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Higher Education in the United States of America +3

## What are the differences between Indian universities and American universities?

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### 5 Answers



Nirmal, PSG Tech ----> University of Florida

Answered Aug 17, 2017



- Field of Study:
  - US Universities: Pick and choose courses from different departments. Explore new fields and decide on area of focus after a couple of years
  - Indian Universities: There will be one all knowing uncle in the counseling center who says “This year best scope is for IT or ECE”. Doesnt matter what the student is really interested in. Course structure is rigid, often based on curriculum that is outdated and citing books from world war era.
- Freedom:
  - US Universities: They treat adults as adults. They encourage individuality , creativity and give space to shape your ideology.
  - Indian Universities: They treat adults as kindergarten kids. And students act as a flock of sheep. Study the same thing, write the same answer, butter up the professors, get good grade without understanding the fundamentals, get placed in the same company. Constitutional freedoms do not apply within University Campus :)
- Quality of Teaching:
  - US Universities: Even the 50th ranked universities has better quality professors than top ranked Indian schools. The real intention is to understand fundamentals. Grades are not for the answer but for the approach.
  - Indian Universities: Professors are recruited under a reservation system or due to clout. Off late, younger lecturers are usually not the cream of the society, they choose teaching as a last resort career option, because they are not able to find other decent paying jobs. India needs to encourage more private universities with independent grants and make academia a lucrative career option.

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- Wholistic development:
  - US Universities: US universities give lot of space and freedom for young adults to define themselves. Be it sports , or politics , social causes or arts, there are umpteen opportunities to explore and develop these skills. Most students also work part-time jobs which gives them a responsibility to manage their finances and learn life lessons.
  - Indian Universities: It is a shame that most universities / colleges (at least in TN) treat Adult Students who are eligible to cast vote, like kindergarten kids. Enforcing strict timing for dorms, forbidding social interactions, pretty much micromanaging every second of their student life. Engaging in grass-root political / social activities is strictly forbidden. Essentially universities are factories mass producing semi skilled worker/slaves fit to do tasks considered menial in developed countries.
- Cost:
  - US Universities: US universities are no longer affordable. It is a shocking jump for students to go from free public school into universities which are super expensive. Even state universities have become un-affordable. I feel that US universities spend money on unwanted stuff like buying charter planes for university football teams, building massive stadiums (when they already have an adequately functioning one). There has to be a space for sports, but i do feel some of these unwanted spendings brings up the cost of tuition. Almost every student ends up in huge debts that they have to keep paying for years if not decades. I have used sports / sports stadium as an example, there are lot of other examples I could give. I have seen universities building swanky parking structures, in the middle of a college town with no shortage of space.
  - Indian Universities: Most Indian universities are either completely state owned or have certain portion of the students aided through government subsidies. This is very important for a developing nation like India and should continue. However the caste based reservation system cannot be a deciding factor for government subsidies. Poor student is poor no matter which caste or religion he/she belongs to.

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Anonymous

Updated Aug 19, 2017



**Co-Ed Bathrooms** in US was a big culture shock for me, being a conservative girl in India.

You never know when you might let your towel drop. Once I was washing my face and a sudden change in water temperature freaked me out. My towel slipped and I went nude for a second.



Moreover, there are no doors in the bathroom. Just a curtain. I used to sing while applying soap so that no one accidentally opens it thinking no one is present.

My family would go insane if they ever come to know about it.

Americans care so much about privacy and invest a lot in infrastructure but not for restrooms.

They are not only liberal but also they don't seem to have sexual fantasies when they see someone of opposite gender in bare minimum clothes.

In India, though people are conservative in the outside, many of my friends watch porn and read **Fifty Shades of Grey**

It has been three years since I have been in US and I have got used to it. I brought only traditional dresses when I entered college, but now I wear short skirts for

parties and bikinis in beaches (Beaches are the only places which remind you of the warmer climate in India)

You should look at my bikini at [This link](#) and at [This Link](#) . I feels quite liberating to be in US. In India, I used to wear layers of clothing in the hot climate and still be teased by boys.

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Vivek Tulja

Answered Dec 24, 2016



Originally Answered: How are American universities different from Indian ones?

I could write a very long answer to this question, but let me just state my most vivid memory. I hope it will succinctly make a very key point.

As a 22 years old Indian boy, I got admission, financial assistance, and luckily, an F-1 student visa from the US Consulate and a few weeks later, I am on an airplane to the USA. It is my first week of classes in the US, and I happened to have enrolled in a Partial Differential Equations class. Not the easiest of subjects, right? Well, in walks the professor. A guy in his mid to late thirties, with a scraggy beard, wearing worn-out jeans, an old t-shirt, and old sneakers. I was expecting a clean shaven professor in a suit. So it was quite a shock. He has a pencil on his right ear the way carpenters do in India. And he was carrying no books, no papers, nothing. Ten seconds later, he picks up a piece of chalk - yes, it was a very long time ago - and starts writing unfathomable stuff on the black board. I had never seen anything like that in my life.

The intelligence and depth of knowledge of this person was mind-boggling. I learned later that he got his PhD from Berkeley, which was at that time the numero uno school for mathematics. Over the next four years, I ran into many professors like him - people whose intelligence and subject knowledge was just extraordinary.

I had never seen anything like that in India.

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Sandeep Garg, studied at Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

Answered Sep 1, 2017



The main difference between American universities and Indian universities are that the former are way more liberal as compared to the latter. In India, students have a few options as compared to the US. Another big difference is that in the American universities, students have the freedom to study diverse subjects like English literature and Computer Programming.

In terms of evaluation, the US universities evaluate students through a perennial process. On the other hand, in Indian education system, examinations are done at the end of the semester which account for a high percentage of grades. Also, project based learning and hands-on experience is more appreciated in the US education system. Though Indian universities are evolving at a faster rate and many private institutions are adapting to the US model owing to the strategic alliances with US and European universities, the education system is still primitive in majority of the learning institutions.

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Anagh Deshpande, M.S. from Arizona State University (2016)

Answered Aug 25, 2017



**Disclaimer:** I will not be talking about IITs in my answer because most Indians do not graduate from IITs. In my answer, Indian university=Any okayish Indian university.

**An Indian university will have several different colleges affiliated with it which will offer same degree programs.** These colleges will have the same basic facilities required to offer those degree programs. For example, Mumbai University will have several Engineering colleges like K.J.Somaiya College of Engineering, Datta Meghe College of Engineering, etc. affiliated with it which offer under graduate degrees in same engineering fields. **So what's the problem with this?** The problem is that this leads to division of resources. Instead of having one large engineering college which has state of the art facilities and stellar faculty, universities have several small engineering colleges with only basic infrastructure and facilities and not so great faculty.

In any US university, only one college in the university offers any particular degree program and there is no overlap. This allows the university to focus all it's resources like state of the art equipment and good faculty towards the betterment of that program.

But I don't think the current system in India will change anytime soon.

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 Daryl Baker, BaSC Chemical Engineering, University of Waterloo (1974)

Answered 45m ago

I have traveled to most of the states and lived and worked in Michigan for 11 years. I felt at home in most states, perhaps abit more so in northern states, but welcome in all. I would pick Michigan ... [\(more\)](#)

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 Mike Jones, Worked in technology for over 30 years.

Answered 2h ago

It depends on how the comparison is done. Comparing him to the Hitler of 1932, as a cautionary tale, actually seems pretty appropriate. He could never be the Hitler of 1939 or later, but he could l... [\(more\)](#)

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 Jason Johnson, Automotive Service Advisor (2016-present)

Answered 1h ago

Perhaps in a manual but in automatics it would cause rapid failure as it clogged up all of the little passageways inside.

It is not something I have seen.

19 Views · Answer requested by Aaron M. Hilliard

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