

## Women's Colleges in the United States

Women's colleges are models of effective educational practice. In various studies it has been observed that women who attend single-sex institutions are more likely to engage in higher-level thinking and to fulfill leadership roles than their counterparts enrolled at coed institutions. Women's colleges provide a challenging yet supportive environment for those who are seeking to push their academic and personal boundaries.

- It has been noted that women enrolled in women's colleges are more than twice as likely as their counterparts at coeducational colleges to earn doctoral degrees.
- Graduates of women's colleges earn more after graduation than female graduates of coeducational colleges because they often choose traditionally male disciplines as their academic major.
- Women's colleges graduate women in math and the sciences at 1.5 times the rate of coed institutions.

<b>FIRST</b> woman to be named Secretary of State in the U.S.	<b>MADELEINE ALBRIGHT</b> Wellesley College
<b>FIRST</b> woman editor, The New York Post.	<b>JANE AMSTERDAM</b> , Cedar Crest College
<b>FIRST</b> woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.	<b>EMILY GREEN BALCH</b> , Bryn Mawr College
<b>FIRST</b> woman to receive a college bachelor's degree.	<b>CATHERINE BREWER BENSON</b> Wesleyan College
<b>FIRST</b> scientist to identify the Hong Kong flu virus.	<b>EARLA BIEKERT</b> , Wesleyan College
<b>FIRST</b> woman leader of the American Newspaper Publisher Association.	<b>CATHLEEN BLACK</b> Trinity Washington University
<b>FIRST</b> woman to be Executive Vice President of the American Stock Exchange	<b>SARAH PORTER BOEHLER</b> Sweet Briar College
<b>FIRST</b> African American woman judge in the U.S.	<b>JANE MATILDA BOLIN</b> , Wellesley College
<b>FIRST</b> African American woman surgeon in the South.	<b>DOROTHY L. BROWN</b> Bennett College for Women
<b>FIRST</b> woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.	<b>PEARL S. BUCK</b> Randolph-Macon Woman's College
<b>FIRST</b> female Rhodes Scholar, Georgia.	<b>ILA BURDETT</b> , Agnes Scott College
<b>FIRST</b> woman secretary of the Democratic National Party.	<b>DOROTHY VREDENBURGH BUSH</b> Mississippi University for Women
<b>FIRST</b> woman founder of a PBS station.	<b>ELIZABETH PFOHL CAMPBELL</b> , Salem College
<b>FIRST</b> Hispanic woman judge Circuit Court for Baltimore City.	<b>HON. AUDREY J.S. CARRION</b> College of Notre Dame of Maryland

### Why attend a women's college?

At a women's college you will be granted more opportunities to engage as an active community member because women fill every possible leadership role on campus, providing you with the opportunity to gain self-confidence and better self-understanding.

Female athletes at women's colleges have an advantage over their counterparts at co-ed institutions. At a women's college, the female athletes will be the first priority of the athletic department and there will be no compromise for field space or access to the training room.



Women simply have more opportunities to become active members of their community if they chose to enroll in a women's college, whether it is through student government, athletics, or political and recreational clubs. The communities that form at women's colleges are typically tight-knit networks of women where there are limitless opportunities to collaborate and engage in different interests.

### Statistics from Women's Colleges

Percentage of women in the U.S. labor force:	46.3%
Percentage of women in management, professional and related occupations:	50.6%
Percentage of female Fortune 500 corporate officers:	15.4%
Percentage of female Fortune 500 board seats:	14.8%
Percentage of female Fortune 500 top earners:	6.7%
Percentage of female Fortune 500 CEOs:	2.4%
Number of female CEOs of Fortune 500 companies:	12
Number of female CEOs in Fortune 501-1000 companies:	10
Women CEOs of Fortune 500 companies in 2006 graduating from women's colleges:	4 of 10
Total female CEOs in Fortune 1000 companies:	22

### Search for Women's Colleges

The [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) "Find a College" search engine lists accredited U.S. women's colleges. Search under "Specialized Options" to find your best fit.

*"It wasn't what I took as much as where I went. I went to an all-women's college. There were fewer gender pressures. I was encouraged to stand up and speak my mind. If I'd gone to a coed school from the start, it would have been a lot harder. Later, when I was thrown into an environment that was primarily all-men, it didn't occur to me not to participate."*

– Getting Ahead  
The Chicago Tribune

*Did you know?...*

*US Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton, is a graduate of Wellesley College*