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Missouri Department of Higher Education

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Finding the Right Postsecondary Match

Presented by Timothy Hopkins
Research Associate-Financial Assistance and
Outreach

Begin with the student

- Students should take the lead:
 - What are they looking for in a college?
 - How does the student best think and learn?
 - What are their special talents?
- Present students with a list of college-choice considerations, such as:
 - Public versus private
 - Two year versus four year institutions
 - Single sex versus coed
 - Size: small, medium, or large
 - Location: urban, suburban, small town, rural, out of state, in state, or international
 - Academic offerings
 - Majors

MO Public vs. MO Private Universities

Public

- Estimated Average Cost of Attendance for In-District Full-Time, First-Time Undergraduates for 2010-11 \$19,686.33
- Programs range from open admission - highly selective
- Larger class size
- Relationships with professors is dependent upon size
- Academically competitive
- Extracurricular activities
- Diverse student population
- More campus locations

Private

- Estimated Average Cost of Attendance for In-District Full-Time, First-Time Undergraduates for 2010-11 \$33,333.65
- Highly Selective
- Smaller class size
- More personal relationships with professors
- Academically competitive
- More extracurricular activities and programs for students

MO Public 2 year vs. MO Private Not-for-Profit 2-Year

Public 2-Year

- Estimated Average Cost of Attendance for In-District Full-Time, First-Time Undergraduates for 2010-11 \$11,917.36
- Associate Degree
- Certificates
- Students graduate with less student loan debt
- Most programs are open admission
- Flexible schedule
- Career Ready

Private not-for-profit 2 year

- Estimated Average Cost of Attendance for In-District Full-Time, First-Time Undergraduates for 2010-11 \$29,460.87
- Associate Degree
- Certificates
- Students may graduate with more student loan debt
- Moderately Selective
- Flexible schedule
- Cottey College (Nevada, MO) and Wentworth Military Academy (Lexington, MO)
- Career Ready

Large College Pros and Cons

Pros

- Wide variety of majors and courses
- Well-stocked libraries
- Variety of housing opportunities
- Well-funded sports programs
- Wide range of academic and social opportunities
- Distinguished or famous faculty

Cons

- Large class sizes
- Many courses taught by teaching assistants, not professors
- Professors focused on their own research and graduate thesis projects—little student-teacher interaction
- Pressure on students to take initiative; to be go-getters
- More rules and procedures related to enrolling in and designing course study—red tape
- Potential of getting lost in the crowd

Small College Pros & Cons

Pros

- Small class sizes
- Hands-on learning opportunities
- Individually-designed majors
- Strong advising system; advisors know students very well
- Strong sense of community
- Professors, not graduate students, teach most courses
- Opportunity to get to know professors well

Cons

- Limited housing options
- Fewer majors to choose from
- Fewer physical resources
- Smaller libraries
- Fewer entertainment and social opportunities
- Less emphasis on sports programs

Going to College Out of State

Pros

- Explore and live in a new state.
- Increased responsibility
- Real world experience
- Student can establish new friendships that they never would have if they stayed home.
- Chance of a lifetime.
- Amazing story to tell after graduation
- Student may decide to remain in the state after graduation.

Cons

- Far away from friends and family
- Student may not know anyone when they first attend the college.
- All new surroundings (although that's not always a bad thing.)
- Student will have to learn all about a new state.
- You can't just come home in a few minutes, but instead more likely hours if not days.
- Once you're there, if you don't like it you will need to finish at least a semester.
- Higher tuition

Pros and Cons of Single Sex Schools

Pros

- Many students at single sex schools point to the lack of opposite sex as an enormous advantage
- Many students find it easier to focus on academics
- Others may find it easier to participate actively in classes
- Others enjoy the camaraderie that often connects classmates at single-sex schools.

Cons

- Real world comprised of a heterogeneous population
- It may prove difficult for students from single sex schools to adjust to a co-ed work atmosphere after they graduate.

Pros and Cons of Co-ed Schools

Pros

- Co-ed schools are likely to offer you more in the way of student diversity
- Having both men and women in classes allow students of both sexes to interact with a wider range of people and learn how to work with and talk to people of the opposite sex.

Cons

- The mixing of the sexes can serve as a disadvantage for some students
- Students who are intimidated by the opposite sex may find it difficult to participate in class at co-ed schools
- Some students simply find the opposite sex to be a distraction from their academic work.

College Selection Recap

- Step 1: Assist students in determining what they might like to study or major in at college.
- Step 2: Assist students in developing a list of criteria to evaluate and weed out colleges.
 - degrees offered
 - majors/minors
 - location (rural or urban setting)/distance from home
 - size of the student population (from small at 1,000 to large at 35,000+)
 - public vs. private
 - costs (tuition, room and board, etc.)
 - financial assistance packages

College Selection Recap Cont.

- Step 3: Help students compile a list of possible colleges and universities.
 - <http://www.nacacnet.org/PublicationsResources/steps/Pages/BestFit.aspx>
 - <http://missouriconnections.org/>
 - <http://mdhe.mo.gov/>
 - <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp>
- Step 4: Gather all your resources and information about each school the student is considering.
- Step 5: Visit the colleges on their list.
- Step 6: Make a final choice among the schools that accepted the student.
 - If you applied for financial aid, take a close look at the offers

Resources

- http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/college_pricing/highlights.pdf
- www.brainchild.org/publicORprivateU.html
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/where-to-start/150494.html#faq01>
- <http://www.universitylanguage.com/guides/co-ed-single-sex-schools/>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/campus-life/37003.html>
- <http://www.findcollegecards.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-going-to-college-out-of-state/>
- <http://www.universitylanguage.com/guides/co-ed-single-sex-schools/>
- <http://www.cottey.edu/>
- <http://wma.edu/>
- Best College For You: How to Find the Right Fit and Save Big Money (Barb Pytel)
- The College Solution: A Guide for Everyone Looking for the Right School at the Right Price (Lynn O'Shaughnessy)

QUESTIONS

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