**WHY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Discover why students should consider community college.**

The traditional four-year college experience isn't for everyone. Some students aren't sure what they want to study, while others are looking for a more affordable education. Many students study for two years at community college before transferring to a four-year college, saving significant money on tuition. Additionally, students interested in some fields can expect to earn more than $50,000 with an associate degree, and community colleges afford job training and certificates that can be valuable. If you're considering attending a community college, or if you're curious about the benefits, check out the following reasons why attending one might be a good decision.

**1. Money**

Paying for college is a big consideration, and the average cost of annual tuition and fees at four-year institutions in the 2021-2022 school year will be $38,000 at private colleges, $10,000 for state residents at public colleges and $24,000 for out-of-state students at state schools. As the national student debt tops $1.7 trillion, the rising cost of tuition can lead to significant student loans. In contrast, community colleges charge about $3,660 on average per year for in-state students. Many states are adopting free community college programs like the Tennessee Promise program, which provides funding for students to fill the gap between Pell Grants and other grant aid for high school graduates who meet certain requirements.

**2. Academic flexibility**

Attending a community college can be a good way for students to ease into the world of higher education and learn at their own pace. This is especially true for students who struggled in high school or anyone who's unsure if they want to make the significant time and money investment in college, experts say.

**3. Financial aid**

Financial aid isn't only for four-year college students – community college students are eligible as well. Federal student loans require students to be enrolled half time – about six credit hours, or two courses. Students just need to make sure they don't drop out of classes or they'll risk losing their aid award.

**4. School-life balance**

About 60 percent of community college students attend school part time. So anyone interested in taking one or two classes at a time will not feel out of place. This makes community college a good option for nontraditional students like parents and older students who wish to balance school with family or career obligations.

**5. STEM education opportunities**

Community colleges have associate degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These so-called STEM subjects are in demand by employers, and some community colleges are supporting these students as they work their way up to a career, experts say.

**6. Transfer agreements**

Enrolling in a community college doesn't have to be a student's final destination. Many two-year schools offer admissions agreements with public colleges that allow qualified students to transfer their credits toward earning a bachelor's degree. 30% of community college students matriculate to a 4 year college and graduate within 4 years of the transfer.

**7. Elements of traditional college**

Two-year colleges haven't always provided the same student experience as four-year schools, but that is changing. Over one-quarter of community colleges [community colleges now offer dorms](https://www.usnews.com/education/community-colleges/articles/2015/02/09/dorms-help-give-2-year-colleges-a-4-year-feel), according to a 2016 report from the American Association of Community Colleges. And it's possible to find extracurricular activities, scholarships and [networking activities](https://www.usnews.com/education/community-colleges/articles/2014/06/26/build-a-network-on-campus-as-a-community-college-student) on two-year campuses.

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**10. Online class options**

As is the case with four-year universities, certain community colleges have [expanded online offerings](https://www.usnews.com/education/community-colleges/articles/2015/01/09/community-colleges-expand-online-as-overall-enrollment-declines) to entice more students. This includes training professors to be available at odd hours and tailoring programs to fit regional industry needs. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that two-thirds of community college students were enrolled in online classes in fall 2017. These credits can potentially be [used toward a four-year degree](https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/articles/2013/06/12/get-4-year-credits-with-online-community-college-classes).

**Here are 10 reasons to attend community college:**

* Affordability
* Academic flexibility
* Financial aid options
* School-life balance
* STEM education and opportunities
* Transfer agreements
* Elements of traditional college
* Personalized attention
* Professional certificates
* Online class options

Choosing which college to attend is a major life decision. Here are some facts that make it clear why community colleges may just be the best option:

1. **Cost**: Lower tuition and fees than traditional universities make community colleges a great value. At under $4,000 per year, Miami Da­­de College’s tuition and fees are nearly 10 times less than those of private universities and almost half as much as state universities.
2. **Graduate Debt-Free**: Tuition is usually so low that you’re way more likely to graduate without student debt. Fewer than one in 10 MDC students take on student loans. And, with the help of Pell Grants and MDC scholarships like the [American Dream Scholarship](http://www.mdc.edu/main/americandream/), many students attend the college for free! MDC Honors College students also get a free ride, propelling them to success at transfer institutions without a penny of debt.
3. **Flexible Scheduling**: Community college classes are designed with convenience in mind for people at every stage of their life and career. At MDC, in addition to daytime, classes are offered on weekends and nights, [and online, too](http://www.mdc.edu/virtual/). Plus, with eight campuses located all over Miami-Dade County, distance is a nonissue.
4. **Convenience**: Staying close to home will help you ease into college life with less stress than striking out on your own and will probably also save you a ton of money otherwise spent on rent, food and/or airfares for the holidays.
5. **Stackable Credentials**: As you move along through your studies, you can pick up a certificate on your way to an associate degree, or both as you work toward a bachelor’s. (Yes, [MDC offers bachelor’s degrees](http://www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/bachelors.aspx) – 16 of them!) This boosts your résumé, making you more marketable for higher-paying jobs as you work your way up academically.
6. **Smaller Class Sizes**: Not excited about taking notes alongside hundreds of other students in an auditorium? Huge classes are much less likely at a community college. Even though it’s the largest institution of higher education in the U.S., MDC’s average teacher-student ratio is 1-to-25 – better than the national average of public high schools!
7. **Supportive Environment**: Community colleges are committed and well equipped to provide support to students from all walks of life and facing all types of challenges. MDC helps guide students on their path to success with a host of student support services and peer mentoring programs that help make college a great experience.
8. **Real Job Express**: Want a degree that will get you hired? Community colleges are all about that and typically specialize in workforce programs designed to meet demand from employers. From [health IT](http://www.mdc.edu/medical/) to [supply chain management](http://www.mdc.edu/supplychainmanagement/), [data analytics](http://entec.mdc.edu/BS-DA.htm) to [teaching](http://www.mdc.edu/education/) and so much more, if you want the job, MDC has a program to get you there.
9. **Student Life**: Like universities, community colleges also have a rich campus life. You can join sports teams, clubs and honor societies to enrich your experience and become part of the fabric of your college, and stand out as a leader. Learn more about [Student Life](http://www.mdc.edu/studentlife/) departments at each of MDC’s eight campuses.
10. **Smooth Transfers**: Community colleges feed right into state universities and numerous others with which they have articulation agreements to ensure smooth transfer of credits. MDC’s Associate in Arts degree is [guaranteed to transfer](http://www.mdc.edu/academics/transfer/university-transfer.aspx) seamlessly into Florida’s state university bachelor’s programs and MDC credits are accepted.
11. **An American Dream Come True**
12. The American Dream Scholarship helps the dream of higher education become a reality. This scholarship picks up where other aid and scholarships leave off, ensuring that bright, qualified students have the means to continue their education.
13. The scholarship is made possible by the generosity of members of the Greater Miami community. These benefactors recognize the importance of a college education and are pleased to support the quality education offered by MDC.

### The Basics

#### Who is Eligible?

High school graduates who have earned a standard high school diploma, GED, or home school diploma in Miami Dade County during the May-July 2021 period (without a previous degree).

#### What is Covered?

The American Dream Scholarship funds will be applied at the in-state tuition rate after all other resources available to cover tuition and fees have been applied.

#### Duration

The scholarship covers up to 60 credits toward the completion of an AA or AS, whichever comes first.

#### How It Works

* The scholarship pays only tuition and class fees and is not disbursable in cash.
* Funds will be applied after all other scholarships, financial aid, and grants funds have been applied.
* Students must enroll full time for at least 12 credits each fall and spring semester.
* Out-of-state students are responsible for any additional out-of-state costs per credit, not covered by the scholarship.
* Special fees for the Aviation or Culinary Arts programs are not covered.
* Failed or withdrawn courses count toward the 60-credit limit of the scholarship.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, you must be registered for a minimum of 12 credits each Fall and Spring term. If you decide to enroll in additional credits during the semester, you must contact us at 305-237-8888 or at [ADS@mdc.edu](https://email.mdc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=l-gyYzYAc0Kz0GfljCxudMUmPpaJ_tMIyPMjC-hqu4ESuNIXRoopNKaeWlNDUxZL7RLe331YKlA.&URL=mailto%3aADS%40mdc.edu) to recalculate your payment award.

#### Class of 2021 Eligibility Criteria

* You must earn a standard high school diploma, GED, or home school diploma in Miami Dade County.
* You must currently reside in Miami Dade County.
* You must be entering college for the first time or be a graduating dual enrollee.
* You must have a cumulative high school weighted GPA of 3.00 or above.
* You must be admitted to MDC and registered for 12 or more credits for the Fall 2021 semester.
* You must complete the 2021-2022 Federal Financial Aid Application (FAFSA). You do not need to be eligible for federal financial aid, but you must complete the FAFSA application. If you are unable to complete a FAFSA application, please complete the [Expected Family Contribution Calculator](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator). Email the results to your campus [Financial Aid office](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/contact.aspx).
* **You must prove college readiness by meeting one of the two criteria:**
  1. Achieve [minimum test scores on approved standardized tests](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/scholarships/american-dream.aspx). Any combination of the highest available scores are used in determining your readiness in a skill area. Scores within a two-year period of the test date are considered valid for eligibility purposes. Expired scores will not be used. **OR**
  2. Have a cumulative high school weighted GPA of 3.5 or greater.
* Students obtaining a standard high school diploma through Florida Virtual School will be accepted if they reside in Miami Dade County.
* GED recipients must earn the diploma during the time period of May - July 2021 in what would be their senior year in high school.
* Students without a GPA on their transcripts (e.g., home schooled) must earn the diploma during the time period listed above and meet [minimum test scores](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/scholarships/american-dream.aspx).

#### Application Process

* No separate scholarship application is required.
* Apply for admission to MDC and complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](https://fafsa.ed.gov/) (FAFSA), but you do not need to be eligible to receive federal financial aid. Please remember that it may take several days for MDC to receive your information even after you request it. Therefore, please allow enough time for this to occur by the deadline.
* If you are unable to complete a FAFSA application, please complete the [Expected Family Contribution Calculator](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator). Email the results to your campus [Financial Aid office](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/contact.aspx).

#### MAiNTAINING YOUR ELIGIBILITY

To remain an American Dream Scholar you must:  
  
Have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 by the end of the Spring term. Renewal of the scholarship takes effect at the end of the Spring term. Summer courses taken after the renewal process will not apply.  
  
Complete the [2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa). You do not need to be eligible for federal financial aid but you must complete the FAFSA application. If you are unable to complete a FAFSA application, please complete the [Expected Family Contribution Calculator](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator). Emailthe results to your campus Financial Aid office.  
  
Allow enough time to ensure that MDC has your information by the established deadline.  
  
Register for at least 12 credits for the Fall term by August 31st of each year.  
  
Failure to meet these requirements by the deadlines will result in the loss of your status as an American Dream Scholar and you will not be awarded any funds you would otherwise be eligible for under this program. There are no provisions for reinstatement. Once you lose eligibility, you will not be able to regain your status as an American Dream Scholar. Remember that courses not passed or withdrawn after the 100% refund date count toward the 60 credit limit of the scholarship

### A College Education is Within Your Reach

Financial aid is a federal service that is provided free of charge. Help and guidance is available at the College’s financial aid offices at no cost. It is recommended that you exercise caution around any organization or person that offers to help you or provide services for a fee.

#### Types of Aid

Financial aid comes in a variety of forms:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**Grants**](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx) | Grants are often based on financial need and do not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund). |
| [**Scholarships**](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/scholarships/default.aspx) | Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid. They are funds awarded to students based on academic or other achievements. |
| [**Work-Study**](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/work-study.aspx) | This is a federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school. |
| [**Loans**](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/loans.aspx) | A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. |

## Types of Aid

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* [Overview](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/default.aspx)
* [Grants (Gift Aid)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx)
* [Student Emergency Aid](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/student-emergency-aid.aspx)
* [Financial Aid Work Programs](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/work-study.aspx)
* [Loans (Self Help)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/loans.aspx)
* [Eligibility](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/eligibility.aspx)

### Financial Aid Work Programs

Work Programs allows students to work and earn money to pay for their education. Part-time and full-time students who demonstrate financial need – whether undergraduate or graduate – are eligible.

Once in the program, you will be employed in a part-time position and typically are paid the federal minimum wage. These jobs are usually on-campus, but nonprofit organizations and public agencies working for the public interest may also participate.

When possible, you will work in fields related to your course of study. In addition, your employer will consider your class schedule and academic progress when planning your work schedule.

Under this program, you may earn up to the total amount of your work-study award. The award is determined by:

* Student's eligibility
* School's funding level

#### [Financial Aid Work Program Options](https://www.mdc.edu/jobs/work-study/)

**Federal Work Study:** "On-campus" employment opportunities for qualified students. Part-time positions are available to assist departments with clerical work and other duties as assigned.

**Community Service:** "On- and off-campus" employment opportunities are available and are designed to benefit the community. This program includes jobs tutoring elementary school children with their reading skills in the Miami-Dade County Public School system, as well as other job opportunities that are in the public interest.

**Florida Work Experience (FWEP):** "On- and off-campus" jobs which complement and reinforce the students' educational and career goals. Students must be Florida residents and eligible for need-based aid. Work schedule part-time hours.

**Institutional Work Study:** "On-campus" part-time positions available to assist departments with clerical and other duties as assigned. Positions are on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Employer's Corner

Required documents for employer participation in the Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP):

* [FWEP Program Overview](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/documents/06-07-FWEP-Program-Overview.pdf)
* [Florida Work Experience Program Annual Agreement](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=cad5b132-e44c-4278-bb97-ee6dac300929)
* [Employer Information](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=bde9fb86-19fa-47e0-a3c4-c808144c8edb)
* [Site Visit Form](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=0922ec0f-a657-48d5-8d50-552cc5fd30be)
* [Nepotism Policy](http://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/DisplayForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=0a225839-f6a6-4c58-b9a6-bc30abdfc361)
* [Form W-9 for New, Current and Continuing Employers](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf)
* [Job Description Guidelines](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/documents/06-07-FWEPJOB-DESCRIPTION-GUIDELINES.pdf)
* [Sample Job Description](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/documents/Sample-Job-description.pdf)
* [Conditions of Employment Form](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=06e406c9-9fd3-4086-8955-3aec8ba3baf8)
* [Time Sheet and Billing Form](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=f010733d-f31a-4d94-98da-e7d5618f9401)
* [Student Assistant Rules, Rights and Responsibilities Form](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=1cbbdf99-85e1-4367-a3e2-1575b5654c0e)

### Grants (Gift Aid)

In general, these grants do not have to be repaid if the student abides by all of the terms and conditions of the award.

All federal grants are awarded to students based on financial need. The amount of the grant depends on several factors, such as:

* Cost of attendance
* Expected family contribution
* Enrollment status (full-time students generally receive more aid)
* Whether you attend for a full academic year or less

**Below are examples of some Grants (Gift Aid) offered:**

#### [Federal Pell Grant](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseOne)

#### [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseTwo)

#### [Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseThree)

#### [State Grants and Scholarships](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseFour)

Pell grants are the foundation of federal student financial aid. They are generally only awarded to undergraduate students, though in some cases, they are awarded to students enrolled in post-baccalaureate teacher certificate programs. The total amount of aid you receive will not affect your Pell Grant amount. You will always receive the full amount of your Pell Grant award.

#### [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseTwo)

FSEOG are awarded to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need – those with the lowest expected family contribution. Pell grant recipients receive priority for FSEOG awards.

FSEOG can vary depending on the total amount of aid you are receiving, so that receiving other aid might reduce the amount of your FSEOG award.

Once FSEOG funding has been depleted, no further grants will be awarded. Even if you have qualified for an FSEOG, you are not guaranteed to receive one. Because of this, it is important to [apply as early as possible](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/).

To qualify for the FSEOG grant, you must be eligible to receive a Pell Grant.

#### [Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant)](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseThree)

You may be eligible for this grant if you are completing course work needed to become a teacher. In exchange for the grant, you must sign an "Agreement to Serve" as a full-time teacher at certain low-income schools and within certain high-need fields for at least a total of four academic years within eight years after completing (or ceasing enrollment in) the course of study for which you received the grant.

If you receive the grant (up to $4,000 annually) and fail to carry out the terms of the agreement, the grant amounts received are treated as an unsubsidized direct loan and must be repaid with interest.

To apply for a TEACH Grant, you must:

* Fill out the FAFSA
* Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 out of 4.00
* Enroll in an eligible program
  + BS-Secondary Mathematics Education (S4200)
  + BS-Secondary Science Education Biology (S4100)
  + BS-Secondary Science Education Chemistry (S4101)
  + BS-Secondary Science Education Earth & Science (S4102)
  + BS-Secondary Science Education Physics (S4103)
  + BS- Exceptional Student Education K-12 (S9260)
* Undertake initial counseling and subsequent annual counseling
* [TEACH Grant Request](https://qafederation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=http://adfs.mdc.edu/adfs/services/trust&TargetResource=https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/Submit/Form/Start/5d934be3-bc12-4df5-a01c-8bcd2d80c6a5) from Jason Abreu : [jabreu@mdc.edu](mailto:jabreu@mdc.edu)
* Sign an agreement to serve
* Be currently completing, or intend to complete, course work necessary to begin a teaching career.

[High-need fields](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf) that fulfill the terms of the "Agreement to Serve" include mathematics, science, foreign language, bilingual education and English language acquisition, special education. For more information, visit [The Department of Education's TEACH grant page.](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach)

#### [State Grants and Scholarships](https://www.mdc.edu/financialaid/how-aid-works/grants.aspx#collapseFour)

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs, part of the Florida Department of Education, maintains several educational state-funded grants and scholarships. In addition, you'll also find a wealth of information concerning student financial assistance.

# Community College: FAQs

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Community Colleges

### What is community college?

Community college is the most common type of two-year college. These colleges offer many types of educational programs, including those that lead to associate degrees and certificates. Certificates and some types of associate degrees focus on career readiness. Other types of associate degrees are good preparation for study at a four-year college where graduates can earn a bachelor’s degree.

### Can I get financial aid?

Even though tuition at community colleges is usually low, financial aid is available. The Federal Pell Grant, for example, is open to students attending any accredited postsecondary institution. You can even qualify if you go part time.

[[](javascript:;)](javascript:;)

What’s the path from a 2-year to 4-year college?

Earl Johnson, Associate Vice President and Dean of Admission, University of Tulsa

### Who goes to community college?

More than 40 percent of U.S. undergraduate students attend community colleges. Students who are 18 to 24 years old make up the largest age group. Community colleges also attract working adults, retirees and others who want to learn.

### Why should I consider going to one?

At a community college, you can:

**Save money.** Costs are generally much lower than those at four-year colleges. On average, tuition and fees at public two-year colleges are $3,347 a year.

**Prepare for transfer to a four-year college.** Many community college graduates decide to transfer and complete their bachelor’s degrees. Planning in advance can help ensure that the credits you earn will count toward your degree at the four-year college you hope to attend. Get [more information about transferring](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/college-101/tips-on-college-transferring-from-a-2-year-to-a-4-year-college).

**Get ready for a career.** If you want to enter the workforce sooner, you can earn a certificate or degree in a career-oriented field, such as firefighting or engineering technology.

**Try out college.** Most programs are open admission. This means that you can go to college even if your high school grades aren’t strong. A community college is also a good option if you’re not sure you’re ready for college. You’ll have a chance to challenge yourself and see if college is right for you.

**Take advantage of a flexible schedule.** Most community colleges are convenient — you can attend full time or part time, and you can schedule your courses around home and work commitments. There’s a campus within a short driving distance of almost every town in the United States.

You can use [College Search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search) to find a community college that is a good fit for you.

### How can a community college help me decide what to do with my life?

You can explore different subjects before committing to a program, without having to be too concerned about tuition costs. If you take a wide range of courses — including those in the liberal arts and those that are career oriented — you can check out many different options in one place. Many community colleges offer intensive counseling that can help you assess your abilities, interests and education options.

### Why do I have to work hard in high school if open admission is common?

In order to succeed in college, you need a solid foundation in reading, writing and math skills. Unless you build them in high school, you may have to take remedial, or catch-up, courses when you arrive at a community college. They are also called developmental or basic skills courses. These courses don’t count toward your degree, so graduating will take you longer and cost you more if you’re not prepared.

You’ll probably take [placement tests](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/academic-life/what-are-college-placement-tests) when you start college. The results will show whether you need to take any catch-up courses before beginning college-level study.

### Is there an on-campus community?

Unlike residential colleges, many community colleges lack on-campus housing — most students live nearby. Therefore, many of these colleges make a special effort to build a sense of community on campus. You’ll find a wide variety of activities, similar to those at four-year colleges.

### Has anyone famous gone to community college?

Plenty of high achievers started out at community college. Here's a short list of successful alumni:

* Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet
* Eileen Collins, former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut
* Joyce Luther Kennard, California Supreme Court justice
* Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former United Nations ambassador
* Nolan Ryan, retired Major League Baseball professional athlete
* Jim Lehrer, news anchor
* Robert Moses, choreographer and dance company founder
* Sam Shepard, Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright
* James Sinegal, cofounder and chief executive officer of Costco
* Maxwell Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff