



 An objective look at 12 key criteria that enrich a college learning experience

SMALL METROS

THE **AIER** 2014 | 2015
College Destinations INDEX

10 **Huntsville | AL**
POPULATION: 430,734

THE top 20 SMALL METROS

Metropolitan Statistical Areas with 250,000 to 1.0 million residents¹

- 1 Boulder, CO
- 2 Durham-Chapel Hill, NC
- 3 Ann Arbor, MI
- 4 Madison, WI
- 5 Gainesville, FL
- 6 Fort Collins-Loveland, CO
- 7 Lincoln, NE
- 8 Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT
- 9 Trenton-Ewing, NJ
- 10 Huntsville, AL**
- 11 Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY
- 12 Lansing-East Lansing, MI
- 13 Anchorage, AK
- 14 Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA
- 15 Provo-Orem, UT
- 16 Syracuse, NY
- 17 Lexington-Fayette, KY
- 18 Honolulu, HI
- 19 Tallahassee, FL
- 20 Eugene-Springfield, OR

Colleges & Universities

A sampling of nearby colleges and universities

- Alabama A & M University
- Athens State University
- J F Drake State Technical College
- John C Calhoun State Community College
- Oakwood University
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Virginia College-Huntsville

RANK	STUDENT LIFE			CULTURE			ECONOMIC HEALTH			OPPORTUNITY			
	Overall Rank	Student Concentration College students per 1,000 residents ¹	Cost of Housing Fair market rent of a 2-bedroom apartment ²	City Accessibility Percentage of workers that bike, walk, or take public transportation ³	Arts & Leisure Concentration of arts, entertainment, and recreation establishments ⁴	International Students Percentage of students that are foreign born ⁵	Innovation Producers Percentage of workers in innovative fields ⁶	Unemployment Rate Percentage of labor force unemployed ⁶	Entrepreneurial Activity Net change in businesses per 100,000 residents (3-year average) ⁷	Brain Drain or Gain Annual change in share of population with college degrees ⁷	R&D per Student Academic R&D per student ⁸	College Educated Percentage of the population with a college degree ¹	Earning Potential Median earnings ¹
			1 \$689							1 1.13			
						2 15.8%							
													7 \$31,083
							8 5.5%						
10												10 36.9%	
													14 \$3,399
								15 -30.8					
		17 82.3											
					18 28.9								
						19 2.1%							
				20 1.3%									

¹U.S. Census, 2012. ²U.S. Dept. of HUD, 2014. ³U.S. Economic Census, 2011. ⁴IPEDS, 2012. ⁵BLS OES, 2013. ⁶BLS, 2013 average. ⁷U.S. Small Business Administration, 2011. ⁸National Science Foundation, 2012.