High Rocks Guide to Colleges and Universities

***Bethany College***

[www.Bethanywv.edu](http://www.bethanywv.edu)

Fast Facts

Bethany, WV (Northern Panhandle)

600 students

Private, Liberal Arts

Church-Affiliated

Princeton Review Financial Aid Rating: 86/99

Up at the top of the Northern Panhandle and an hour from Pittsburgh, Bethany College is a small, private, faith-based liberal arts college. Bethany offers a unique academic program consisting of a first-year seminar, close professor mentorship, and an in-depth senior capstone project. Along with the major fields of study ranging from STEM, social sciences, and the humanities, Bethany also offers an interdisciplinary studies department that supports various combinations of visual and performing arts, science, philosophy, women’s studies, and business. Greek life is popular on campus as well as varsity and club athletics.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a small, tight-knit community

-Interested in one-on-one relationships with professors

-Searching for a Christian faith-based community

-Interested in Greek Life

-Excited to explore liberal arts

***Fairmont State University***

[www.fairmontstate.edu](http://www.fairmontstate.edu)

Fast Facts

Fairmont, WV

3,800 students

Public

Fairmont State is located in Fairmont, WV, 30 minutes south of Morgantown. FSU’s beautiful campus boasts plenty of green space as well as modern buildings and facilities. Academic and career options are endless at Fairmont, with its College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Technology, School of Business and Aviation, School of Education, Health, and Human Performance, and the School of Nursing. Fairmont has the feel of a big school without the danger of getting lost in the crowd.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for incredible opportunities in science and technology

-Thinking about going into healthcare

-Hoping to live near a city

***Shepherd University***

[www.shepherd.edu](http://www.shepherd.edu)

Fast Facts

Shepherdstown, WV

3,200 students

Public

Liberal Arts

Shepherd University is a WV state university on the eastern panhandle, right on the Potomac River. 90 minutes from Washington, DC, many students take advantage of academic and career opportunities in the city. Many students come from out of state. Shepherd has a small average class size, so students get more one-on-one time with professors. A liberal arts curriculum allows students to pursue a wide range of academic areas and career paths.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a liberal arts academic experience

-Interested in internship opportunities in Washington, DC

-Looking for a small community

-Passionate about community service and social justice

***WVU Potomac State College***

[www.potomacstatecollege.edu](http://www.potomacstatecollege.edu)

Fast Facts

Keyser, WV

1300 students

Public

2-Year and 4-Year Degrees

Potomac State College is an affiliate of WVU, offering two and four year degrees (Associate’s and Bachelor’s). Potomac State is one of the most affordable colleges in West Virginia---many students complete their general education requirements at Potomac State to save money and then go on to finish their degree at WVU. Many students complete a four-year degree at Potomac State. Potomac State is small in numbers, but it is known for its friendly, social student body.

*“Honestly— if not for the opportunities of a small in state college, I would not have gotten my associates degree. Potomac is a small, very laid back college. The professors that I had were honestly the best. They are very easy to work with, very understanding and ALWAYS there to help, and there are hundreds of options for tutoring/life help.”* **High Rocks Alum Ashlyn White, Potomac State College ‘18, Associates Degree in Agricultural Education and Extension**

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Considering an Associate’s degree

-Interested in the option to transfer to WVU after two years

***Glenville State College***

[www.glenville.edu](http://www.glenville.edu)

Fast Facts

Glenville, WV

1,500 students

Public

2-year and 4-year degrees

Add this school to your list if you are....

-Excited about Greek life

-Looking for the academic opportunities of a liberal arts education

-Interested in a robust and historic Education major program

*“I chose Glenville because it was not too far from home, a smaller school, cheaper than some other institutions, and I had been on campus several times for events. While attending GSC I have really come to appreciate the implications of attending a smallish school. With a small student to faculty ratio (17:1) you aren’t just a number at GSC. The small class size gives everyone an opportunity to get to know each other and the professors. If you have any questions, don’t be afraid to ask. Every professor has office hours and are willing to help. A lot of the time the professors will also ensure that there is a copy of their textbook on reserve at the library. Student Support Services and the Academic Success Center are two other groups who work to try to ensure that every student succeeds. I highly recommend applying to join SSS if you decide to attend GSC. Membership in Student Support Services has been an absolute blessing. The staff are a hoot, and every event is a good time. They also provide free textbooks, free printing, free tutoring, and calculators as needed. The Academic Success Center also provides free tutoring, private study rooms, and laptop use. The Academic Success Center is open to every student. I had the privilege to work as a peer tutor at the ASC during my Junior year, and I am grateful for that experience.”* **High Rocks Alum Stephanie Flanagan, GSC ‘20, Bachelor’s in History, Political Science, and Behavioral Science, minor in Psychology**

***Marshall University***

[www.marshall.edu](http://www.marshall.edu)

Fast Facts

Huntington, WV

9,400 students

Urban campus

Wide range of academic programs and degrees

Public

Marshall University is the second largest college in West Virginia, and although there is a large student body, average class size remains small. Marshall’s main campus is in downtown Huntington, but there are also satellite campuses in Point Pleasant, South Charleston, Beckley, and Teays Valley. Marshall has Division I athletics as well as several club sports. Student services include the Center for African American Students, College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and LGBTQ+ Office, and the Women’s and Gender Center.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a big school with endless opportunities

-Excited to go to a big game

-Looking for more diversity

-Interested in living in a city

*“Marshall is a great school for students who want a bigger campus and not as many students. Campus is beautiful and always well taken care of and there aren't a ton of students, so the college experience feels a bit more personal. Professors are more likely to know your name and they can be a huge help in your courses - if you ask for it. There are two libraries that are very different with many years between them, but both are equally great. The Campus Activities Board always has something fun (and usually free) planned for students, like paint nights and workshops.”* **High Rocks Alum Brandy Clay ‘17, Magna Cum Laude, Psychology and Biological Sciences, Honors Program**

***Davis and Elkins College***

[www.dewv.edu](http://www.dewv.edu)

Fast Facts

Elkins, WV

Private

800 students

Liberal Arts and Professional Degrees

Presbytarian Church (USA)-related college

Davis and Elkins is a small private college in Elkins, WV. D&E’s small student body makes for a very small average class size, meaning students get lots of attention from faculty members. D&E is known for their excellent Appalachian Music and Dance performing and touring student group. D&E also has a large international student body.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a small, tight-knit community

-Looking for plenty of academic support from faculty, staff, and peers

-Interested in a well-rounded, liberal arts education

***West Virginia Wesleyan College***

[www.wvwc.edu](http://www.wvwc.edu)

Fast Facts

Buckhannon, WV

Private

1,300 students

United Methodist Church

Princeton Review Financial Aid Rating: 83/99

West Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, Methodist-affiliated liberal arts college in Buckhannon, WV. WVWC has strong athletics for a small school, as well as strong business, arts, and science academic programs. They offer substantial creative arts scholarships to incoming students.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Interested in a small, tight-knit community

-Interested in a church-affiliated institution

-Looking for small class sizes and strong relationships with professors

***West Virginia University***

[www.wvu.edu](http://www.wvu.edu)

Fast Facts

Morgantown, WV

Public

22,000 students

West Virginia University is the largest school in West Virginia by a LOT. WVU has a big, urban campus and a large student body. Academic and extracurricular options are endless. WVU has a strong social scene and many opportunities to feel part of a large community, such as going to Mountaineers games, joining student groups, and accessing a huge alumni network.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Ready to jump into a very large community

-Interested in living in a city

-Excited about big games and being a part of a big crowd

-Ready to advocate for yourself to make connections with professors in large classes

*“I came to WVU as a transfer student because I wanted to have access to more resources, and WVU makes professional and academic development easily accessible. At WVU I have been a member of the Policy debate team, Model United Nations, and Pi Beta Phi sorority. WVU has the lovely middle ground of being a large school with all of the resources that come when you have 30,000 students, with a small school feel. There is a strong sense of community here, and a generational bond between current students and alumni. I am proud to be a Mountaineer. Let’s Go.”* **High Rocks Alum Carleigh West, WVU ‘20, Political Science and Psychology**

***West Virginia State University***

[www.wvstateu.edu](http://www.wvstateu.edu)

Fast Facts

Institute, WV

Historically Black College/University (HBCU)

Public

4,300 students

WV State University is a medium-sized, public HBCU in the greater Charleston, WV area. WV State offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. WV State prides itself on being accessible and affordable. This school is one of the most rigorous yet affordable institutions in West Virginia. WV State’s history as an HBCU speaks to a campus environment rich in Black and African-American scholarship and perspective.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for an affordable public university

-Interested in undergraduate research

-Looking for a larger student body while maintaining small class sizes

***University of Charleston***

[www.ucwv.edu](http://www.ucwv.edu)

Fast Facts

Charleston, WV

Private

1,800 students

Princeton Review Financial Aid Rating: 84/99

University of Charleston is a small private university in Charleston, WV. This school offers undergraduate degrees in Arts and Sciences, Business, and Healthcare (including Nursing). Nearly half of the student body is from out-of-state. Greek life is *not* central to student life. The school has a strong career services center, and almost 100% of graduates find a job in the first year out of college.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for an urban campus experience

-Hoping to find a small community

-Not interested in a social culture centered around Greek life

***Bluefield State College***

[www.bluefieldstate.edu](http://www.bluefieldstate.edu)

Fast Facts

Bluefield, WV

Public, Non-Residential

HBCU

Bluefield State is a small, public liberal arts and technical college, offering both associate and bachelor’s degrees. Bluefield State is an HBCU with a rich history of Black art and scholarship. Bluefield State is a NON-residential campus, meaning that all students commute to school. However, there are many student groups that foster campus community, including music and arts groups, fraternities and sororities, and sports.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking to live off-campus

-Interested in career-oriented education

***Concord University***

[www.concord.edu](http://www.concord.edu)

Fast Facts

Athens, WV

Public

1,800 students

Concord University is a small, public research institution in Athens, WV. Concord offers a unique combination of small class size and research opportunities for undergraduates. Concord has the “lowest average loan debt for graduates of all WV four-year public institutions” (Concord Website). Check out the Bonner Scholars program at Concord.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a small, tight-knit campus

-Looking for plenty of faculty support

*“I chose Concord University for a few reasons. I got a lot of financial aid from CU, and it was close enough to home but not quite home. I also had family who went to Concord and I had a lot of experience on the campus. I love the class size, how close everything on campus is to each other, and how nice everyone is. I know I can walk by and say Hi to any face I see and odds are they know me too and will say hi back. My favorite part of campus is the bell tower that goes off every hour. You can hear it from anywhere on campus.”* **High Rocks Alum Skyler McCallister, CU ‘23, Social Work/Psychology majors with Addiction Studies minor, Nu Zeta Chi, Alpha Psi Omega**

***West Liberty State***

[www.westliberty.edu](http://www.westliberty.edu)

Fast Facts

West Liberty, WV (near Wheeling)

2,500 students

Public

The oldest public institution in West Virginia, West Liberty State is a small, public liberal arts college outside of Wheeling, WV. West Liberty has been listed in various “Best Colleges” rankings. Accelerated Bachelor’s degrees and online degree programs available.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Interested in Greek life

-Looking for a more conversative campus

-Interested in smaller class sizes

***WVU Institute of Technology***

[www.wvutech.edu](http://www.wvutech.edu)

Fast Facts

Beckley, WV

Public

1,700 students

WVU Tech is a small campus with access to all of the resources and opportunities offered by the state university system. WVU Tech offers accredited engineering programs, as well as dozens of other STEM-related programs including Adventure Recreation Management, Aviation, and Culinary Hospitality. WVU Tech has one of the highest earnings rates of graduates.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Passionate about STEM

-Looking for research opportunities

-Interested in strong academic and career support

***Alderson Broaddus University***

[www.ab.edu](http://www.ab.edu)

Fast Facts

Phillipi, WV

Private, Baptist

1,000 students

Alderson Broaddus University is a private, Baptist-affiliated institution offering liberal arts and professional education programs. Almost every student receives financial aid. Class sizes are small, and students can earn Associates, Bachelor’s, and Master’s degrees.

Add this school to your list if you are…

-Looking for a small, religious community

-Interested in a campus that does not allow alcohol or drugs

-Interested in sports

*“I transferred to A-B to enter into their Physician Assistant studies program which I successfully graduated from in 2008! I also transferred to A-B to be back in WV and closer to home and I couldn’t have made a better decision. A-B has a very small-town, close knit feel to the campus. While I was there, the college tried very hard to provide many groups and events to help students get involved on campus and to feel like a part of a community. It is a beautiful, safe and homey campus and the staff and faculty were all very engaged and caring towards the students!*

*Sports were taken pretty seriously at A-B but academics were the #1 priority! A-B is a strong academic school with great programs in science, medical sciences and art - especially their music program which is home to an elite musical group called The West Virginians who tour and perform all over the country! Also, this is a Baptist college so it was required to take at least one religion course - I was surprised that I liked my first one so much, which was taught by the campus chaplain, that I took a second religion course!”* **High Rocks Alum Valarie Monico, Alderson Broaddus ‘05, ‘08, Associates Science and Master’s of Science**