

College, Career & Life Planning



Selecting the “Right” College For You

COLLEGE TYPES

- **Public:** Usually less expensive, especially for in-state students.
- **Private:** Rely on tuition and endowments for funding. Frequently smaller and offer more personalized attention. More expensive.
- **Universities:** Large colleges. More majors and research facilities. Large classes (>100) for some courses. Some classes taught by graduate students. Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate Degrees.
- **Liberal Arts Colleges:** Focus on humanities, social sciences and sciences. Smaller classes with personalized attention. Usually private and focused on undergraduate. Bachelors Degree.
- **Community Colleges:** Public two-year colleges. Technical programs for quick entry into the job market. Less expensive than a university. Possible to get an associates degree (in say liberal arts) and transfer to a college/university for a bachelor’s degree.
- **Junior College:** Private two-year colleges. Offer technical and occupational training.

COLLEGE SIZE

Big College/University Advantages

- Wide variety of majors/courses
- Excellent facilities (e.g. libraries, athletic)
- Variety of housing
- Large, well-funded sports programs
- “Famous” faculty
- Wide range of extracurricular opportunities
- Research facilities and opportunities

Big College/University Disadvantages

- Large class size (less personal)
- Many classes taught by Graduate students
- Professors focused more on their research than the students (limited interaction)
- Potential to feel “lost in the crowd”
- Structured. Less flexibility. More red tape.

Small College/University Advantages

- Small class size (more personal attention)
- Strong sense of community
- Taught by professors
- Teachers and Advisors know students.
- Potential for “custom-designed” majors
- Opportunities to explore areas outside of your major.

Small College/University Disadvantages

- Fewer majors/courses to choose from.
- Limited opportunities for research.
- Facilities and sports programs are more limited.
- Smaller selection of extracurricular activities.
- More difficult to move in/out of social groups

COLLEGE LOCATION

Urban College Campus

- Access to arts, museums, culture
- More expensive for rent, food, etc.
- Good public transportation
- Safety concerns
- More shopping, restaurants, night-life
- Fast-paced. Hectic.

Rural College Campus

- Access to wilderness, nature & outdoors
- Most housing on-campus
- Sense of community (self-contained)
- Relationship with town
- Quiet, peaceful
- Generally safer.