

Exploring College Fit With Students

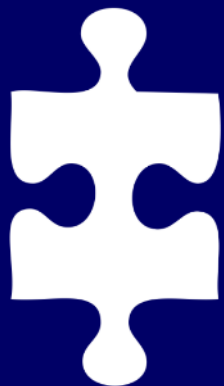


Free Resources: oregongearup.org

- Toolkits
- Publications (posters, brochures)
- Research Briefs
- Professional Development Lessons
- Calendar
- Newsletter

College Fit Toolkit

OREGON GEAR UP TOOLKIT



College Fit

exploring options that serve students' academic, social and financial needs & interests

REACHING HIGHER

RIGOR

RELEVANCE

RELATIONSHIPS

RAISING AWARENESS

7 8 9 10 11 12 13+

Parents Community Teachers



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College Fit

How well a college or university meets a student's **academic, social and financial** needs.

2.9

average number of
applications submitted

College Match

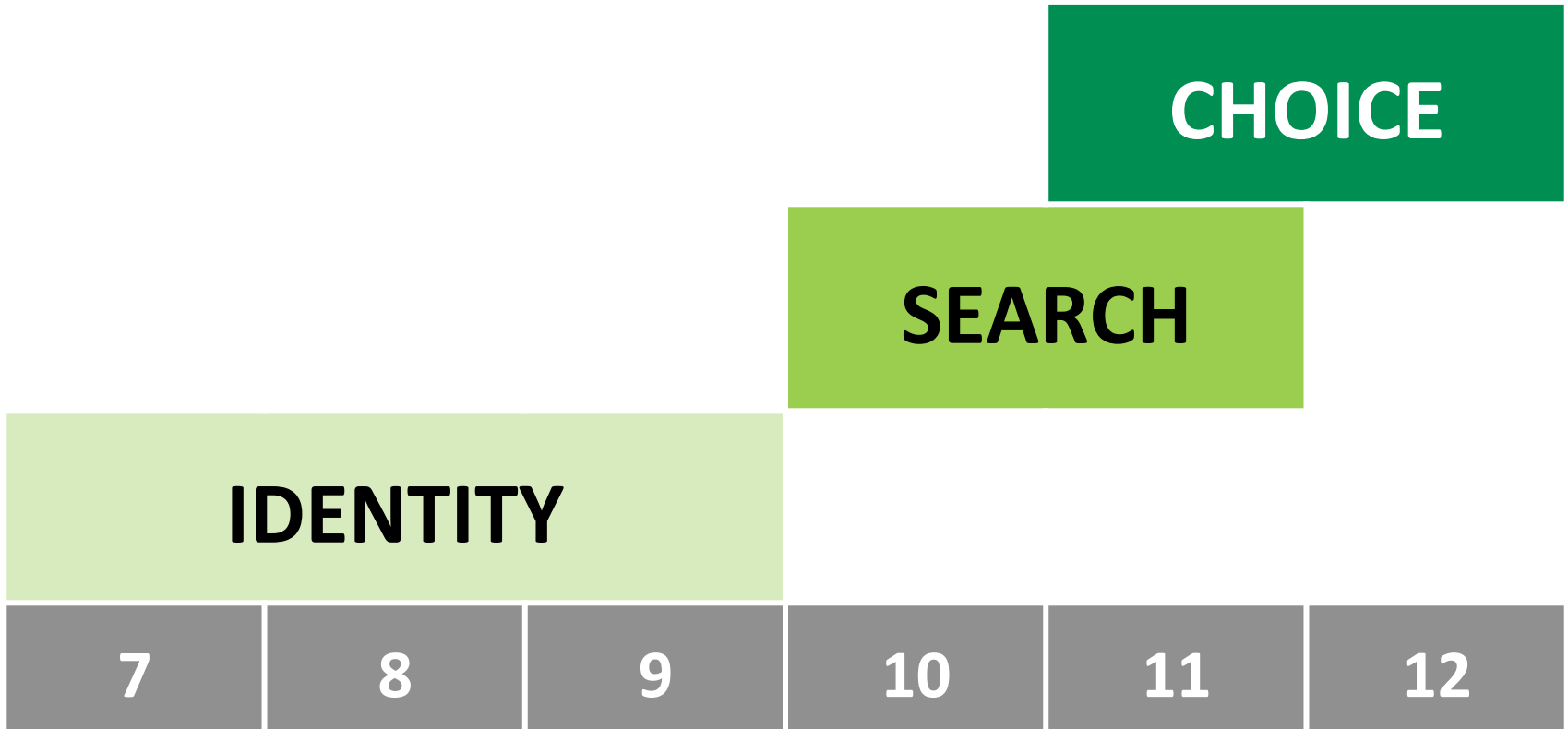
How well a student meets a college's needs or prerequisites.

53%

of low-income, high-achievers
don't apply to a selective college

[Hoxby & Avery, 2013](#)

College Choice Process



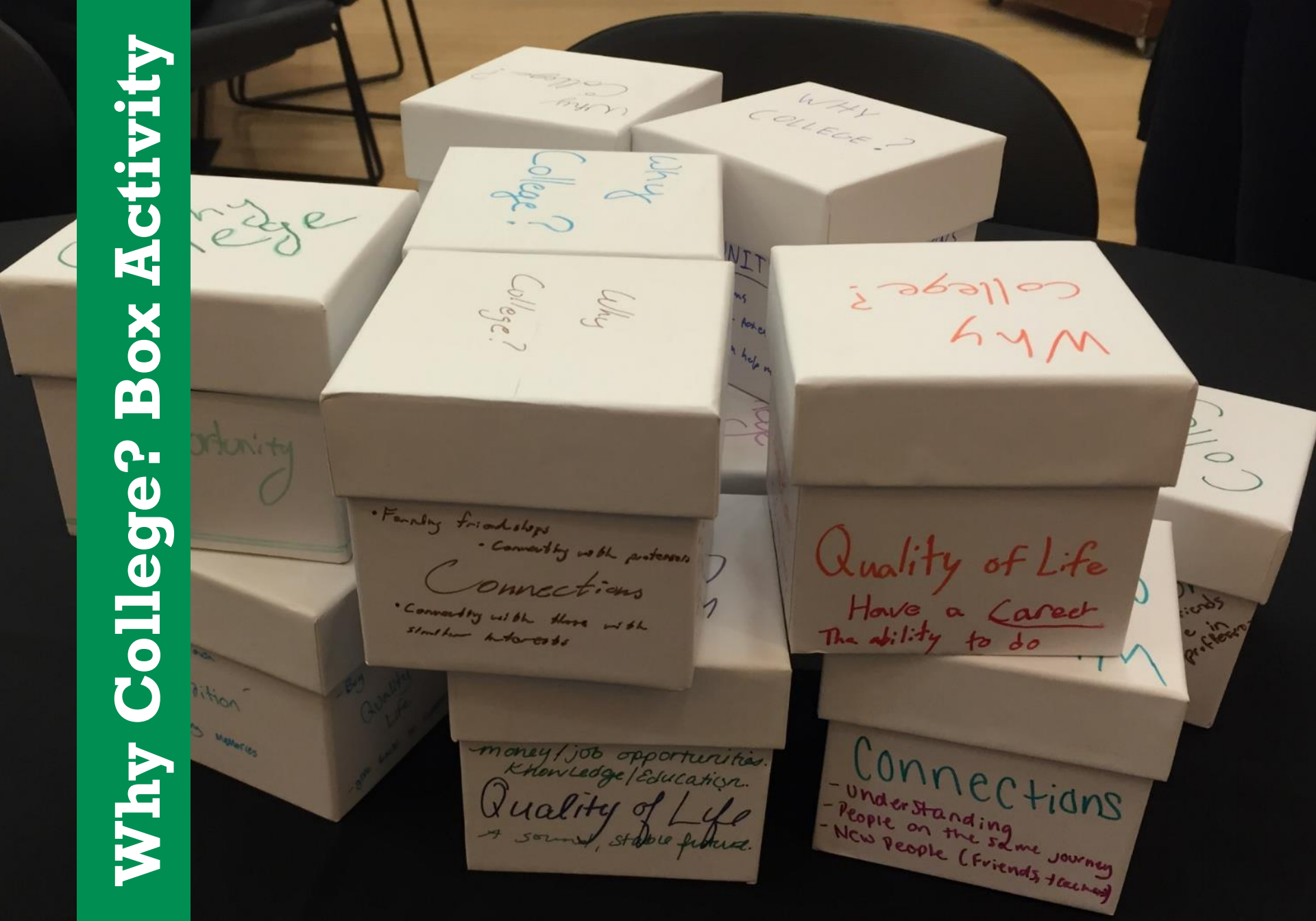
[Pathways to College Network, 2012](#)



**Which stage presents the
greatest challenge in
supporting your students?**

IDENTITY ACTIVITIES

Why College? Box Activity



- Family friendships
- Connectivity with professors

Connections

- Connectivity with those with similar interests

Quality of Life
Have a Career
The ability to do

money/job opportunities.
Knowledge/Education.

Quality of Life

A sound, stable future.

Connections

- Understanding
- People on the same journey
- New People (Friends, Teachers)

SEARCH ACTIVITIES

College Personality Quiz

College Purpose

	Very true	Sometimes true	Not sure	Not true
I believe one of the most important reasons to go to college is to get a job.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
I will enjoy college a lot more if I can see how my classes apply to real life.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
I see college more as a time for preparing for a career than for discovering my intellectual interests.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
One of the prime reasons to go to college is to meet people who will help me get a job later in life.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
TOTAL	=	+	+	+

What Your Score Means

13-24: You look at college as a vehicle for vocational preparation for a specific career. As such, you will want to explore professionally-related majors and seek colleges where you will be able to keep "on track" toward meeting the needs of your chosen career.

0-12: You are very open to the wide variety and extent of learning experiences that college may bring. You may see college as a time for experimenting with and testing a variety of ideas and career paths. You may want to explore traditional liberal arts colleges with many options in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.

	Very true	Sometimes true	Not sure	Not true
A college with a blend of studying and socializing is important to me (even if I'd need to sacrifice my grades a little bit to enjoy college).	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
There is more to college than going to class and doing homework.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
I am willing to study hard in college, but I also want time to be involved in activities and have time with my friends.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
As far as intelligence, I want the other students to be similar to me.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
TOTAL	=	+	+	+

What Your Score Means

13-24: You place priority on both academics and extracurricular experiences and you will want to choose a college where you will have a balanced life. You should consider colleges within which you are very likely to be similar academically to the majority of other students. Look carefully at the characteristics of students who enroll-what were their grade point averages? Test scores?

0-12: You place a higher priority on either academics or on social experiences. If you place high priority on academics alone, you may be comfortable at a college where most of your time will have to be devoted to academic pursuits. If you value social experiences highly, you will want to choose colleges where you are more likely to achieve easily-or where you are better prepared academically than the other students.

NEXT STEP: MAKE A COLLEGE LIST

Now that you've explored your preferences, use this information to create a list of college options that will fit your academic, social, financial and other needs.

Get started at: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

College Fit Game

College Fit Game
Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Student Body	Popular Majors & Programs	Popular Events & Activities	Cost & Financial Aid
Coasttown Community College 100 undergrads 53% Pell 67% White 19% Students of color* 1% International	Culinary arts Health professions Manufacturing Criminal Justice	Varsity athletics Video Game Club Analog/Jam art	OPEN ADMISSION * SAT/ACT NOT REQUIRED Cost of attendance: \$11,200
River Community College 500 undergrads			

ACADEMIC
You don't know what you want to major in.

ACADEMIC
You spend all your time reading and

SOCIAL
You love singing in your church

FINANCIAL
You have a college

Suburbia Private
2,000 undergrads

can't wait to get out

GPA Card

3.8

You have taken as many challenging classes as your high school offers.

You plan to major in psychology.

When you submitted your college applications, you forgot to change the names of the colleges to which you were applying.

You plagiarized your AP US History paper and got caught.

Types of Colleges Activity

Sample List of Colleges

OREGON			
2-Year	4-Year	4-Year	2-Year and/or 4-Year
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES (CC)	PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	PRIVATE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT UNIVERSITIES	PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
Blue Mountain CC Central Oregon CC Chemeketa CC Clackamas CC Clatsop CC Columbia Gorge CC Klamath CC Lane CC Linn-Benton CC Mt. Hood CC Oregon Coast CC Portland CC Rogue CC Southwestern Oregon CC Tillamook Bay CC Treasure Valley CC Umpqua CC	Eastern Oregon University LA Oregon Institute of Technology Oregon State University Portland State University Southern Oregon University LA University of Oregon Western Oregon University LA	Concordia University † LA Corban University † LA George Fox University † Lewis & Clark College LA Linfield College LA Marshall University † LA Multnomah University † NW Christian University † Oregon College of Art & Craft * Pacific NW College of Art * Pacific University LA Reed College LA University of Portland † LA Warner Pacific College † LA Willamette University LA	Art Institute of Portland * (2, 4) Carrington College (2) ITT Technical Institute (2, 4) Le Cordon Bleu (2) Oregon Culinary Institute (2) Phagan's School of Hair Design (2) Pioneer Pacific College (2)
OUT OF STATE			
2-Year	4-Year	4-Year	2-Year and/or 4-Year
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES (CC)	PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	PRIVATE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT UNIVERSITIES	PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
Blackfeet CC TCU Clark College College of Western Idaho Columbia Basin College HSI	Boise State University Evergreen State College LA Fayetteville State University HBCU Humboldt State University HSI LA Northwest Indian College TCU Ohio State University UC – Berkeley (Cal) University of Washington University of Wyoming Washington State University West Point (U.S. Military Academy)	Brigham Young University † Harvard College LA Howard University HBCU Julliard School * Loyola Marymount University † HSI Morehouse College HBCU 1M LA Mount Holyoke University 1F LA New York University Stanford University LA University of Southern California Whitman College LA	Full Sail University (2, 4) Grand Canyon University (4) Universal Technical Institute (2) University of Phoenix (2, 4) Wyotech (2)

TCU Tribal College or University

LA Liberal Arts

† Religiously Affiliated

HBCU Historically Black College or University

1 Single-Sex College (F=female, M=male)

HSI Hispanic-serving Institution

* Conservatory/arts college

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COLLEGE
It's not a dream, it's a plan.

CHOICE ACTIVITIES

Comparison Scorecard

College Comparison Scorecard

Compare colleges based on the characteristics that are most important to you. The scorecard helps you evaluate up to three schools side-by-side.

STEP 1: Take the “What’s my ideal college?” survey in the first column. Put a star in the second column next to the criteria that are most important to you.

STEP 2: Rate colleges that you visit in person or on a virtual tour based on how well they fit your criteria (see rating system to the right).

STEP 3: Total up the scores to see what college might be a great fit for you!

Rating System		
★ Important		Not as important
4	This college is a perfect match.	3
2	This college kind of meets my criteria.	2
0	This college doesn't have what I want.	1

What's my ideal college?

Circle the answer or answers that best apply to you.

	★	College #1:	College #2:	College #3:
I want a college that is located: a. Close to home b. As far away as possible c. Somewhere in between so I can easily get back for weekends or holidays				
I prefer a campus size that is: a. Small (under 5,000 students) b. Medium (5,000-15,000 students) c. Large (15,000+ students)				
I want the college to be in the: a. City b. Suburbs c. Country				
I want to be able to live: a. On campus, in a dorm or apartment b. Off campus, in an apartment or house c. At home				
I would prefer a college that is: a. Private (not a public or state school) b. Single-sex (only male, only female) c. Religiously affiliated d. Known for serving ethnic minorities (Tribal colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions) e. None of these are important to me				

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Campus Culture Detective

To find the best college for you, you'll be considering things like what academic programs or majors are available, location, cost, etc. It's also important to consider the campus culture, and how you'll feel among your classmates and peers. Some students are most comfortable in a college community that actively honors and supports their identities.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Paper and pen/pencil
- Computer with internet access
- College [viewbooks](#) or brochures

How can you determine if a particular college's culture will be a good fit for you? You may visit a campus, talk with students or staff members, read a brochure, view the college's website or social media accounts or hear about a college in the media. For each of these, you'll receive both indirect and direct messages about the college's culture.

STEP ONE: Choose a college/university.

Choose a college or university that you plan to visit, see at a college fair or want to research their website.

STEP TWO: Consider identity.

Everyone has many aspects to their identity that make them unique. The following list includes common identity categories – choose one category that is relevant and important to you in the college search process.

Ability/disability

Race/ethnicity

Religion/spiritual belief

Sexual orientation

Socioeconomic status

Language

Education level of family

Age

Gender

Other: _____

Discuss as a class why this might matter:

- What does it mean to be comfortable in an environment?
- How is your learning affected if you aren't comfortable?
- What are some differences between high school and college that might make students more or less likely to need or care about a supportive campus culture? (*Consider things like residential communities, being away from home, choice of courses, etc.*)

STEP THREE: Be a detective.

Develop a list of 5-10 questions that you want to find answers for related to your chosen identity category and think about where you might find that information. Consider the following examples:

COLLEGE FIT PLANNING GUIDE

COLLEGE-GOING IDENTITY			COLLEGE SEARCH			COLLEGE CHOICE		
GRADES 7-9		GRADES 10-12		GRADES 11-12				



COLLEGE FIT GAME



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