

# Mother Jones

## MoJo Mini College Guide

By [Kiera Butler](#) | Thu August 20, 2009 2:00 AM PST

*[For the rest of [MoJo's Mini College Guide](#), read [6 Cutting Edge Jobs](#), [8 Unusual Scholarships](#), and [Give 'Em Hellraisers](#).]*

\$39,000 a year. That's the going rate for tuition at hot liberal arts colleges like Williams and Amherst, which came in first and second respectively in *U.S. News & World Report's* best liberal arts colleges [rankings](#). The 10 schools on our list may not bother to [joke their stats](#) to make *U.S. News'* short lists, but they still have plenty to offer—and for a lot [less dough](#). Know of a college that's both cool and cost-efficient? Nominate it [here](#) for the 2010 MoJo Mini College Guide.

Berea College (Kentucky)

**Best value for:** Low-impact men (and women) on campus

**Tuition:** \$0

All 1,549 students get free tuition for four years. Some live in the Ecovillage, environmentally friendly housing that features a "permaculture food forest" and a contraption that makes sewage so clean you can [swim in it](#).

New College of Florida (Sarasota)

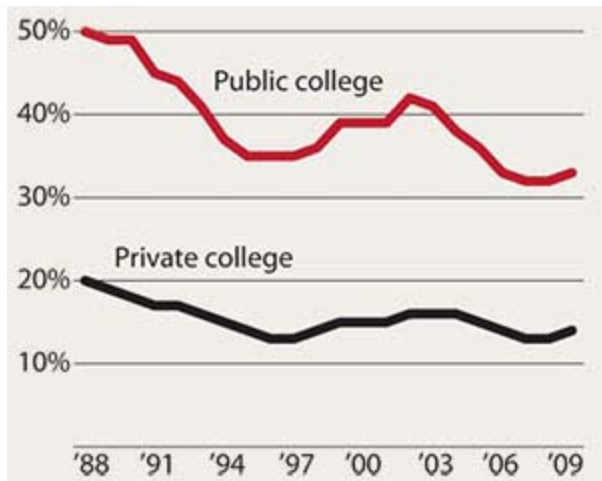
**Best value for:** Brainy beach bums

**Tuition:** \$26,300/\$4,700 in state

The Sarah Lawrence of the South favors tutorials and evaluations over giant lectures and letter grades. In the past 14 years, it's cranked out more Fulbright Scholars per student than Harvard, Stanford, or Yale.

### PELL FREEZES OVER

Maximum Pell Grant as a percentage of average college tuition and costs



Sources: The College Board; Department of Education

Hope College (Holland, Michigan)

**Best value for:** Artists with a spiritual side

**Tuition:** \$25,500

This creative Christian college is known for its dance, theater, art, music, and visiting writers programs. Indie rocker Sufjan Stevens is an alum.

Fisk University (Nashville, Tennessee)

**Best value for:** Band-camp alums

**Tuition:** \$15,900

Harmony is big at this historically black college, which gives class credit to singers and musicians. It also offers financial and academic support to 200 first-generation college students.

The University of Minnesota-Morris

**Best value for:** Alt-energy enthusiasts

**Tuition:** \$8,830

This public liberal arts college has academic chops and green-energy cred: By 2010, it expects to go carbon neutral with help from an on-site wind turbine, which already produces 60 percent of the power on campus.

Kettering University (Flint, Michigan)

**Best value for:** Post-GM auto geeks

**Tuition:** \$27,584 (first year)

This top engineering school offers a four-year professional co-op where students alternate semesters in class and on the

job—earning as much as \$26 an hour. Plus, you can minor in Fuel Cells and Hybrid Technology.

The College of New Jersey (Ewing)

**Best value for:** Community-service junkies

**Tuition:** \$16,825/\$8,718 in state

Students at this small public college can make a four-year commitment to participate in service projects in return for a scholarship that covers up to full tuition. And they swear that the annual LollaNoBooza bash isn't totally lame.

California State University-Monterey Bay (Seaside)

**Best value for:** Surf addicts

**Tuition:** \$3,845 + \$339 per unit

The nearby Monterey Bay serves as the classroom for the school's popular Environmental Science, Technology & Policy major.

Warren Wilson College (Asheville, North Carolina)

**Best value for:** Mountain mamas and nature boys

**Tuition:** \$22,666

Environmental Studies is a popular major, and the Blue Ridge Mountain campus allows easy access to outdoor adventures. All students work on campus, keeping room and board bills low.

University of Kansas (Lawrence)

**Best value for:** Heartland hellraisers

**Tuition:** \$19,328/\$7,359 in state

A small but mighty activist community called Delta Force fights tuition hikes and sponsors student government candidates. Plus, KU hands out more than \$25 million in student aid every year.