

BOSTON! THE COLLEGE TOWN OF ALL COLLEGE TOWNS!

There are over 100 hundred colleges in Boston and its immediate surrounding Metropolitan area! It is the largest concentrated area of higher education.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_metropolitan_Boston)

College in Boston broadens one's perspective of life! Beyond understanding a colder climate, schooling in an East Coast city offers California students the opportunity to navigate a new big area-- traveling on the train, independence, a new culture, and a lifestyle that will help many grow up, build confidence and mature.

What's there to do in Boston ? Plenty! After the studying, students can: run along the Charles, watch a Red Socks game in Fenway Park, catch a Celtics game or listen to a live music concert in TD Garden, see the Boston Bruins hockey play, become a Patriots fan (never!), listen to the Boston Pops, tour over 40 museums, cheer on runners at the Boston Marathon, or rowers at the annual Head of the Charles race (20,000 gather)and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the most festive Irish town in the country. There are hundreds of popular eateries. One can get to it all on the mass transit called the "T." With so many schools in Boston, students can intermingle in town. On longer vacations, students can travel to the charming seacoast of Cape Cod (especially popular during early summer or late fall) or jump an Amtrak train to New York and DC.

Following are our impressions from our recent visit to Rhode Island and Boston:

Brown University Located in Providence, Rhode Island, the school is 40 minutes by car from downtown Boston. Perched high on a bluff overlooking downtown Providence, Brown's campus looks like historic Annapolis or Georgetown. We were intrigued by ability for students to create their own curriculum. Also of interest is the option for Brown student's to take all of their classes pass/fail. The school does not emphasize grades and shuns required courses. The only university wide requirement is that graduates show the ability to write competently and complete the 30-course minimum. Advisors and faculty guide freshman to design their own major. Most popular majors are biological sciences, history, international relations, English and political science. Potential doctors can try for an 8 year liberal medical education program and earn an M.D. With just 6,000 undergrads, the Admissions officer advised that "It's incredibly difficult to get into Brown, but those lucky students must offer something to spectacular to enrich the university beyond excellent grades/and test scores." Although Brown doesn't offer academic or athletic scholarships, it does guarantee to meet the demonstrated need of everyone admitted. Brown students also have the exciting opportunity to cross register in art and design classes at RISD which is next door. The public service center at Brown is nationally recognized. It helps place students in a variety of volunteer positions. 12% of men and 4% of women participate in Greek life. There are 37 varsity teams and excellent athletic facilities. Intramurals are popular amongst students and add to an already robust social life. California students will like this East Coast school because it offers an exciting way to study by creating one's own curriculum in a dynamic setting where the emphasis is learning, not just grades!

Rhode Island School of Design Down the street from Brown University, RISD is unparalleled for industrial design, sculpture, apparel design, architecture, photography, textiles and many other art forms. Students can also enroll in classes at Brown. For energetic students, a dual degree program allows one to study for 5 years and earn a BA from Brown as well as a BFA from RISD! The school is selective; there are 1975 undergraduate students. Applications are portfolio based so artistic talent trumps all! The students we met were interesting, fun and friendly. We toured the student art exhibit in the lobby and were amazed at the talent! A student with strong artistic skills who wants to be at a college with other young artists will thrive here. Those who wish to live and work creatively will love being immersed in the RISD world! Needless to say, RISD has great resources to help these artists find jobs after graduation. There's a pre-college program for students (rising juniors & seniors) who want to experience life as an artist in college and see if it suits them! It's also a great way to create works to add to your portfolio to be used later for applications.

Providence College Located in a vibrant college town, this school of 4,500 students is run by Dominican Friars who create a supportive environment and care about the whole student. When referring to the friars, the student worker in the Admissions office told us "they truly care."

Professors are enthusiastic and engaged with the students. 88% of the student body is from out of state. The academic climate is reported to be rigorous but supportive. Providence also offers a 4year +1year MBA program. Marketing, finance and biology are the most popular majors but they offer communications, computer science plus much more. Also exciting is a 3-2 Engineering program--where students can move onto Columbia University and Washington University for the last years of study. Many students take advantage of the study abroad programs which are plentiful. A spirited community roots for its D1 athletics which includes basketball, hockey, LAX, & soccer. On top of sports, kids have lots of free events like a spring concert held at midnight on the eve of Civ finals. There are 6 other schools in Providence so it's a great college town that can be plenty of fun! Providence is 35 miles from Newport, RI and 50 miles from Boston. NYC is also a popular road trip. The students we met were welcoming and effusive about the school! For a California student looking for an East Coast school with an Ivy League feel and lots of spirit, Providence could be just the spot! B average students can gain admission to this impressive school. If you like campuses like Gonzaga but want to be on the East Coast in a fun college town with plenty of kids from several other schools, Providence will appeal to you!

Harvard Located in Cambridge, the campus is set behind wrought iron gates on Harvard Yard and the quad is lined with historic buildings. The adjacent area of Cambridge has numerous eateries and shops. Loaded with 6,652 brilliant undergraduate students, the acceptance rate is 6%. The most popular departments are economics, government, biology, English and biochemistry. It also boasts the finest East Asian studies program in the nation. By the end of freshman year, all students must choose a major. Tutorials are offered in a student's field of concentration; the teaching is done by graduate students as well as professors. As expected, the student body is diverse and ambitious! Professors are distinguished and accomplished. Harvard has 41 varsity athletic teams; the most of any Division I school. NO merit or athletic scholarships, but Admissions reports that 70% of students are on financial aid. Why would a California kid want to go to Harvard? If you have to ask....

College of the Holy Cross is a Jesuit Catholic institution with 2900 students (63% out of state). It's located in Worcester, MA, on the outskirts of Boston. Skiing, beaches and Boston are all an hour away. Holy Cross is a pretty campus on a hilltop. Classes are small with a 10:1 ratio. Holy Cross offers an inquiry based Montserrat liberal arts education exclusively focused on teaching undergrads. The Jesuit approach is about educating the whole person, exploring students' purpose in the world and exploring intellectual, spiritual, and ethical possibilities. The most popular majors are economics, psychology and English. Preprofessional programs are offered in medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry. Students have access to 3-2 engineering programs with Columbia University or Dartmouth. Member of Colleges of Worcester Consortium which allows students registration at the area's most prestigious universities. There's a strong sense of community at the school and volunteerism is strongly encouraged as the Jesuit focus is on serving others. D1-AA sports including football, basketball, LAX, track. A California student who is looking for a small East Coast school with a solid Catholic education, individualized attention and a tight knit community would enjoy this setting.

Tufts With its non-traditional approach to teaching, this school can be likened to Brown. Students can design their own major, pursue independent study and do research & internships for credit. Tufts is in Medford and overlooks nearby Boston. The stunning campus has both a historic yet contemporary feel bringing in both old brick and stone buildings. The 5,200 undergrads are bright students who thrive in an intellectual atmosphere where they receive personalized attention. As a research institution, Tufts students are offered unique internship opportunities. 77% of students are from out of state; 8% are international students, mainly due to its strong reputation in international relations. The sophomore student we spoke with was enthralled with the school. She's staying this summer to do research in a nearby lab and thinks it's a dream come true. She was an American living with her family abroad and decided to come back to the states for college. Although she didn't know anyone, she said making friends has been no problem and Boston is an exhilarating place for college. Californians are the second highest state represented in the student body. We spoke to the Admissions Officer for our area who is well acquainted with students from the Bay Area schools. Popular majors are international relations, economics, engineering, English and biology. Although Medford is fairly quiet, students can board the "T" metro train for a quick trip to downtown Boston or Harvard Square. There is a small Greek life; approximately 13% of students join houses. Volunteer activities are strongly encouraged. There's no question Tufts in an intense student environment but they like to have fun as well. One of the most popular traditions occurs at the conclusion of December finals when the "Naked Quad Run" occurs. You can likely guess the details of this event. A California student who wants a research institution, very diverse student body, freedom to design one's own major, intimate class settings and a number of excellent programs of study while in a stimulating scholarly environment will be interested in Tufts.

MIT The school's reputation attracts those want non-stop rigor and intellectual stimulation. Located along the Charles River in Boston, the limestone buildings were constructed in the early 1900's. The attractive campus includes modern glass and hi-tech buildings with murals and famous Calder sculptures. Science and engineering are phenomenal here and the most popular majors include electrical engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering, engineering, physics and mathematics. In addition to science, MIT offers strong programs in political science, economics and management. The 4,335 students have access to fascinating internship and

research opportunities as well as world renowned professors and Nobel Prize winners. As freshmen, students have a pass/no pass grading system. The library is vast and one is open 24 hours a day! Greek life is offered; 47% of men, 31% of women are involved. Although the atmosphere is serious, MIT students have fun too! Some MIT mega-brains also pull pranks and practical jokes such as welding the Harvard gates shut or reversing and unscrewing all the chairs in its 500 room lecture hall! MIT has 33 varsity sports which is the most of any Division III school. Needless to say, this academic powerhouse is highly selective.

Emerson specializes in performing arts, aspiring actors, musical theater, film, creative writing, broadcast journalism, publishing, writing, literature, theater design/technology and film. A small liberal arts school, Emerson is situated on Boston Common amidst the hub of theater activity.

With just over 3600 undergrads (80% from out of state) it's competitive to get in. The Admissions officer we spoke with told us "We want students with a vision of where they want to go in 5-10 years, using Emerson as their springboard." State of the art facilities lure students as they learn from industry professionals. Students have it all here: digital newsrooms, an 11-story production performance building w/theater, sound stage, black box theater, sound stage, and film room. For students who would like to spend time in Los Angeles, Emerson has a new satellite campus in the area. In addition, it offers a wide array of study abroad opportunities. Good grades and test scores are important but a high level of talent is paramount as it is an audition based acceptance. Emerson belongs to the Pro Arts Consortium which includes 6 local schools in the area so students are able to take courses at any of the participating schools which includes the Berklee School of Music, Boston Conservatory and several more. Emerson offers a pre-college program for those students interested in experiencing the school environment. A California student looking for a premier school which offers a number of top notch arts programs, excellent facilities and the ability to earn a BA/BFA will love Emerson.

Boston Conservatory is a private college which offers a multi disciplinary environment and is a leader amongst conservatory programs. The school is located next to the renowned Berklee School of Music. Consider it trade school for young performers in music, dance and theater. Prestigious faculty teach small classes. 730 students are enrolled in the conservatory and the student/faculty ratio is 6:1. Students spend the large part of their day in performing arts classes in addition to a variety of writing workshops and other liberal arts electives. With 600 performances offered annually, students have ample opportunities to showcase their talent. Boston Conservatory is part of the Pro Arts Consortium (see Emerson above) which allows students to enroll in classes in 6 other schools in the Boston area. Grades are not as important as talent when it comes to applying to Boston Conservatory. The Admissions advisor we met with stated that 75-80% of a student's acceptance is based on his/her talent level. Boston Conservatory offers excellent summer intensives which are an ideal opportunity for a student to sample all the school has to offer. A student who wants a conservatory style education in a small setting where they can train and perform to their heart's desire will be interested in Boston Conservatory.

Northeastern is located in the heart of Boston and has a mixture of modern glass buildings interspersed with older ones and an underground tunnel connecting many buildings. The university attracts a mature, career-driven student who is looking for hands-on preprofessional experience. NE offers a unique opportunity to sample professional careers prior to graduation.

With 16,000 undergrads, NE students are those who want a co-op experience so they immerse themselves in the work place and a well paying job. NE graduates enjoy a liberal arts education combined with 18 months of challenging work placements during their college years. Co-op assignments are paid, full-time positions that relate to the student's major and interest. They are placed in emerging industries nationally or internationally. Generally speaking, if a student wishes to be a 4 year graduate, they complete 2 co-ops; each 4 months in length. Class sizes typically don't exceed 49 students. Greek life attracts 4% of the student population. Northeastern has 18 varsity teams and offers 250 athletic scholarships. NE is a good fit for a California student who wants to be in the heart of Boston and mix going to school with hands on work experience throughout. The student must be adaptable and comfortable transitioning to new environments as they change with each semester. For those students, exciting possibilities await at NE!

Boston University is one of the largest private universities at 16,000 undergrads. The campus high rises sprawl along the Boston city streets. Facilities include a hockey arena that is also used as a concert hall, a track, tennis center, multi level fitness center and a \$50 million student center which opened in 2012. Due to its vast campus and huge variety of options, students must be proactive to discover what's going on around the school. The student we spoke with told us "You'll never be bored at BU". Opportunities abound! Academically, 250 majors and minors in 10 undergraduate schools are offered. Several accelerated degrees can be earned such as a 7 year medical or dental degree, a 6 year PT program, 4 year teaching degree, 4 year Hotel Management (in which a paid internship must be done abroad) just to name a few. Dual degrees can be earned, as well as many interdisciplinary opportunities. All students take a two-semester Freshman Writing Program. Freshmen are also brought to campus a week early to partake in community service while bonding with one another. The university attracts the highest achieving students through its Honors College. 50 study abroad options are available as well as internships and outreach opportunities. Socially, BU is in a bustling area of town with plenty to do in addition to all of the clubs and groups you can join at the school. 300 athletic scholarships are offered in 17 sports in this Division I school. Although BU doesn't have a football team, hockey is the highlight sport of the school year. Broomball is touted as the most popular of the intramural teams. BU is ideal for a student looking for a large school with many social and academic opportunities in the center of Boston!

Boston College Situated in Chestnut Hill, Gothic Revival is the dominant architecture of this gorgeous hilltop campus. Originally founded by the Jesuits to teach the sons of Irish immigrants, Catholics comprise nearly 70% of the 9,000 undergraduate student body. Highly selective, academics are collaborative and challenging. The Jesuit mission statement "men and women in service for others" prevails. Our energetic junior tour guide stated, "Volunteering is huge here, and classmates wonder what's up with you if you aren't involved somewhere." With typical class sizes of 25 or less, individualized attention to teaching undergraduate students is a priority. Freshmen students receive a faculty academic advisor at convocation who sees them through 4 years to graduation. A writing workshop is required during the freshman year and students develop a portfolio. Seniors can graduate with honors by writing a Capstone thesis and many go onto pursuing masters or graduate degrees. Popular majors are communications, economics, biology, finance and English. Business is direct entry but in the Arts & Science school one can also take many economics and finance classes. Studying abroad is popular with 60 programs

offered in 30 countries. As with other Jesuit institutions, there's no Greek system but the social life is plentiful! During the fall and spring, the main quad is filled with friendly students relaxing on the lawn. When the cold weather hits, the BC barista serves a tasty latte and it's the dining areas that become the social hub. Sports are also popular social events, especially football games, as tailgates and victory parties abound. Students like to stay active at BC; 4,300 undergrads participate on 42 Intramural teams in addition to an athletic facility that is widely used. The California student who wants a Jesuit based education while surrounded by a robust Catholic student body, strong school spirit and an academic but fun atmosphere will thrive at BC.