

# ***Handout A: Finding the Right College Match***

Please take some time to fill this out, and please be as direct and honest as possible. Know that there are no right answers, other than what you feel is true. This is a tool to help you figure out which colleges might best help you meet your personal, life, and academic goals. Additionally, your answers represent your thoughts today, and time and experience may change your mind.

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year (expected graduation) \_\_\_\_\_

## **COLLEGE**

Imagine your ideal college and check all that apply:

### *Size*

- ☐ **Very Large** (15,000+)    ☐ **Large** (7,500 - 14,999)    ☐ **Medium** (2,000 - 7,499)  
☐ **Small** (750 - 1,999)

### *Geographic Area*

- ☐ **Northeast**    ☐ **Midwest**    ☐ **Southeast**  
☐ **Southwest**    ☐ **West Coast**    ☐ **Other**

### *Location*

- ☐ **Rural**    ☐ **Small Town**    ☐ **City/Urban**

### *Type*

- ☐ **Liberal Arts** (Generally for four year undergraduate programs where students major in a particular focus while also receiving exposure to a wide range of academic subjects, including sciences as well as the traditional humanities such as literature, philosophy, and languages)



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- **Pre-Professional** (an educational program that prepares you specifically for a specific career - i.e., dental, hygiene, mechanics)
  - **Conservatory/Arts** (an institute of higher learning dedicated to the art of music and/or fine arts)
  - **Business** (Generally four year undergraduate programs specializing in business administration)
  - **Two-Year College** (Two year programs grant certificates, diplomas, and/or associate's degrees. The credits earned can potentially be transferred toward a four-year degree at a liberal arts college or university or the student can enter the workforce)

*Other Factors:*

- Clubs, activities and sports in which you would like to participate
- Are you interested in opportunities for international study?
- Is the college's distance from your home important to you? How close or far away should it be?
- Are you looking for a particular type of climate or scenery? Do you want access to outdoor recreation?
- Is the diversity of students important to you? Would you like to attend a school with people from other parts of the United States and from other countries?
- Would you prefer a residential college where most students live on campus and take part in college activities on the weekends? Or, a commuter college where students live off campus and commute back and forth to campus?
- Is the size of the town or city where the college is located important to you?
- Do you want to attend a college with a particular religious affiliation?

Let's assume you won't be able to find all of these characteristics in one university. Which one or two factors would be most important to you in your college selection?

1.

2.

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When you close your eyes and picture yourself at college, what do you see?

Please list any factors that will limit your search. (i.e., distance from home, cost, religious affiliation, diversity, size)

Below, list any colleges that you have already visited:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### **THE BIG PICTURE**

List four adjectives that you believe best describe you. Feel free to emphasize any that are particularly accurate.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What distinguishes you from your classmates?

What do you like most about yourself?

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## **ACADEMICS:**

What would you like to study in college? (If unsure, say "undecided")

Putting aside any long term objectives, what would you like to learn more about while in college?

How do you learn best? From reading, lecture, hands-on experience, and/or something else?

What has been your favorite class in high school? Why?

On average, how many hours do you study daily? Choose one option from the choices below that best represents your daily study hours:

☐ Less than 1 hour    ☐ 1 to 2 hours    ☐ 2 to 3 hours    ☐ 3 to 4 hours    ☐ 4 hours or more

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## **EXTRACURRICULAR**

How do you plan to spend the coming summer?

What social service (community service) projects have you undertaken since ninth grade?

How have any of these activities changed your attitude or perceptions about other people, or your personal goals?