

# Reed on opposite ends of studies examining Oregon's best colleges

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If college is what you make of it, and you come out of it making very little, was your college education still valuable? It's an easier riddle to solve at some campuses more than others.

Portland-based [Reed College](#), for example, recently came out of opposite ends of two studies examining the quality and value of Oregon higher education institutions, both of which took into account the relatively low median salaries of former Reedies.

Financial information site WalletHub placed Reed No. 1 [in its recent ranking of the best colleges and universities](#) in Oregon, an analysis that factored in everything from admission rate to net cost to graduation rate to on-campus diversity. Reed fared well in the selectiveness of its admission and student-to-faculty ratio, propelling it to the top despite being the most expensive among the 14 schools in the list.

It came in dead last, however, in [a report this week from the Oregon Association of Scholars](#) evaluating universities on their economic value to students. The report, which combined the scores from recent economic valuations by the Economist, [Georgetown University](#) and the Brookings Institution, said all "elite liberal arts colleges" in the state underperformed significantly. But Reed students in particular, compared to other colleges with "equally well-prepared students taking a similar mixture of subjects," made far less money professionally, the report noted.

The charts here show a sampling of some the data used in the WalletHub analysis, including that post-attendance median salary figure that appears to have contributed to Reed's poor showing in the value analyses.