

Advantages and Disadvantages of Private Colleges and Universities

So what are the big differences between a private college or university and a public university?

Advantages:

Take a look below to read about some of the benefits offered at private colleges and universities.

Affordable High-Quality Education

Most small liberal arts colleges make very attractive financial aid and grant offers to all types of students regardless of financial means. They may look expensive on paper, but truth is small colleges seek students from all regions, ethnic backgrounds, and income levels.

Smaller Class Sizes

Since the campuses are typically quite small, private colleges also have small class sizes. This allows for greater student/professor interaction and a more engaging learning experience. It is doubtful that you will encounter the gigantic lecture hall on a private campus.

Greater Class Participation

Smaller classrooms and smaller professor-to-student ratios mean much more opportunity for engaged student participation. Timid students are more apt to communicate in a smaller intimate setting than a lecture hall full of a hundred students. Also a small group of students is more able to have quality discussions and interact on a more personal level with professors.

Disadvantages:

Just as there are benefits there also exist disadvantages to a small private college, particularly.

Limited Graduate Programs:

For students that wish to pursue a graduate or doctoral degree, many private colleges offer no degrees past baccalaureate (4-year degree).

Limited Major Offerings:

Smaller colleges are unable to offer the wide variety of majors often available at a larger public universities. In addition, smaller private schools generally have smaller departments with fewer professors and course offerings.

Limited Exposure:

Large universities can offer students huge and world-renowned facilities and professors that are leaders in their fields. Some students flourish in large, busy environments with an array of different people around. While private universities attempt to admit a wide variety of students, larger public universities generally enroll a vast assortment of students from all over the state, country, and world.

For further reading: <http://www.collegeconfidential.com/dean/archives/000294.htm>