

## Best Academic D3 Schools

Below are the most highly rated academic schools that compete in NCAA D3 athletics. These are 74 of the most highly rated and highly selective schools in the nation. Don't get caught up in tier 1 vs. tier 2. All 74 schools on these lists are in the top 5% of all colleges in the United States!

TIER 1 (in alphabetical order)	City	State
<a href="#">Amherst College</a>	Amherst	MA
<a href="#">Bates College</a>	Lewiston	ME
<a href="#">Bowdoin College</a>	Brunswick	ME
<a href="#">California Institute of Technology</a>	Pasadena	CA
<a href="#">Carleton College</a>	Northfield	MN
<a href="#">Carnegie Mellon University</a>	Pittsburgh	PA
<a href="#">Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges</a>	Claremont	CA
<a href="#">Colby College</a>	Waterville	ME
<a href="#">Emory University</a>	Atlanta	GA
<a href="#">Haverford College</a>	Haverford	PA
<a href="#">Johns Hopkins University</a>	Baltimore	MD
<a href="#">Massachusetts Institute of Technology</a>	Cambridge	MA
<a href="#">Middlebury College</a>	Middlebury	VT
<a href="#">New York University</a>	New York	NY
<a href="#">Pomona-Pitzer Colleges</a>	Claremont	CA
<a href="#">Swarthmore College</a>	Swarthmore	PA
<a href="#">Tufts University</a>	Medford	MA
<a href="#">University of Chicago</a>	Chicago	IL
<a href="#">Vassar College</a>	Poughkeepsie	NY
<a href="#">Washington and Lee University</a>	Lexington	VA
<a href="#">Washington University (Missouri)</a>	St. Louis	MO
<a href="#">Wellesley College</a>	Wellesley	MA
<a href="#">Wesleyan University (Connecticut)</a>	Middletown	CT
<a href="#">Williams College</a>	Williamstown	MA

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TIER 2 (in alphabetical order)	City	State
<a href="#">Babson College</a>	Babson Park	MA
<a href="#">Bard College</a>	Annandale-On-Hudson	NY
<a href="#">Beloit College</a>	Beloit	WI
<a href="#">Bernard M. Baruch College</a>	New York	NY
<a href="#">Brandeis University</a>	Waltham	MA
<a href="#">Bryn Mawr College</a>	Bry Mawr	PA
<a href="#">Case Western Reserve University</a>	Cleveland	OH
<a href="#">Colorado College</a>	Colorado Springs	CO
<a href="#">Connecticut College</a>	New London	CT
<a href="#">Denison University</a>	Granville	OH
<a href="#">DePauw University</a>	Greencastle	IN
<a href="#">Dickinson College</a>	Carlisle	PA
<a href="#">Franklin &amp; Marshall College</a>	Lancaster	PA
<a href="#">Gettysburg College</a>	Gettysburg	PA
<a href="#">Grinnell College</a>	Grinnell	IA
<a href="#">Hamilton College</a>	Clinton	NY
<a href="#">Hood College</a>	Frederick	MD
<a href="#">Illinois Wesleyan University</a>	Bloomington	IL
<a href="#">Kalamazoo College</a>	Kalamazoo	MI
<a href="#">Kenyon College</a>	Gambier	OH
<a href="#">Knox College</a>	Galesburg	IL
<a href="#">Lawrence University</a>	Appleton	WI
<a href="#">Macalester College</a>	St. Paul	MN
<a href="#">Mount Holyoke College</a>	South Hadley	MA
<a href="#">Muhlenberg College</a>	Allentown	PA

<a href="#">Oberlin College</a>	Oberlin	OH
<a href="#">Occidental College</a>	Los Angeles	CA
<a href="#">Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</a>	Troy	NY
<a href="#">Rhodes College</a>	Memphis	TN
<a href="#">Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology</a>	Terre Haute	IN
<a href="#">Skidmore College</a>	Saratoga Springs	NY
<a href="#">Smith College</a>	Northampton	MA
<a href="#">Southwestern University</a>	Georgetown	TX
<a href="#">St. Mary's College of Maryland</a>	St. Mary's City	MD
<a href="#">St. Olaf College</a>	Northfield	MN
<a href="#">State University College at Geneseo</a>	Geneseo	NY
<a href="#">Stevens Institute of Technology</a>	Hoboken	NJ
<a href="#">The College of New Jersey</a>	Ewing	NJ
<a href="#">Trinity College (Connecticut)</a>	Hartford	CT
<a href="#">Trinity University (Texas)</a>	San Antonio	TX
<a href="#">U.S. Merchant Marine Academy</a>	Kings Point	NY
<a href="#">Union College</a>	Schenectady	NY
<a href="#">University of California, Santa Cruz</a>	Santa Cruz	CA
<a href="#">University of Mary Washington</a>	Fredericksburg	VA
<a href="#">University of Puget Sound</a>	Tacoma	WA
<a href="#">University of Rochester</a>	Rochester	NY
<a href="#">Wheaton College</a>	Wheaton	IL
<a href="#">Whitman College</a>	Walla Walla	WA
<a href="#">Whitworth University</a>	Spokane	WA
<a href="#">Worcester Polytechnic Institute</a>	Worcester	MA

**ABOUT ATHLETIC STANDARDS** – So, how good at sports are these schools? That's a tough question to answer. Elite academic D3 schools have a really wide range of athletic success. Many of the schools on this list compete for National Championships at the D3 level each year. In fact, in some sports the level of play here is equal to that of the lower levels of NCAA Division 1. This is because they recruit from the same pool as the Ivy Leagues and athletes choose these school over full D2/NAIA athletic scholarships because of their desire to go to an elite academic school. However, some schools on this list athletically compete near the bottom of D3 as well. It really depends on the school, program, sport, and coach. These are 74 of the most unique schools in the country...so each can be somewhat different. But all of them offer the perfect combination of truly elite academics and NCAA D3 athletics!