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Princeton
Review*

THE BEST

377

COLLEGES

2013 EDITION

Includes
150 Best Value
Colleges List

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Robert Franek with Laura Braswell and David Soto



THE BEST 377 COLLEGES

2013 Edition

By Robert Franek, Laura Braswell, and
The Staff of The Princeton Review

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A Note to the Reader

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INTRODUCTION

There is video content at this location that is not currently supported for your eReading device. The caption for this content is displayed below.

*An introduction to *The Best 377 Colleges* from Rob Franek, SVP & Publisher of The Princeton Review.*

TOOLS TO GET STARTED

[Preparing in High School](#)

[Financial Aid Tips](#)

[Improving Your Score](#)

Preparing in High School

There is video content at this location that is not currently supported for your eReading device. The caption for this content is displayed below.

Quick tips on getting into your top-choice schools from The Princeton Review.

Quick Tips

- In your sophomore and junior years, establish relationships with teachers and advisors who can write strong letters of recommendation for you.
- It's good to include extracurriculars (like student government, newspapers, community service, or sports) on your application, but colleges would rather see you focus on a few worthwhile activities rather than divide your time among a bunch of activities you're not passionate about.
- It's critical that your junior-year grades are solid. Colleges put a heavy emphasis on junior-year grades when they review transcripts, since your application will probably be reviewed before you have all your senior-year grades.
- If you're not happy with your previous SAT scores, you can still take the SAT in October of your senior year to make college admission deadlines.

For more tips on what to do each year in high school, read [Getting into Selective Colleges](#).

Financial Aid Tips

*There is video content at this location that is not currently supported for your eReading device. The caption for this content is displayed below.
Tips from The Princeton Review on the financial aid process.*

Quick Tips

- Don't rule out any school as too expensive. A generous aid award from a pricey private school can make it more affordable than a public school with a lower sticker price.
- Apply for financial aid no matter what your circumstances. Some merit-based aid can only be awarded if the applicant has submitted financial aid application forms.
- Apply strategically to colleges. Your chances of getting aid will be better at schools that have generous aid budgets (see our [Financial Aid Honor Roll](#) schools).
- Complete the FAFSA and any college-specific aid forms as early as possible because some funding is limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more financial aid tips, read [26 Tips for Getting Financial Aid](#).

Improving Your Score

There is video content at this location that is not currently supported for your eReading device. The caption for this content is displayed below.

Tips from The Princeton Review on improving your standardized test scores.

Quick Tips

- The best way to improve your score is to take the test that's best for you. All colleges accept both ACT and SAT scores, so you can take the test that you'll do best on. To find out which is right for you, take our **free Princeton Review Assessment** at one of our offices or [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.princetonreview.com). Also check out our book, ***ACT OR SAT?: Choosing the Right Exam for You***.
- Get cracking on taking practice tests. The more familiar you are with the test, the more confident and savvy a test-taker you'll be. Learn what each section covers, its time limit, and its question types. We cover this and more in our courses and test prep books, including ***Cracking the SAT*** and ***Cracking the ACT***.
- Get started early. Allow 2–3 months to prepare for the test, and be sure to take some practice tests in a timed setting as similar to the actual test experience as possible.
- Use all the resources available to you. Whether you are working alone, pairing up with a study partner, or taking a test-prep course, find the type of test prep that best fits your learning style, budget, and needs—and have fun preparing!

For more help improving your standardized test scores, visit [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.princetonreview.com) for additional information on books and test services.

START YOUR SEARCH

[Finding Your Best Fit School](#)

[Browse Schools A-Z](#)

[Great Schools for 20 of the Most Popular Undergraduate Majors](#)

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Finding Your Best Fit School

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Tips on finding your “best fit” college from The Princeton Review.

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