



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

THE AIER 2013|2014 College Destinations INDEX

2 Ames | IA POPULATION: 89,663

THE top 20 COLLEGE TOWNS

Metropolitan Statistical Areas with greater than 15,000 college students¹

- 1 Ithaca, NY
- 2 Ames, IA
- 3 State College, PA
- 4 Iowa City, IA
- 5 Corvallis, OR
- 6 Champaign-Urbana, IL
- 7 Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA
- 8 Charlottesville, VA
- 9 Lawrence, KS
- 10 Lafayette, IN
- 11 Columbia, MO
- 12 Morgantown, WV
- 13 College Station-Bryan, TX
- 14 Fargo, ND-MN
- 15 Burlington-South Burlington, VT
- 16 Manhattan, KS
- 17 Logan, UT-ID
- 18 Bloomington, IN
- 19 Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA
- 20 Bloomington-Normal, IL

Colleges & Universities

A sampling of nearby colleges and universities.

Iowa State University

| RANK | ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT | | | | QUALITY OF LIFE | | | | PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY | | | | |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | Overall Rank <small>Total score of all non-weighted rankings¹ for College Towns</small> | Student Concentration <small>Number of college students per 1,000 population²</small> | Student Diversity <small>Percent of student body that are non-residents³</small> | Research Capacity <small>Academic R&D expenditure per capita⁴</small> | Degree Attainment <small>Percent of 25-34 year old population with bachelor's degree or higher⁵</small> | Arts & Leisure <small>Establishments per 100,000 population in arts, entertainment & recreation⁵</small> | City Accessibility <small>Percent of workers 16+ who commute via public transportation, bike, or walk³</small> | Creative Class <small>Percent of workforce in the creative class³</small> | Cost of Living <small>Average 2-bedroom rent⁶</small> | Earning Potential <small>Income per capita⁷</small> | Entrepreneurial Activity <small>Net increase in total # of businesses per 100,000 population⁸</small> | Unemployment Rate <small>Unemployment rate⁹</small> | Brain Drain or Gain <small>Year-over year ratio of population with B.A. degree living in the area³</small> |
| | | 1 302.8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | 2 57.24% | | | | | | 2 20.1 | 2 3.2% | |
| | | | 4 12.6% | 4 \$2,985 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 5 16.2% | | 5 \$720 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 7 42.5% | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 10 37.9 | | | 10 \$35,053 | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 0.920 |

¹AIER, 2011 ²U.S. Census, 2011 ³IPEDS, 2011 ⁴National Science Foundation, 2011 ⁵U.S. Economic Census, 2010 ⁶U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, 2013 ⁷Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2010 ⁸U.S. Small Business Administration, 2010 ⁹Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013 average ^{*}Average of non-weighted rankings