



► When students think about choosing a college, their focus usually begins—and often ends—with location and majors. Perhaps a friend or relative has attended the college, or they’ve heard that it’s “supposed to be good.” As the parent of a college student, I know, as do you, that leaving it at that—or taking someone else’s word for it—isn’t good enough. College is too critical to your child’s future, and too big an investment, for a casual decision—or one based on superficial information. You want to gather and assess the facts.

Like other institutions, the University of Richmond can be quantified across many measures: enrollment, average class size, and graduation rate, to name a few. In some cases the implications of these numbers are self-evident, but in others their significance is not completely clear. A huge research university may have sophisticated equipment, but that equipment might be monopolized by graduate students. A small college may have a low faculty-student ratio, but might lack a wide variety of majors. A public institution might seem more affordable, but could cost more in practice than a well-endowed private with greater financial aid resources.

Most attributes, in other words, require context—and a little interpretation—to reveal their true benefits. Then it’s up to you to ask the questions. What does it mean that a big-name institution has prestigious faculty if your child will mainly be instructed by teaching assistants? Or that a college will meet your financial need, but mostly with loans that leave you with staggering debt? Large claims can suddenly seem less substantial.

As you take a look at Richmond’s numbers, we’ll help you evaluate them with respect to the difference they make in your child’s education. As for the ultimate judgment of quality, we leave that up to you.

With best wishes,

Edward Ayers
President
University of Richmond

Cost 2010-11

Tuition: \$41,610
Room and Board: \$8,810

Financial Aid

Richmond admits U.S. citizens and permanent residents without regard to financial need.

The University’s financial aid packages meet 100 percent of the demonstrated need of all admitted students.

In 2009-10, Richmond awarded \$60 million in financial aid to a student body of approximately 3,000 undergraduates.

Each year, approximately 45 incoming first-year students receive a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship through the Richmond Scholars Program.

70 percent of Richmond undergraduates receive some type of financial aid. In fall 2009, the average package awarded was \$30,785.

53 percent of entering first-year students received need-based aid. The average package was \$37,760.

25 percent of entering first-year students receiving need-based financial aid come from families with incomes over \$100,000.

Student Demographics

Undergraduates hail from 46 states, Puerto Rico, and nearly 70 countries.

21 percent of first-year Richmond students are from the first generation in their families to attend college.

23 percent of first-year students are students of color; 6 percent are international students.

13 percent of first-year Richmond students learned to speak another language before English.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 6
University of Richmond
Virginia 23173

Office of Admission
Brunet Memorial Hall
28 Westhampton Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173

Contact Us

Office of Admission
Brunet Memorial Hall
28 Westhampton Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173
(804) 289-8640
(800) 700-1662
richmond.edu

The contents of this publication represent the most current information available at the time of publication. However, information may change following the date this publication was issued, without prior notice. Please visit richmond.edu for the most up-to-date information.

The University of Richmond prohibits discrimination and harassment against applicants, students, faculty or staff on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, status as a veteran or any classification protected by local, state or federal law.



Printed with soy ink.
NCSDO U35025 3/10

WHAT'S
BEHIND THE
NUMBERS?

Evaluating College Quality

Rankings in national magazines, statistics in college guidebooks—wherever you turn, someone is quantifying college attributes. But what about the quality of a college’s product: the educational experience it offers? What do all the measurements really mean?

It’s an important question—one we’d like to help answer here.



University of Richmond

U.S. News & World Report

ranked Richmond 30th out of the 265 best liberal arts colleges in the nation in 2009.

BusinessWeek

ranked the Robins School of Business 15th among America's top undergraduate business programs, awarding an A+ score for the school's teaching quality.

The Princeton Review

consistently cites Richmond's campus as one of the most beautiful in the nation.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance

magazine named Richmond in the top 25 for best value among private colleges and universities.

Newsweek

named Richmond the "Hottest School in America for International Studies."

BEHIND RICHMOND'S NUMBERS

Clear and multiple benefits to our students

When *U.S. News & World Report* designates Richmond one of the top liberal arts universities in the nation, its meaning is clear: the University's academic quality is among the best of its kind. When the magazine places Richmond in the top 35 for undergraduate research, it recognizes one of the University's priorities: providing students the opportunity to work closely with faculty and giving them the resources they need. When *Kiplinger's* calls Richmond a "best value," it means that the University delivers an education that is both of high quality and affordable. And when the *Princeton Review* puts Richmond's campus on its list of the most beautiful in the nation—as subjective as that may be—it says something about the pride and enjoyment our students take in and from their surroundings. Here's what some other numbers say about the University of Richmond:

3,142

undergraduates

Richmond's enrollment is an ideal size for undergraduate education: large enough to enable a wide range of curricular choice and small enough for students to recognize many of the faces around campus.

Four-year graduation rate: 82%

The fact that almost all of Richmond's students complete their undergraduate studies in four years—compared with the national average of 36 percent for all four-year colleges and universities—means we provide frequent, convenient access to the classes required for graduation, and that our advising is strong, keeping students informed of the courses and credits they need to stay on track. It also means that parents can better budget for their child's education—with fewer surprises.

Average first-year retention rate: 92%

Nearly all of Richmond's entering first-year students return to the University the following fall. The reasons are multiple: Richmond's first-year experience program, the strong relationships students develop with faculty, and the profound academic and personal support of our coordinate colleges, to name a few.

66%

of classes have fewer than 20 students

Plus, 99 percent of first-year classes have fewer than 30 students. That doesn't mean that the rest of Richmond's classes are held in huge lecture halls. In fact, less than one percent of classes in the University's three undergraduate schools have 50 or more students. The University of Richmond's average class size? Sixteen students.

20th

in the nation—and first in Virginia—for financial resources

Among liberal arts colleges, Richmond's endowment of \$400,000 per student stands out—and provides significant support for University operations. With an annual endowment income of \$18,000 per full-time student, 27 percent of the cost of educating each student is covered by endowment funds. That means, in effect, that every Richmond student receives financial assistance.

8:1

student-faculty ratio in full-time undergraduate divisions

With only eight students per faculty member—321 of whom are full-time—Richmond can ensure close contact between students and their professors. Students collaborate with faculty on research and often form mentoring relationships that can guide decision making and help launch careers. The University's low student-faculty ratio also means that Richmond doesn't need teaching assistants; undergraduates are taught only by faculty members.

47,000

alumni in all 50 states, D.C., and more than 100 countries

As a private university, Richmond relies heavily on its alumni for support—and they in turn remain highly loyal, giving back to Richmond in many ways. One of the most significant: alumni willingness to help undergraduates find career paths. From sponsoring internships to playing active roles in the UR Career Network, Richmond graduates generously give their time to current students and fellow alumni alike.