



THE **AIER** 2013|2014
College Destinations INDEX

7

Blacksburg | Christiansburg | Radford | VA

POPULATION: 160,866

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

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.

- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Radford University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and 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 walk⁶</small>	Creative Class <small>Percent of workforce in the creative class⁷</small>	Cost of Living <small>Average 2-bedroom rent⁸</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>
						N/A							1 1.185
				6 \$2,818									
7	7 247.5												
					8 50.29%								
							11 39.7%	11 \$765					
			13 6.1%										
													14 5.2%
						16 30.5							15 -4.4
													19 \$28,788

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