

College Fit Game

Purpose: Participants practice selecting good fit colleges based on a variety of academic, social, financial, and other needs. Using role play, participants will select one of seven colleges that will be a good fit for them based on several attributes and explain their reasons for choosing that particular college. They will reflect on how this experience may help their own college search and selection process.

Time: 30 – 45 minutes

Audience: 9th – 11th grade students and/or their parents

Materials:

- 1 copy of college profiles (p. 3) for every participant, printed
- 1 set of college posters (p. 4-10), printed and hung around the room
- 1 set of student attribute cards (p. 11-15) for every 10 participants, printed and cut. *Participants may also partner up so one set will serve 20.*
- 4 boxes or bags for student attributes

STEP ONE: Introduce the activity.

Discussion Questions

- What does “college fit” mean to you?
- What are characteristics of colleges that might make it a good “fit” for a student?
 - Some characteristics might be size, location, majors, diversity or the net price cost of attendance (tuition, housing, books, transportation and other costs minus financial aid)

Introduce the fictitious colleges that students will be selecting between by passing out the college profiles sheet and reading them aloud. Remind students that there are 4,000+ colleges in the country and these are just a handful of archetypal examples. Therefore, there is no perfect fit – there will always be several options that will allow students to be happy and successful.

Encourage students to “read between the lines” and describe what they can ascertain from a particular college based on the information provided (*e.g. the type of degrees offered based on the name, whether a school is public or private*). Encourage students to think about what type of student might be a good fit at each college.

STEP TWO: Play the game.

Give the following instructions to students:

This is a role play game. You will receive several attributes (*e.g. You played soccer all four years of high school*) that will describe your role and using those attributes, you will make decisions about which college would be a good fit. There will be four rounds and you will draw one or two attributes each round which may change the college you choose. Some attributes are deliberately vague so you should interpret as you see fit.

Round 1: Choose 2 **ACADEMIC** student attributes (select 2 pieces of paper from a box or bag). These may be information about how you learn best, what your interests are in and out of school or your academic preparation. Review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants that their academic interests and hobbies may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities. Also, “popular” majors don’t mean those are the only ones available.*

Round 2: Choose 1 **SOCIAL** student attribute. These may be your extracurricular activities at school, in the community or in your free time. Using both the academic attributes and the social attribute, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants that their extracurricular interests may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities.*

Round 3: Choose 1 **FINANCIAL** student attribute. These may relate to your family situation, scholarship potential, or how prepared you are to pay for college. Using the academic, social and financial attributes, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants to consider the net price of colleges and the percentage of a student’s financial need that the college provides with financial aid).*

Round 4: Choose 1 **OTHER** student attribute. These are family or personal circumstances that might influence your decision. Using all of the attributes selected, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your final choice with the group. *Remind participants to prioritize the circumstance relative to the other attributes. Encourage students to think about what additional information would be helpful for them to make their decision.*

STEP THREE: Reflect & discuss.

- What were you thinking about when you made your decisions?
- How did it change with additional attributes and information? Did you end up selecting different schools each round based on new information?
- Were there other colleges that could have been a good fit?
- What other information would have been useful to make the decision in the game? What other information would be useful in real life?

Encourage participants to consider graduation rates, full-time v. part-time students, the percentage of students who take out loans and their default rate, the type of degrees offered, and academic requirements (GPA, specific classes) for admission.

- Connect this to your own experience – think about what academic, social, financial or other special circumstances are a priority for you.

College	Admission	Student Body	Popular Majors	Popular Activities	Cost & Financial Aid
Coastside Community College <i>Coastside, Oregon</i>	Open admission SAT/ACT not required	1,600 undergraduates 53% receive Pell grants 67% White, 9% Latino, 1% Asian, 1% Black, 3% Native American, 4% Multiracial	Culinary arts Health professions Manufacturing Criminal Justice	Varsity athletics E-sports club Annual day of service	Cost of attendance: \$17,000 Average aid award: \$2,500 43% of need met Oregon Promise eligible
Little River Community College <i>Suburbia, Oregon</i>	Open admission SAT/ACT not required	8,500 undergraduates 46% receive Pell grants 62% White, 10% Latino, 6% Asian, 6% Black, 1% Native American, 3% Multiracial	General studies (A.A.O.T.) Mechanic & Repairs Business Cosmetology	Theater and dance Outdoor club Quarterly career fair	Cost of attendance: \$16,000 Average aid award: \$1,500 80% of need met Oregon Promise eligible
Big State University <i>College City, Oregon</i>	78% admitted SAT/ACT required	23,000 undergraduates 33% receive Pell grants 68% White, 7% Latino, 7% Asian, 1% Black, 1% Native American, 6% Multiracial	Engineering Pre-Med/Pre-Vet Business Psychology	ROTC Division I athletics Community service Pride parade	Cost of attendance: \$26,000 Average aid award: \$11,500 67% of need met
Farmville State University <i>Farmville, Oregon</i>	88% admitted SAT/ACT required	5,000 undergraduates 44% receive Pell grants 68% White, 9% Latino, 3% Asian, 4% Black, 2% Native American, 1% Multiracial	Business Education Visual & Performing Arts Criminal Justice	Intramural sports Student newspaper Study abroad Battle of the bands	Cost of attendance: \$23,000 Average aid award: \$10,000 55% of need met
Suburbia Private College <i>Suburbia, Oregon</i>	63% admitted SAT/ACT optional	2,000 undergraduates 21% receive Pell grants 65% White, 8% Latino, 6% Asian, 2% Black, 1% Native American, 1% Multiracial	International Studies English Visual & Performing Arts Biology	Intramural sports Student government Study abroad Luau	Cost of attendance: \$59,000 Average aid award: \$42,000 90% of need met
Metropolis Christian College <i>Metropolis, Oregon</i>	95% admitted SAT/ACT required	500 undergraduates 53% receive Pell grants 59% White, 11% Latino, 4% Asian, 9% Black, 1% Native American, 8% Multiracial	Business Education Theology Biology	Varsity athletics Community service Urban farm Winter concert	Cost of attendance: \$33,000 Average aid award: \$16,000 59% of need met
Capitol City University <i>Capitol City, Out-of-State</i>	11% admitted SAT/ACT required	6,500 undergraduates 14% receive Pell grants 48% White, 6% Latino, 20% Asian, 10% Black, 3% Native American, 2% Multiracial	History Engineering Biology Social Work	Division I athletics Greek life Gospel choir International food fair	Cost of attendance: \$68,000 Average aid award: \$44,000 100% of need met

Coastside Community College

Coastside, Oregon

Little River Community College

Suburbia, Oregon

Big State University

College City, Oregon

Farmville State University

Farmville, Oregon

Suburbia Private College

Suburbia, Oregon

Metropolis Christian College

Metropolis, Oregon

Capitol City University

Capitol City, Out-of-State

ACADEMIC

You are interested in engineering.

ACADEMIC

You love drama and art.

ACADEMIC

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

ACADEMIC

You want to be a teacher.

ACADEMIC

You are thinking about a career in the medical field.

ACADEMIC

You love working with your hands.

ACADEMIC

You are obsessed with animals.

ACADEMIC

You spend all your time reading and writing.

ACADEMIC

You love to cook for friends and family.

ACADEMIC

You want to be the boss.

ACADEMIC

You struggle with standardized tests.

ACADEMIC

You have top scores in math and science.

ACADEMIC

You got a 'C' in English junior year.

ACADEMIC

Your high school Spanish teacher is your favorite.

ACADEMIC

You got straight 'A's your sophomore year.

ACADEMIC

You've taken college courses in high school.

ACADEMIC

Your high school GPA is in the top 25% of your class.

ACADEMIC

You like working independently.

ACADEMIC

You learn best when participating in class discussions.

ACADEMIC

Your favorite class in high school is Physical Education (PE).

SOCIAL

You played soccer all four years of high school.

SOCIAL

You won your events in the state swim meet for the last two years.

SOCIAL

You love watching the Travel Channel.

SOCIAL

You love singing in your church choir.

SOCIAL

You're the president of your school's Gay-Straight Alliance.

SOCIAL

You served on your high school's Student Council for two years.

SOCIAL

You're a camp counselor during the summer.

SOCIAL

You dedicate 10 hours a week to your community's 4-H program.

SOCIAL

You play a lot of video games.

SOCIAL

You know all the best fashion blogs.

FINANCIAL

Your parents refuse to complete financial aid forms.

FINANCIAL

Your grandparents have agreed to pay for your college education.

FINANCIAL

You have a college savings account.

FINANCIAL

You'll need to work at least 10 hours a week during college.

FINANCIAL

You haven't thought about how to pay for college.

FINANCIAL

You won a full scholarship at Farmville State University.

FINANCIAL

You don't qualify for financial aid.

FINANCIAL

You have a twin who is also going to college.

FINANCIAL

Your parent just lost his/her job.

FINANCIAL

Your mom works at Metropolis Christian, so you can get discounted tuition.

OTHER

You can't wait to get out of Farmville.

OTHER

You just found out you're about to be a parent.

OTHER

Your parents are not supportive of your decision to go to college.

OTHER

You are responsible for the care of your three younger siblings.

OTHER

Your significant other will be living in Suburbia.

OTHER

Your brother is in college at Capitol City University.

OTHER

Your mother went to Suburbia Private College.

OTHER

You have always dreamed of going to Big State University.

OTHER

You visited Coastside Community College and loved it.

OTHER

You are undocumented.