

Spring 2015

Finding the Right College Fit



**Socially, Academically and
Financially for a student and
their family**

Finding the right school

- ❖ Q. Where are you going to college?
- ❖ A: I have no idea!



This question is easy to answer. Research!

- ❖ Find the right school for you based on:
 - ❖ Academic Fit
 - ❖ Social Fit
 - ❖ Financial Fit
- ❖ Find a balance!



What do we mean by academic fit?^{1.}

- > Challenging course load, rise to the occasion?
- > Explore different majors, and minors?
- > Can I get an internship?
- > In the library again!



- > Liberal Arts curriculum?
- > Large research university?
- > Small private school?
- > Matches student's scholastic abilities?
- > Learn through discovery!



What type of student are you?

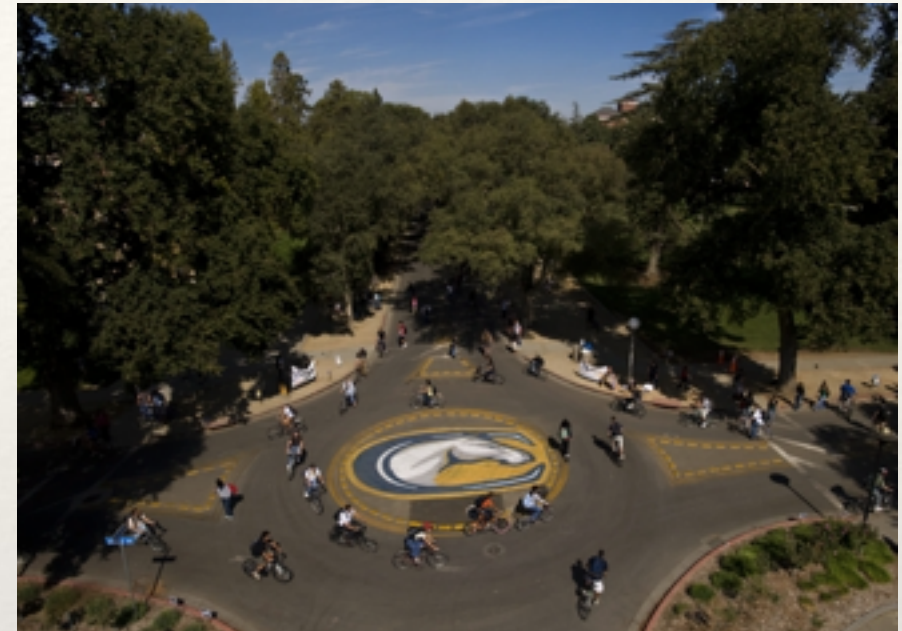
Should I go to the highest ranked school I get into?

- Most students perform well in a college where they are academically in the top half / third of the class. ³.
- The US News and World Report first college ranking report was released in 1983. The methodology has evolved overtime and evaluates colleges on 7 weighted variables: ².
 1. Undergraduate academic reputation, 22.5%
 2. Graduation and freshman retention rates, 20%
 3. Faculty resources, 20%
 4. Student selectivity, 15%
 5. Financial resources, 10%
 6. Graduation rate performance, 7.5%
 7. Alumni giving, 5%

Here are two schools tied at #38^{4.}



Case Western Reserve
Cleveland, OH
4,661 students
Private
\$43,158 tuition and fees



UC Davis
Davis, CA
26,663 students
Public
\$13,746 tuition and fees

Which school do you rank higher?

Here are two schools tied at #40^{4.}



Lehigh University

Bethlehem, PA

4,931 students

Private

\$44,890 tuition and fees



UC Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, CA

19,362 students

Public

\$13,746 tuition and fees

Which school do you rank higher?

Here are two schools tied at #88 ^{4.}



University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL

29,440 students

Public

\$24,950 OOS tuition and fees



Univ. of CO-Boulder

Boulder, CO

25,981 students

Public

\$33,151 OOS tuition and fees

Which school do you rank higher? Would it change based on this?

Alabama offers \$3,500 to \$24,950 / year in OOS scholarships.⁵

Here are two schools tied at #106^{4.}



University of Oklahoma

Norman, OK

21,818 students

Public

\$20,469 OOS tuition and fees



University of Oregon

Eugene, OR

20,797 students

Public

\$30,888 OOS tuition and fees

Which school do you rank higher? Would it change based on this?

Oklahoma offers \$3,000-\$8,000 in scholarships / year.⁶

What do rankings really measure?



“What I find more than anything else is a measure of wealth: institutional wealth, how big is your endowment, what percentage of alumni are donating each year, what are your faculty salaries, how much are you spending per student.”³

Graham Spanier, President of Penn State

What do we mean by social fit?

- > Greek Life
- > Games and parties every weekend
- > Large city or small town
- > Number of students: 300 or 30,000?
- > Religious, social justice



- > Liberal Arts, Engineering, or Research focus
- > Commuter campus
- > Public or private
- > Conservative or Liberal



Where are your people?

What is a financial fit?

- > How much can the family afford to pay per student?
- > How many loans will the student take out?
- > Will the student qualify for merit scholarships?
- > What about athletic scholarships?
- > How much does it cost to go to UC versus CSU?

It is important for families to consider the financial fit along with academic and social fit.

Fill out the Net Price Calculator for every school on your student's list based on your Cost of Attendance.

Read the handout for examples!



Questions? Thank you!

❖ Bibliography

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3. Business Insider, “Malcolm Gladwell's Fascinating Theory On Why You Should Be A Big Fish In A Little Pond” 10/15/2013 <http://www.businessinsider.com/malcolm-gladwells-david-and-goliath-2013-10>
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5. University of Alabama website: <http://scholarships.ua.edu/types/out-of-state.html>
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