

## lesson 27: types of colleges

**outcome:** *Identify colleges and postsecondary options that fit your values and goals.*

101

### **COLLEGE 101**

Your postsecondary options include:

- Trade and technical schools — offering certificates and on-the-job training
- The military — offering on-the-job and specialized training
- Apprenticeships — offering on-the-job training
- Community and Junior colleges — offering certificates and 2-year Associate degrees
- Colleges — offering 4-year Bachelor's degrees (and sometimes 2-year Associate degrees, too)
- Universities — offering 4-year Bachelor's degrees as well as "first professional degrees" (graduate degrees) and PhDs

Choosing a college can be difficult! Keep these college-lifestyle factors in mind:

#### **COST**

How much will it cost me to go to this school or college? How much is tuition (the cost of classes and fees)? How much is room and board (the cost of living on campus)?

#### **PROGRAM/MAJOR OPTIONS OFFERED**

Do they have a major that will lead to my career choice? Do they offer the type of degree I want (2-year? 4-year? Certificate? On-the-job training)? Do they offer a variety of choices in case I change my mind later?

#### **CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT**

How many students are on campus? Is it big and busy, or small and intimate? Is it located in the city or in the country? Near a beach or in the mountains? Could I be happy there? Could I learn there?

#### **SOCIAL LIFE**

What kinds of students will I be interacting with? What types of clubs, activities, and sports can I participate in? What is the vibe on campus?

#### **VALUES ALIGNMENT**

Do the college's values match my own?

## student — college matching

**DIRECTIONS:** Match each student below with the college that best fits his/her values.



### SCHOOL STATS

**GPA:** 2.0 (70)  
**SAT math:** 480  
**SAT critical reading:** 420  
**SAT writing:** 450  
**Class Rank:** 108th out of 197 students  
**Advanced Placement courses:** none

## Student 1: Pablo

### Interests

**SECONDARY INTERESTS:** Varsity baseball, part-time job at a clothing store, Class Vice-President, video games, and computers

**POSTSECONDARY INTERESTS:** Pablo wants to earn an Associate degree in computer technology. He may want to transfer later and complete his 4-year Bachelor's, but he is not sure.

### Values and Requirements

**COST:** Pablo is the oldest of three children being raised by a single mother. He is considered the "man of the family." Mom is a home health aide and struggles to make financial ends meet for her family. It's important that the school Pablo goes to is not too expensive.

**SIZE:** In elementary school, Pablo was diagnosed with a learning disability. He does much better academically when given one-on-one attention, so he wants to go to a small school.

**LOCATION:** Pablo is determined to be the first in his family to get a college education so that he can be a positive role model for his younger siblings. He is willing to go a little far, but not too far.



### SCHOOL STATS

**GPA:** 1.5 (63)  
**Class Rank:** 87th out of 98 students  
**SAT:** Never took the exam  
**Advanced Placement courses:** none

## Student 2: Michelle

### Interests

**SECONDARY INTERESTS:** School has never come easy for Michelle. She has always just scraped by. After school, Michelle works at her brother's auto shop, helping fix cars. She just bought her first lemon and is going to make it into a hot rod.

**POSTSECONDARY INTERESTS:** Michelle has never really considered going to college. She is looking forward to graduating from high school so that she can stop having to worry about writing papers and doing homework.

### Values and Requirements

**COST:** Michelle's parents are divorced and she lives with her dad. Her dad works the night shift as a corrections officer. They don't have a lot of money to spend on college, and Michelle doesn't really want to take out loans since school is just not her thing.

**SIZE:** Michelle doesn't mind going to a big school, as long as they have a program that she can get excited about. She works best on her own, anyway.

**LOCATION:** Michelle barely sees her dad and is used to being on her own. She's happy to go away for college if the program is right.



## Student 3: Kiara

### Interests

**SECONDARY INTERESTS:** Kiara is a teen mom with a six-month-old baby. She used to participate in several after-school clubs, but since her daughter was born, she has had to focus on her family.

**POSTSECONDARY INTERESTS:** Kiara has always loved school and done well academically. She dreams of someday being an elementary school teacher.

### Values and Requirements

**COST:** Her mother works in a factory and her father is a taxi cab driver. Her older sister watches Kiara's baby while Kiara is in school. Money is tight, so the college Kiara chooses must be inexpensive, or offer scholarships for young mothers.

**SIZE:** Because Kiara has a child, she thinks it's important that she go to a small school where there is a lot of individual attention. It would be good to go to a school where there are other mothers to network with.

**LOCATION:** Kiara has always dreamed of going away to college but is unsure how she will balance this with being a mom. She needs to stay close to home so her sister can help take care of her daughter while she is in class.

### SCHOOL STATS

**GPA:** 3.6 (90)

**SAT math:** 500

**SAT critical reading:** 550

**SAT writing:** 550

**Class Rank:** 42nd out of 319 students

**Advanced Placement courses:**  
Calculus, Biology



## Student 4: Todd

### Interests

**SECONDARY INTERESTS:** Drama Club, Student Council President, School Leadership Team, Varsity Softball, Yearbook Editor, part-time job on the weekend at a sporting goods store

**POSTSECONDARY INTERESTS:** Todd has always known he will go to college, but he is unsure about what to study. He loves reading and creative writing and thinks he may want to major in English, but there is also a part of him that is thinking he may go into medicine as well and may therefore major in Biology.

### Values and Requirements

**COST:** Todd lives with his mom and two younger brothers, one of whom is disabled. Todd's mom receives public assistance and never graduated from high school but encourages Todd to do his best.

**SIZE:** Todd likes school and is involved at his high school, so he is comfortable with going to a big or a small college. He is confident he can fit in anywhere.

**LOCATION:** Todd is undecided about how far away to go. He wants to be able to see his mom and brothers often, but he also wants to go to the best school he possibly can.

### SCHOOL STATS

**GPA:** 3.0 (85)

**SAT math:** 560

**SAT critical reading:** 620

**SAT writing:** 650

**Class Rank:** 59th out of 498 students

**Advanced Placement courses:**  
Calculus, Biology

## STUDENT HANDOUT

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### School Profile: Crest University

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**COST:** \$38,000/year (tuition + room and board)

**PROGRAM OPTIONS OFFERED:** 4-year Bachelor's degrees in a wide variety of subjects including literature, the arts, the sciences, and business

**CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT:** 500 miles away in a small, rural town. Campus is green with many parks and trees. Difficult to get around without a car.

**SOCIAL LIFE:** 4,500 students from different backgrounds. Has a special focus on diversity. Most students participate in clubs or intramural sports.

**VALUES ALIGNMENT:** Private college, funded in part by members of a religious order. Special financial aid programs for students from low-income backgrounds. Focus on social justice and helping others.



### School Profile: Johnson State College

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**COST:** \$17,000/year in-state (tuition + room and board)

**PROGRAM OPTIONS OFFERED:** 2-year Associates, 4-year Bachelors, Masters, and PhDs in a wide variety of subjects including literature, the arts, the sciences, and business. Also offers technical programs like auto body mechanics and computer technology.

**CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT:** 2 hours from home in a midsize city. Buses connect the campus to your hometown.

**SOCIAL LIFE:** 25,000 students including those who live on campus and those who commute. Students are part-time and full-time. Not everyone participates in campus events. Some nontraditional students (parents, working adults, etc.).

**VALUES ALIGNMENT:** Public university, open to anyone. Family housing program for students who are married or have kids. Very diverse campus with students from all over the world.

## STUDENT HANDOUT

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### School Profile: East County Community College

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**COST:** \$3,000/year (tuition only)

**PROGRAM OPTIONS OFFERED:** Certificate, 2-year Associates, 4-year Bachelors (IF students transfer to Johnson State College after first 2 years). Programs and majors are mostly technical and hands-on, including computer technology, auto body mechanics, and medical assistant programs.

**CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT:** 15 minutes from home, accessible via public transportation. Located in a large office building downtown. Limited outdoor space.

**SOCIAL LIFE:** 7,000 students, all of whom commute. No one lives on campus. Most students have jobs outside of school, so they do not participate in many activities. Students come to learn and then go home.

**VALUES ALIGNMENT:** Community college, open to anyone. A wide variety of hands-on learning programs. Your work can transfer to either Crest University or Johnson State College.



### School Profile: Aim Career and Technical School

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**COST:** \$1,200/year (tuition only)

**PROGRAM OPTIONS OFFERED:** Certificate, 2-year Associates (in some programs but not all). Programs and majors are only technical and hands-on, including computer technology, auto body mechanics, and medical assistant programs.

**CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT:** 15 minutes from home, accessible via public transportation. Located in a large office building downtown. No outdoor space, no cafeteria, no study space, no library.

**SOCIAL LIFE:** 1,500 students, all of whom commute. No one lives on campus. Most students have jobs outside of school, so they do not participate in many activities. Students come to learn and then go home.

**VALUES ALIGNMENT:** Career and technical training school, open to anyone. Have many 6-month to 2-year technical & certificate programs. Work does not transfer to any of the other colleges, however. Excellent job placement assistance. Perfect for students who want to be prepared for their career quickly.



# college lifestyle factors: values and requirements

**DIRECTIONS:** Identify what matters to you when it comes to choosing a college.

## My values today:

What matters most to you? Choose your top two college factors below, and explain why they are important to you:

- |                                                  |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social life      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program options offered | <input type="checkbox"/> Values alignment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campus environment      |                                           |

## My College Requirements

For each college characteristic below, check off your minimum requirement and explain why.

### **COST/TUITION**

- |                                              |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$2,500   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$15,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 to \$5,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 to \$20,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 to \$7,500  | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$20,000        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$7,500 to \$10,000 |                                               |

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

### **PROGRAM OPTIONS OFFERED:**

#### **Type of College**

- Vocational or technical programs that typically last from a few weeks to just under two years
- Associate degree programs which are generally two years and are usually found at two-year colleges
- Bachelor's degree programs which are typically four years in length and can be found at four-year colleges and universities
- Graduate degree programs leading to a Masters or PhD and which generally require an undergraduate degree and a minimum of one year

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Type of Degree**

- |                                                    |                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificates              | <input type="checkbox"/> First Professional (Master's) degrees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-year Associate degrees  | <input type="checkbox"/> PhDs and Second Professional degrees  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-year Bachelor's degrees |                                                                |

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Major I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

# STUDENT HANDOUT

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## CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

### Geographic Location

- West
- Northeast
- Southeast
- Midwest
- American Protectorates (Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Virgin Islands)

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### School Setting

- Major city (population 300,000 or more) or within its metropolitan area (approximately 25-mile radius)
- Small/medium city (population 75,000 to 299,999) or within its metropolitan area (approximately 15- to 25-mile radius)
- Large town (population 25,000 to 74,999) or within a 10-mile radius of a large town
- Small town (population 5,000 to 24,999) or within a 5-mile radius of a small town
- Rural community (population under 5,000) or near a rural community

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of environment would be best for you to learn in? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SOCIAL LIFE

### Size

- Extra small — under 2,500 students
- Small — 2,500 to 5,000 students
- Medium — 5,000 to 10,000 students
- Large — 10,000 to 15,000 students
- Extra large — 15,000 to 20,000 students
- Super-sized — over 20,000 students

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of students would you like to be around? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What activities would you want to be able to do while in college? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Excerpts reprinted courtesy of XAP.*