🎓 **BestCollegeList**

College lists built on official federal data — not AI guesses.

Basic Report

$29 STARTER LIST · SAMPLE PREVIEW (FIRST HALF)

Starter List — Full Sample

Jordan (sample)

INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science + UX Design

ACADEMIC PROFILE

GPA 3.7, SAT 1430

★ Built on official U.S. government education data · **Data as of June 2026**

Source: U.S. Department of Education — College Scorecard (collegescorecard.ed.gov). Verify any figure yourself.

Contents

Acceptance rates, costs, and SAT/ACT ranges come from official government data — not estimated by AI.

This is a fictional sample (made-up student "Jordan") showing the first half of a Starter List. Every figure is real, current data from the official U.S. Dept. of Education College Scorecard — only the student is invented. Your report is built for your own child.

Tiers reflect *your* odds, not just the school's selectivity. We start from each school's admit rate, then nudge it up or down one step based on your **academic strength** — how your test scores compare to admitted students (from federal data) together with your **GPA**. The school's raw acceptance rate is still shown in the **Admit** column; any school whose tier we adjusted is flagged in the **Score fit** column. *(Federal data has no per-school GPA, so GPA is used as a general academic-strength signal.)*

Net cost is personalized to your household income bracket ($75,001–110,000). The **Net cost** column and Value Score use the federal average net price for families in your income range — so it reflects the aid you're realistically likely to receive, not a school-wide average.

💵 How to read these costs

- **Total cost/yr = the ceiling.** Full sticker price (tuition + housing + books) with **no** financial aid. If your family receives no aid, this is the figure to plan around.
- **Net cost/yr = what most families actually pay** — what families **in your income bracket** typically pay after grants and merit scholarships are subtracted. It's not only need-based: **merit scholarships count too**, which is why most students pay less than sticker.
- **One catch:** net price counts **only students who received financial aid.** Families who pay full price with no aid aren't included — so at schools with little need-based or merit aid, a full-pay family's real cost is closer to the **Total** above.
- **Your exact number = the school's Net Price Calculator.** Net cost is an *average*, so your real price can land higher or lower. Search " net price calculator" (every U.S. college is required to post one) for a figure tailored to your family.

🎯 What Matters Most

Your advisor's quick read of this list — the few schools worth your attention first.

Focus	Our read
Best Value	**University of Washington-Seattle Campus** — Value Score 84/100 — 85% graduate, $78,466 median earnings for about $14,328/yr net. The most you get back per dollar.
Best Reach	**Northeastern University** — a 5%-admit dream worth aiming for — strong outcomes (91% graduate) if you land it.

Focus	Our read
Best Safety	**University of Washington-Bothell Campus** — a likely admit (91%) you'd still be glad to attend — 65% graduate.
Biggest Risk	**University of Michigan-Ann Arbor** — its $54,079/yr net price runs above your budget — weigh the aid offer carefully.
Estimated Cost Range	About **$14,328–$54,079 per year** (average net price after aid). 14 of 15 are within your budget.

🔵 Dream (longshot, even for top students)

College	Location	Admit	Score fit	Total / Net cost	1st major	2nd major
Northeastern University	Boston, MA	5.2%	below range ↓	$84,641 / $16,241	✓	✓
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, PA	11.7%	below range ↓ · tier raised (your scores are below this school's range)	$83,654 / $24,865	✓	✓

🔴 High Reach (tough reach)

College	Location	Admit	Score fit	Total / Net cost	1st major	2nd major
University of California-San Diego	La Jolla, CA	26.7%	—	$72,901 / $49,399 †	✓	✓
University of California-Irvine	Irvine, CA	28.6%	—	$72,832 / $49,364 †	✓	✓
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor, MI	15.6%	in range ✓	$77,864 / $54,079 † 🚩	✓	✓
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	Atlanta, GA	14.1%	in range ✓	$50,593 / $37,514 †	✓	✓

🟠 Reach (reach)

College	Location	Admit	Score fit	Total / Net cost	1st major	2nd major
University of Washington-Seattle Campus	Seattle, WA	39.1%	—	$32,446 / $14,328 💰	✓	✓
Santa Clara University	Santa Clara, CA	48.0%	in range ✓	$82,026 / $37,219	✓	✓
Purdue University-Main Campus	West Lafayette, IN	49.9%	in range ✓	$43,393 / $36,979 †	✓	✓

🟢 Safety (very likely)

College	Location	Admit	Score fit	Total / Net cost	1st major	2nd major
Western Washington University	Bellingham, WA	93.2%	above range ↑	$30,359 / $24,301 💰	✓	✓
Washington State University	Pullman, WA	86.6%	—	$27,648 / $18,426 💰	✓	✓
University of Washington-Bothell Campus	Bothell, WA	90.6%	—	$26,908 / $15,215 💰	✓	✓
Seattle University	Seattle, WA	76.9%	above range ↑ · tier eased (your scores are above this school's range)	$72,124 / $36,967	✓	✓
Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	77.3%	above range ↑ · tier eased (your scores are above this school's range)	$55,443 / $44,052 †	✓	✓
The University of Texas at Dallas	Richardson, TX	65.1%	above range ↑ · tier eased (your scores are above this school's range)	$55,307 / $45,392 †	✓	✓

🚩 **Budget check.** Against your stated budget ($30-50k/yr), these schools are likely **above budget**: **University of Michigan-Ann Arbor** (~$54,079/yr). Keep any you love as reach/dream picks — just plan for the gap, and treat the in-budget schools as your foundation. Run each school's **Net Price Calculator** to confirm your real number.

💰 **In-state public university.** You qualify for the lower **resident tuition** here — the cost shown already reflects that in-state discount, which is why these are often your best value.

† **Out-of-state public university.** The cost shown **includes the non-resident tuition premium** — federal averages are in-state-weighted, so we add the out-of-state tuition difference to reflect what your family would actually pay. (Private universities cost the same regardless of state.)
