

# COLLEGE SEARCH 101

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# YOU HAVE CHOICES

- THOUSANDS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S.
  - PUBLIC, PRIVATE, COMMUNITY COLLEGE



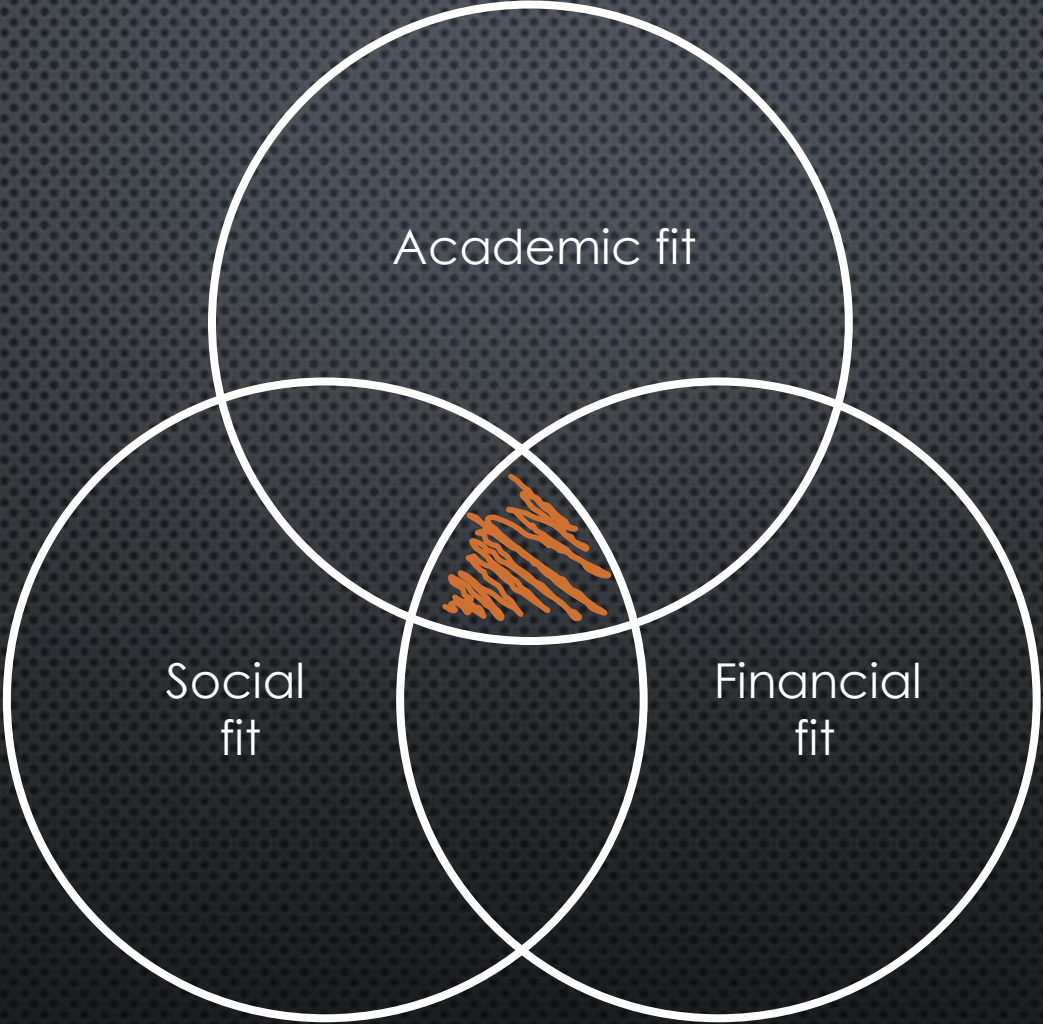
# WHERE TO BEGIN?

- NOT THE BEST SCHOOL—THE BEST FIT

# KNOW THYSELF

- ACADEMICS—CAREER GOALS, STUDENT PROFILE, ENVIRONMENT
- ACTIVITIES—CONTINUE IN COLLEGE OR NOT
- SETTING—RURAL, URBAN, SUBURBAN
- SIZE—SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE CAMPUS
- DISTANCE—CLOSE TO HOME OR FAR AWAY (ARE YOU SURE?)
- COST—NOT YET





Academic fit

Social  
fit

Financial  
fit

# YOU HAVE RESOURCES

- COLLEGE MAIL AND INSTITUTIONAL WEBSITES
- COLLEGE MATCH WEBSITES
- GUIDEBOOKS
- SCHOOL COUNSELORS
- ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS
- FRIENDS AND FAMILY



# ONCE YOU HAVE A LIST...VISIT!

- EXPLORE VISIT OPTIONS—REVIEW WEBSITE OR CALL
  - OPEN HOUSE, DEPARTMENTAL VISIT, ADMITTED STUDENTS ONLY, OVERNIGHT, ETC.
- STUDENTS ON CAMPUS?
- WEATHER!
- APPOINTMENT VS. WALK-IN
- ONE PERSON DOES NOT MAKE A CAMPUS

# APPLYING FOR ADMISSION – THE BASICS

- TIMELINE

- APPLY—FALL OF SENIOR YEAR
- MAY 1—NATIONAL DECISION DEADLINE

- PROCESS

- REGULAR, ROLLING, EARLY ACTION, EARLY DECISION
- SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS VS. SELF-REPORTED DATA



# APPLYING FOR ADMISSION – WHAT MATTERS

- ACADEMIC RECORD IS MOST IMPORTANT
  - COURSES TAKEN VS. OFFERED—AP, HONORS, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, FINE ARTS
  - GRADES, WEIGHTED VS. UNWEIGHTED, TEST SCORES
- ESSAY, PERSONAL STATEMENT, INDICATED INTEREST
- TALENT

# APPLYING FOR ADMISSION – TIPS

- WRITE DOWN USERNAMES AND PASSWORDS
- SEPARATE EMAIL ADDRESS FOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE?
- DON'T OVER-APPLY



# PAYING FOR COLLEGE – THE BASICS

- TWO TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
  - **GIFT ASSISTANCE**—MONEY YOU DON'T PAY BACK
    - SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS
  - **NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE**—PAID BACK OR EARNED LATER
    - FEDERAL LOANS—STUDENT AND/OR PARENT LOANS
    - FEDERAL WORK-STUDY
    - ON OR OFF CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT
    - PRIVATE LOANS

# PAYING FOR COLLEGE – START HERE

- FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)
- FAFSA.GOV
- OPENS OCTOBER 1 EVERY YEAR
- FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOPS



# PAYING FOR COLLEGE – KNOW THE DETAILS

## BURLINGTON COLLEGE

**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE EARNED  
A \$14,000 SCHOLARSHIP!**

TUITION AND FEES = \$42,000

ROOM AND BOARD = \$10,000

TOTAL COST = \$52,000

**OUT OF POCKET COST = \$38,000**

## CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE EARNED  
A \$3,500 SCHOLARSHIP!**

TUITION AND FEES = \$14,000

ROOM AND BOARD = \$10,500

TOTAL COST = \$24,500

**OUT OF POCKET COST = \$21,000**

# TAKEAWAYS

- VISIT CAMPUSES
- APPLY EARLY AND MEET DEADLINES
- ASK QUESTIONS WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
- MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION
- HAVE FUN!



THANK YOU

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