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## Types of Colleges

### **Universities**

- Typically large (but can be small!) public or private institutions with a strong commitment to research that provide both undergraduate and graduate degrees
- Universities have a designated “undergraduate college” which traditionally serves students in the 18-22 age range who are working toward four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees in a wide range of majors from English to Chemistry to Fine Art
- Graduate schools in universities provide students opportunity to earn Masters and Doctoral level degrees, such as an MD, law degree, or a PhD
- Provide some housing for students who wish to live on campus
- Public in-state universities tend to cost less for in-state than out-of-state students

### Examples

#### *Large In-State Public Universities:*

University of New Mexico (UNM)  
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

#### *Small In-State Public Universities:*

New Mexico Highlands University  
Western New Mexico University

#### *Large Out-of-State Public Universities:*

Colorado State University (CSU)  
Northern Arizona University (NAU)

#### *Small Out-of-State Public Universities:*

Adams State University

### **Liberal Arts Colleges**

- Small, private colleges with a focus on undergraduate students
- Provide students the opportunity to major in a range of fields that result in a four-year Bachelor of Art or Science degree
- Strong commitment to residential community as well as academic community—that is, dorm life, on-campus community and culture
- Liberal Arts colleges are not, specifically, arts colleges!*** Students can major in the arts,  
but also a wide range of subjects from mathematics to political science to psychology to religious studies to biology
- Often include programs for students to pursue graduate degrees as well: a 3-2



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program, for example, where you work toward a Bachelors degree in three years and then move to a nearby university for two years, the end of which time you earn a Bachelors *and* a Masters degree

--In general, higher tuition costs, although financial aid and scholarship assistance often available

#### Examples

Earlham College

Knox College

Cornell College

Colorado College

Occidental College

#### **Community Colleges**

--Public colleges that provide preparation for two-year Associates degrees and other professional and technical certifications

--Serve a very diverse student population from high school students to adults who have worked for years and have decided to attend college again, or for the first time

--Typically provide a wide range of course offerings including technical and vocational programs such as auto mechanics, culinary arts, nursing, business and welding

--Students can transfer many of their course credits at a community college to a college or university that offers four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees

--Non-residential institutions—that is, students do not live on campus

--An affordable option—costs are far lower than most four-year colleges

#### Examples

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC)

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM)

#### **Colleges with a particular focus: Polytechnic and Arts Institutes, colleges with a mission to serve specific populations of students such as Tribal Colleges and Historically Black colleges, all-women's colleges, etc.**

--Public or private colleges with a specific focus: the sciences or arts, for example

--The majority of students' studies will be in these specific fields

--A good opportunity for students who have a strong sense of what they wish to study and a desire to focus chiefly on that one area, rather than taking classes that might not directly connect to their academic and professional goals

--Housing requirements and offerings vary depending on the institution

--Tuition costs vary—some very high and others more affordable



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### Examples

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech)

Colorado School of Mines

Texas Tech University

### **For-Profit Colleges**

You will likely come across for-profit institutions such as The University of Phoenix, Pima Medical Institute, and Carrington College (formerly Apollo College.) These colleges are very expensive, do not allow students to use New Mexico Lottery funding, and thus demand that students take out significant student loans. In addition, such institutions often advertise a 'rushed' path toward a degree. We do not recommend that you pursue these options and indeed, your Simon scholarship will not cover expenses for such institutions.