

To understand how colleges differ from one another financially, you need to understand college categories

Flagship State Schools – considered the premiere state supported university. Most states have one; some states might have more than one.

Non-flagship State Schools – all other state schools. Every state has a number of these. Sometimes they are referred to as directional schools.

Highly Selective Privates – usually thought of as the Ivy League schools. Northwestern, University of Chicago, Notre Dame, Washington University in St Louis are also example colleges in this category.

Mid-size Privates – private universities not considered small colleges. Their student populations are typically 7000 students or more. The smallest number of colleges across the country fit into this category.

Traditional Privates – often thought of as small private colleges or universities. These colleges represent the largest number of schools.

My experience tells me that you will find the most significant differences in net prices if you look at colleges in all of these categories.