



# Ivy League

Ivy League schools are considered to be the most prestigious of all colleges in the United States. These schools are primarily located in the Northeastern part of the country. There are eight total colleges that are considered to be Ivy League. These schools are Brown, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale, and Columbia universities and the University of Pennsylvania. Of all institutions of higher learning, these elite schools are considered to be the most outstanding and the most sought-after in terms of acceptance and graduation.

The term “Ivy League” came about in 1954, when the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) athletic conference for Division I was formed. At the time, the elitism of these schools was really due to their prestige in the realm of sports like basketball. Nowadays the term Ivy League has connotations of academic excellence, selectivity in admissions, and social elitism.

## Harvard University



Located in Massachusetts, Harvard University was originally called New College. The name was subsequently changed to Harvard College in honor of its first benefactor, John Harvard, who bequeathed half of his monetary estate and his 320-volume scholar's library to the university in his will. Harvard is the oldest university in the US (established in 1636). In the QS World University Rankings by Faculty, it's placed first in the world for life sciences and medicine, and

joint second with the University of Cambridge for arts and humanities.

## Yale University

Yale University was originally founded as ‘Collegiate School’ (it was established in 1701). It was renamed Yale in 1718 in recognition of a gift from Elihu Yale, a governor of the British East India Company. Also in 1718, Yale moved to its current location in New Haven, Connecticut. Yale was originally established to train ministers in theology and sacred



languages, but by 1777 the school's curriculum began to include humanities and sciences, and in 1861, Yale was the first US university to award a PhD. It currently ranks 4th in the world for law and legal studies, and 6th for arts and humanities.

## University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (commonly referred to as Penn) was founded by Benjamin Franklin (1740) and was the first US university to offer both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Penn was also one of the first academic institutions in the country to have multidisciplinary teaching in different faculty areas, and in 1765 became the first US university to have a medical school. Penn currently ranks 18th in the world overall, and particularly reputed for its management and law courses, placing 5th in the world for business and management.



## Princeton University



Originally founded as the College of New Jersey by New Light Presbyterians (1746) in order to train ministers, Princeton University retains a number of landmarks from its rich history, such as its oldest building Nassau Hall, which dates back to 1756. Nassau Hall was technically the temporary capital of the US for four months in 1783, when the Continental Congress met there. Princeton is

currently ranked 11th in the world overall, 7th in arts and humanities faculty, and second in the subject area of politics and international studies.

## Columbia University



Located in New York City, Columbia University was chartered in 1754 as King's College by royal charter of George II of Britain, and renamed Columbia College in 1784 after the US gained independence. Columbia annually administers the famous Pulitzer Prize. Its colonial origins are echoed in the fact that its alumni include five Founding Fathers of the United States. Columbia ranks particularly well for arts and

humanities (8th in the world) and is currently placed 7th in the world for English language and literature.

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