

# College Fit

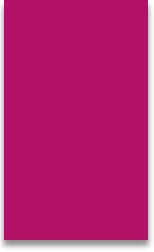
WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR HOME FOR THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS



# What IS **college fit?**

A school that is a good fit has many qualities that will make you happy and help you succeed – it's about finding a place that meets your emotional, educational, financial, and social needs.





So far in your search, what factors are you considering when you think about college?



# Factors That Influence Fit

size

housing options

location

makeup of student body

distance from home

available extracurricular  
activities

available majors & classes

admission requirements

cost & financial aid

campus atmosphere

# High School Diploma

- ▶ Certifies that a person has successfully completed high school
  - ▶ Careers: military (some positions), call center employee, carpenter, etc.
- ▶ Program Length: 4 years
- ▶ Median Annual Income: \$35,526\*

# Associate's Degree



- ▶ Awarded after completion of a program at a community college or vocational school
- ▶ Can be a certificate for a specific profession OR can be used as half of a 4-year degree
  - ▶ Careers: paralegal, dental hygienist, technician
- ▶ Program Length: 2 years
- ▶ Median Annual Income: \$41,496\*

# Bachelor's Degree



- ▶ Awarded after completing a course of study that usually includes a broad set of courses with a focus on a specific major
  - ▶ Careers: teacher, engineer, manager
- ▶ Program Length: 4 years
  - ▶ These four years are called your **undergraduate** years
- ▶ Median Annual Income: \$59,124\*

# Master's Degree



- ▶ Awarded on top of a bachelor's degree after the completion of additional targeted coursework
  - ▶ Careers: Clinical Social Worker, physician's assistant
- ▶ Program Length: 2 years (after undergraduate coursework)
  - ▶ These two years are called **graduate** school
- ▶ Median Annual Income: \$69,732\*



# Doctoral Degree



- ▶ The highest degree offered by colleges
- ▶ Students must research and publish a work on an original topic and defend their research in front of experts
  - ▶ Careers: lawyer, professor, doctor
- ▶ Program Length: 5-6 years (after undergraduate coursework)
  - ▶ These years are also considered **graduate** school
- ▶ Median Annual Income: \$84,396\*

# Ask Yourself...

**What type of degree do I want?**

**What are my long term goals?**

**What major(s) am I interested in?**

**What type of environment makes me comfortable?**

**What things are important to me outside class?**

# Key Things to Remember

There is no “right answer.”

- You can be happy at more than one place!
- There are multiple paths to most careers.

This is not your last chance to make a choice.

- If you hate it after a year, you can always transfer.
- Many careers require more than one degree or certificate - they don't have to be from the same place.

You are the only person who can decide what you want.

- Make choices based on what you want for your future, not on the people in your past.

## College Fit Practice

Your group will get five traits of a senior in high school, and you need to help your senior decide which college will work for them based on each trait.

Consider ALL elements of fit in order to choose the best college for your senior.

Be prepared to share your reasoning.