

How Do YOU Learn?

(adapted from *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges*, 2003 & 2004)

U.S. News worked with experts who are focused on quality initiatives in higher education to identify eight types of programs that have been shown to enhance learning. The colleges and universities listed below were mentioned most often among college presidents, chief academic officers, and deans of students as having stellar examples of these programs (peer review). (* indicates public university or college)

INTERNSHIPS/CO-OPS

Schools in this category require or encourage students to take what they're learning in the classroom into the real world—through internships or practicums, or through cooperative education, in which a period of study typically alternates with a period of work.

Antioch College (OH)
Berea College (KY)
Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo*
Cornell University (NY)
Drexel University (PA)
Georgia Inst of Tech*
Northeastern University (MA)
Northwestern University (IL)
Rochester Inst of Tech (NY)
University of Cincinnati*
University of Michigan*
Warren Wilson College (NC)

SENIOR CAPSTONE

These culminating experiences ask students nearing the end of their college years to create a project of some sort that integrates what they learned.

Amherst College (MA)
Bates College (ME)
Carleton College (MN)
College of Wooster (OH)
Dartmouth College (NH)
Harvard University (MA)
Mass Inst. of Tech (MA)
Michigan State University*
Portland State Univ. (OR)*
Princeton University (NJ)
Reed College (OR)
Stanford University (CA)
Swarthmore College (PA)
Truman State Univ. (MO)*
Williams College (MA)

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES

Orientation only goes so far in helping freshmen feel connected. Many schools now build into the curriculum first-year seminars or other programs that bring small groups of students together with faculty or staff on a regular basis.

Appalachian State U. (NC)*
Arizona State University*
Beloit College (WI)
Brevard College (NC)
College of the Holy Cross (MA)
Dartmouth College (NH)
Duke University (NC)
Elon University (NC)
Evergreen State (WA)*
Grinnell College (IA)
Harvard University (MA)
Indiana U-Bloomington*
Indiana U-Purdue U-Indianapolis*
Ithaca College (NY)
Kennesaw State U (GA)*
Lawrence University (WI)
Miami U-Oxford (OH)*
North Carolina State-Raleigh*
Ohio State U-Columbus*
Princeton University (NJ)
Stanford University (CA)
Texas A&M University-College Station*
Truman State Univ. (MO)*
U of Maryland-College Park*
U of Missouri-Columbia*
U of N. Carolina-Chapel Hill*
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Richmond (VA)
U of S. Carolina-Columbia*
University of Virginia*
University of Washington*
U of Wisconsin-Madison*

Wagner College (NY)
Wake Forest Univ. (NC)
William Jewell College (MO)
Yale University (CT)

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Students typically take 2 or more linked courses as a group and get to know one another and their professor really well. The idea is to keep the discussions going even after class ends.

Alverno College (WI)
Bowling Green State (OH)*
Colorado College (CO)
Duke University (NC)
Elon University (NC)
Evergreen State (WA)*
George Mason U (VA)*
Georgia State Univ.*
Indiana U-Purdue U-Indianapolis*
Iowa State University*
Michigan State U*
Ohio State U-Columbus*
Occidental College (CA)
Portland State Univ (OR)*
Samford University (AL)
Santa Clara University (CA)
St. John's College (MD)
St. Lawrence University (NY)
Syracuse University (NY)
Temple University (PA)
U of Maryland-College Park*
U of Miami (FL)*
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
U of Missouri-Columbia*
U of Washington*
U of Wisconsin-Madison*
Vanderbilt University (TN)
Wagner College (NY)
Yale University (CT)

STUDY ABROAD

These programs involve substantial academic work—a year or a semester—and considerable interaction between the student and the culture.

Arcadia University (PA)
Bates College (ME)
Beloit College (WI)
Boston University (MA)
Butler University (IN)
Carleton College (MN)
Central College (IA)
Dartmouth College (NH)
Dickinson College (PA)
Duke University (NC)
Earlham College (IN)
Georgetown University (DC)
Goshen College (IN)
Grinnell College (IA)
Indiana U-Bloomington*
Kalamazoo College (MI)

Lewis & Clark College (OR)
Macalester College (MN)
Michigan State Univ.*
Middlebury College (VT)
New York University
Pitzer College (CA)
St. Olaf College (MN)
Syracuse University (NY)
Trinity University (TX)
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
University of Pennsylvania
U of Wisconsin-Madison*

SERVICE LEARNING

In service-learning programs, volunteering in the community is an instructional strategy—and a requirement of a student's coursework. The service relates to what happens in class and vice versa.

Augsburg College (MN)
Bentley College (MA)
Berea College (KY)
Brown University (RI)
Elon University (NC)
Georgetown Univ. (DC)
Indiana U-Purdue U-Indianapolis*
Pitzer College (CA)
Portland State Univ (OR)*
Providence College (RI)
Santa Clara University (CA)
Stanford University (CA)
Trinity College (CT)
U of Maryland-College Park*
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Pennsylvania
University of Utah*
U of Wisconsin-Madison*
Vanderbilt University (TN)
Warren Wilson College (NC)
Wittenburg University (OH)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH/CREATIVE PROJECTS

Students do intensive and self-directed research or creative work, independently or in small teams, and mentored by a faculty member, that results in an original scholarly paper or other product that can be formally presented on or off campus.

Amherst College (MA)
Bates College (ME)
California Inst of Technology
Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo*
Carleton College (MN)
Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
College of Wooster (OH)
Columbia University (NY)
Cornell University (NY)
Creighton University (NE)
Duke University (NC)
Franklin & Marshall (PA)
Furman University (SC)
Grinnell College (IA)

Hamilton College (NY)
Harvard University (MA)
Hope College (MI)
Johns Hopkins University (MD)
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology
Pennsylvania State U-University Park*
Princeton University (NJ)
Stanford University (CA)
SUNY-Stony Brook (NY)*
Swarthmore College (PA)
Truman State Univ. (MO)*
U of California-Berkeley*

U of California-Los Angeles*
University of Delaware*
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
U of N. Carolina-Asheville*
U of N. Carolina-Chapel Hill*
University of Richmond (VA)
Univ. of Washington (WA)*
U of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*
U of Wisconsin-Madison*
Vanderbilt University (TN)
Wellesley College (MA)
Williams College (MA)
Yale University (CT)

WRITING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Colleges with these programs typically make the writing process a priority at all levels.

Alverno College (WI)
Amherst College (MA)
Clemson University (SC)*

Cornell University (NY)
Duke University (NC)
George Mason U (VA)*
Hamilton College (NY)
Harvard University (MA)
Indiana U-Bloomington*
Middlebury College (VT)
Mount Holyoke College (MA)
Princeton University (NJ)
Sarah Lawrence (NY)

Stanford University (CA)
Swarthmore College (PA)
University of Chicago
U of Massachusetts-Amherst*
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
U of Missouri-Columbia*
Washington State Univ.*
Yale University (CT)