

Are Honors Colleges Better than Private Colleges?

These days if you are planning to pursue higher education, you plan to stay there. Therefore many schools and universities offer honors colleges which can be a cheaper alternative. An honors college provides intensified programs designed to challenge top students. Honors college students may choose any available major or minor and must take a rigorous curriculum that includes accelerated and enriched general education courses, as well as an honors thesis requirement at most schools.

If you attend a larger public university, an honor college will provide you with the same education that you would receive at a private liberal arts college, or any other private college.

Pursuing an undergraduate degree at a honors college provided by a public university is a much cheaper alternative than a private college, [The College Solution States](#).

However at most schools honors students represent a small section of the student body. Whenever a college or university is under pressure to make budget cuts they will start with programs that benefit few students. This does not mean that the school would terminate an honors program, but some benefits, such as scholarship money, could be reduced.

Both Colorado State University and the University of Colorado offer honor college programs. The University of Colorado website states, “The Honors Program is an enrichment program for undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences who would like to add something extra to their experience at CU Boulder. Everything our program offers is optional, which means that each student can make the Arts and Sciences Honors Program work for their individual needs.”

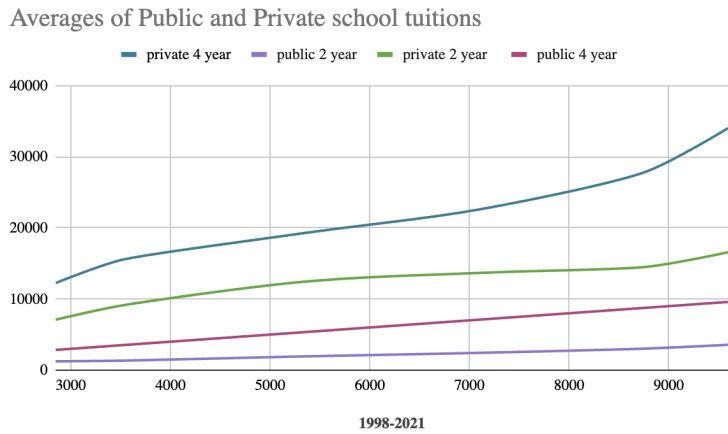
It wasn't always this way. After adjusting for currency inflation, college tuition has increased 747.8% since 1963, the Education Data Initiative [found](#).

A private school such as Denver University still has an honors program, the website states that it “accept[s] 100 students each year into a vibrant community of learners. Our program fosters a distinctive liberal arts education that challenges students to cultivate depth in critical and creative thought and facilitates students' original contributions to intellectual life, their community and their chosen field.”

Honors colleges are different from an honors program offered at a private university, even though both cater to academically inclined students . The honors courses in these programs are similar to traditional courses, but more in-depth. Honors colleges, on the other hand, are separate

colleges within the university structure. They take a more challenging approach, which includes offering a rigorous curriculum across a variety of majors.

average tuition at US private colleges grew by about 4% last year to just under \$40,000 per year, according to data collected by [US News & World Report](#). For a public in-state school, that cost was \$10,500, that's an annual increase of 0.8% for in-state students and about 1% for out-of-state. It is hard to afford college, and even harder to afford a private college. Since the raise in tuition, more and more students have not considered college or are attending public schools, so if you are thinking about a private school, maybe also consider an honors college.



Average cost of public and private

schools from 1998 to 2021. Emily Friesen



CU Boulder main campus which houses 31,103

students. Nshervsampad wikimedia commons