Your dream college

You just found the perfect college or university. You’re probably wondering, “Now what?”

There are many factors to consider:
- Affordability
- Student loans
- Scholarships
- Post-graduate careers

These questions are normal and many students ask them when they are considering college options. Even though you and your family recognize the value of higher education, you might be worried a private college or university is too expensive and skip applying altogether.

Believing that private colleges are unaffordable is one of the most common misconceptions in higher education.

MICUA Members

Capitol Technology University
Goucher College
Hood College
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Institute College of Art
McDaniel College
Mount St. Mary’s University
Notre Dame of Maryland University
St. John’s College
Stevenson University
Washington Adventist University
Washington College

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THE TRUE COST OF PRIVATE EDUCATION

The private nonprofit member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) work diligently to make it possible for every interested student to attend the college of their choice.

The initial “sticker price” (tuition and fees) of a college is not the final price. Ninety percent of the incoming class of students at MICUA colleges and universities receive some form of financial assistance, and there are a number of scholarships, grants, and loans that have been created specifically to help students offset the cost of a private college education. Financial aid based on your family’s income and financial circumstances (need-based aid), and merit scholarships based on your academic achievements and talents, can significantly reduce the cost of a private college.

MICUA member institutions are committed to helping students obtain the financial help needed to make private college affordable. We partner with members of our community to create need-based scholarships and programs that help students attend and succeed in college.

All MICUA member institutions participate in the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP), a public-private partnership to help close the college affordability gap by providing matching funds to Maryland high school recipients of the Guaranteed Access Grant.

MICUA INSTITUTIONS ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

Our private colleges provide institutional aid to help students cover expenses. We award five times as much grant aid to our students as the State and federal governments combined. You can learn more about this type of aid, the importance of submitting a FAFSA on time, and specific programs, by contacting the financial aid office of any MICUA institution.

EXPLORE THE TRUE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT

Completing a degree sooner saves money and decreases debt. MICUA member institutions lead the nation in graduates who finish in four years. Nearly 90% complete their bachelor’s degree within 6 years and a significant number of students complete their degree within 4 years.

The cost of an education at a MICUA member institution is a sound investment. Consider the long-term value of a college education, which relates total cost to measurements like quality of education and career readiness.

MICUA graduates rank among the highest in the United States in employability; early, mid, and late-career salaries; and employment rates even in significant economic downturns.

“...The many scholarships that I have earned mean the chance to receive a high-quality education from a highly-rated university and the opportunity to develop myself in ways that would not be possible otherwise. As a low-income first-generation student my scholarships mean the opportunity to give back to my community and develop myself through education, leadership, and community engagement.”

Eddie Fine, ’22, a Loyola Student