

The College Lab

Background

No doubt you understand the importance of higher education. After all, higher education is touted to lead to several benefits, including financial security and a prosperous career. However, the role of education in the 21st century plays a big part in other aspects of your life, like improving the overall quality of your life, health, and having more opportunities present themselves to you.

Today, more Americans are seeing the significance of a college education and its role in providing better job opportunities and a comfortable lifestyle. In fact, about 84 percent of Americans claim that higher education is very or extremely important to get ahead in life. Among these Americans, 66 percent of those who didn't graduate from college say they wished they had, and 62 percent feel that going to college would have improved their present standard of living significantly.

Graduates who have a higher education typically have more jobs open to them than those who don't further their education after high school. College graduates also usually earn more money than non-graduates. A study conducted by the US Census Bureau found that earnings increased with increased levels of education, too, with respect to every successive degree – with the exception of doctorate degrees.

Considering your current enrollment in Advanced Placement Chemistry, it is assumed that you will pursue higher education following the successful completion of your high school career. It is with this assumption that you will investigate different colleges to guide your path to choosing that institution that is best for you.

Purpose

- To research higher education institutions to determine a best fit from a variety of factors.

Procedure

1. For this lab, you will be provided with two tables that you will be using to input 15 factors about 15 colleges that you are interested in and rank these factors in terms of desirability and applicability to determine the best fit for you. You may choose to do more than 15 schools, receiving extra credit for each additional school researched.
2. You will begin by selecting your 15 schools that you are going to be comparing. These 15 schools should be those that you plan to apply to. If you don't have a full 15 schools or aren't sure where to begin, I highly recommend completing a College Search on the College Board website.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

This questionnaire allows you to input some information about yourself into a set of criteria so that the website may offer you some college options. This is SUPER helpful if you don't know where to start. I know that you may not plan to apply to fifteen schools, but this lab is built to help you find schools that may meet your needs and eliminate schools that may not meet your needs.

3. Once you've selected your 15 schools, you will make an 8.5" x 11" poster that will eventually be put into the front sleeve of your binder. The poster should include your name in the center of the poster and all 15 college logos that you will be using. The logos can be any of the university's logos as there may be more than one. This poster must be in color.

4. Now that you have your 15 schools selected, you will hypothesize which school is going to be the best fit. Your hypothesis does not need to be complicated, but it does need to make a claim as to which school you believe you belong.
5. Now that we've completed the fun part, it's time to get down to the nitty gritty. The factors that you will be looking at to determine your best fit should be gathered from both The Princeton Review (P) and College Board (C) websites.

In your first table, you will write all your college selections in the appropriate cells. You will select 15 factors that you would like to compare, although if you'd like to compare more, though you may choose to create a chart with 20 or 25 factors. If you choose to research and compare more than 15 factors, extra credit will be awarded. You will fill in the appropriate information about each factor in the appropriate cell. If the information does not fit in the cell or there is a special note that you'd like to make about the factor, make a note in the cell where I can find this information, and you will put it on the back of your table.

Once you have completed the first table, you will study the table carefully. On the second table, you will fill all of your college selections in the same order that you did on the first table. You will once again write the factors that you selected in the first table, but this time, you will rank each college in order of desirability from 1-15, 15 being the lowest rank. If any factors are tied (e.g. – UF is urban and FSU is urban), you may choose the school that you prefer to be higher ranked. Once you have ranked each factor, you will add up each school to get a total. The lowest score will be the top ranked school. You will include these rankings in your table. **IMPORTANT:** You may already have an idea of what school is best for you but do your best to be scientifically objective. Complete your rankings, not based on what school you want to attend, but on how well these factors mesh with you and your wants and needs.

Some factors that you may care to consider when selecting a college are below, but there are plenty of other factors to consider that you may care to research:

- Acceptance Rate (PC)
 - Open Admission
 - Less Selective (>75%)
 - Somewhat Selective (50-75%)
 - Very Selective (25-50%)
 - Most selective (<25%)
- GPA (PC)
- Test Scores (PC)
- Financial Aid (PC)
- Admission Factors (PC)
- Student to Faculty Ratio (PC)
- Most Frequent Class Size (P)
- Most Frequent Lab Size (P)
- Professors Interest Rating (P)
- Professors Accessible Rating (P)
- Degrees Offered (PC)
- Majors (PC)
- Career Services (P)
- Academic Rating (P)
- Tuition (PC)
- Financial Aid Rating (P)
- Total Undergraduate Enrollment (PC)
 - Small (<2000)
 - Medium (2000-15000)
 - Large (>15000)
- Residential or Commuter Campus (C)
- Setting (C)
 - Rural
 - Suburban
 - Urban
- Male to Female Ratio (PC)
- Demographics (PC)
- Quality of Life Rating (P)
- Housing Options (PC)
- Student Activities/Extracurricular/Intramurals (PC)
- NCAA Sports (PC)
- Student Services and Supports (PC)
- Green Rating (P)
- Career Services (PC)
- Return on Investment (ROI) & Outcomes (P)
- ROI Rating (P)
- Distance from Home
- Rankings & Lists (P)

6. On the same sheet that you completed your hypothesis, you will formulate a conclusion as to what school is the best fit, based on that data you've collected. In this section, you will provide evidence to support your conclusion. Does this conclusion correspond with your hypothesis? You will also provide commentary as to what these results mean for you and to you as you prepare to apply to college. Describe any unexpected or surprising results from this experiment. Finally, describe any sources of error that may have occurred (bias, random school, tied rankings, etc.)

Disclaimer: This project is not meant to tell you what you can and can't achieve, where you can and can't go. This project is meant to be a guide for you as you prepare to make one of the most important decisions of your life.

Project Requirements

1. This project will be due on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**, but you may submit your project on **Friday, September 1, 2022** for 10 points of extra credit. This project should be **PAPER CLIPPED** upon submission. Projects submitted after the due date will not be accepted.
2. Your poster should be completed by computer and be the front page of your submission.
3. Your two tables do NOT need to be typed, but they do need to be completed fully and neatly. Illegible information is subject to a minimum 10% deduction. These two tables will be your next two pages of your submission.
4. Your final page will be your hypothesis and conclusion. This page must be typed or will be subject to a 10% deduction.

Lab Report : The College Lab

Teacher Name: **Jared Schwartz**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	30	20	10	0
Poster	Poster is unique and creative and includes all 15 schools and student's name in the center of the poster.	Poster is satisfactory and includes all 15 schools and student's name in the center of the poster, but lacks flair	Poster is missing information, sloppy, irrelevant, etc.	No poster.
Tables	Tables are complete, highly relevant, and very neat. There is evidence that the student took time to produce this data.	Tables are complete, relevant, and mostly neat. The student adequately produced this data.	Tables are incomplete, irrelevant, sloppy, etc. There is evidence that the student did not meet the requirements.	No tables.
Hypothesis/Conclusion	Hypothesis and Conclusion are thorough. There is strong evidence, relevant commentary, and applicable discussion of results and error.	Hypothesis and Conclusion are mostly thorough. There is evidence, commentary, and discussion of results and error.	Hypothesis and Conclusion are incomplete, vague, or irrelevant. There is evidence that the student did not meet the requirements.	No Hypothesis/Conclusion.

Score: ____/90