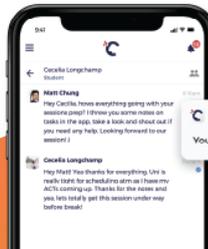
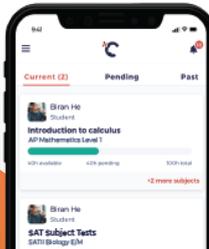
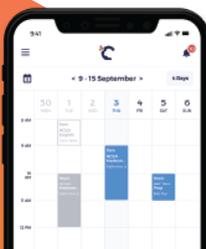
Each Crimson student is onboarded to our mobile & web app, where students can book sessions and view their tailored timetable of customized tasks.

### Video Based

Crimson students are able to connect anywhere in the world with their team through our video-based mentoring.

### Personality Test

We utilize psychometrics to pair each student with a team that is optimized to his/her interests and learning style! Our test was developed from one of the most well-known data scientists in the world, Galen Buckwalter.





# Ready to get started?

[Talk to us](#)