

Find Your Fit Activity

Shuffle, Sort and Stack

S **TUDENTS** who select good-fit educational pathways after high school earn degrees and credentials at higher rates. But deciding which colleges and universities to apply to can be daunting. With thousands of options to explore, it's helpful if students begin their search reflecting on which attributes of a postsecondary experience are most important to them. This lets students conduct a more targeted search and ultimately select schools that are a solid match and fit.

Activity Setup

The following activity has been adapted from Finding the Fit to help young people consider and prioritize school factors. This activity provides great preparation for college fairs and campus visits, and is well suited to grades 9-12. It can also be used to introduce middle school students to key postsecondary terms.

To prepare, print pages 3-10 double sided, then cut out the cards and shuffle them. Each color of card represents a fit dimension: accessibility, culture and climate, cost, employable majors, and student support services. If you prefer to print in black and white, you can use the card's symbol to determine the characteristic being considered.

Shuffle, Sort and Stack

Each card contains a characteristic that you might consider when choosing a college.

Read the characteristic on a card and consider how much you care about the colleges you apply to having that characteristic (definitely want, don't care, or definitely do not want). Place the card in the corresponding pile, based on your response. Repeat for the remaining cards.



You may use the circles on the next page to form your piles.

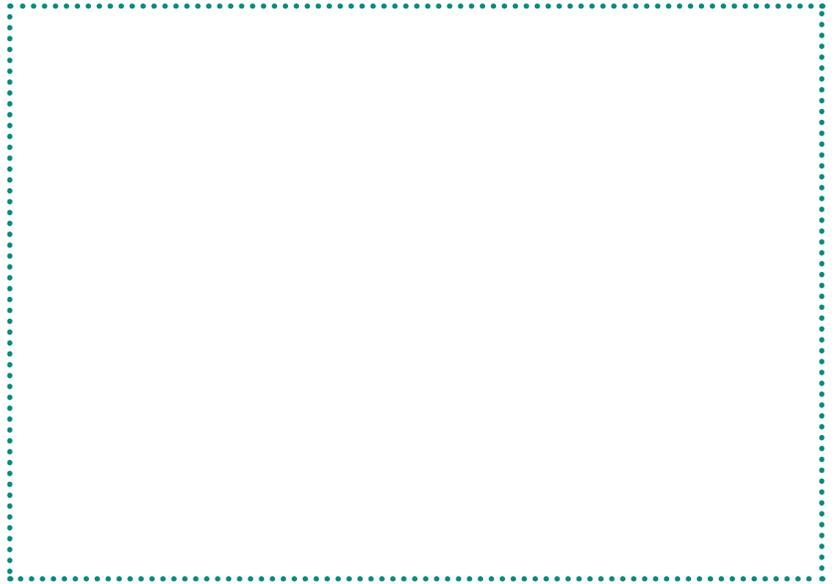
After you are done sorting the cards, turn them over and count how many you have in each pile.

Record the numbers in the table below.

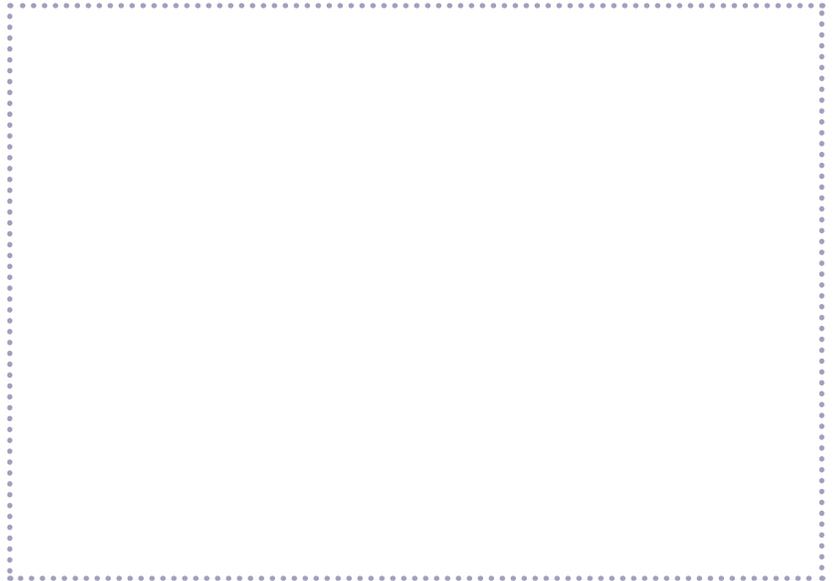
ACCESS Category	Definitely Want	Don't Care	Definitely Do NOT Want
Accessibility			
Culture/Climate			
Cost			
Employable Majors			
Student Support Services			

§ Adapted from *Finding the Fit*: a college selection toolkit produced by Abt Associates for students, counselors and parents.

**Definitely
Want**



Don't Care



**Definitely
Do NOT
Want**





Accessibility



Accessibility



Accessibility



Accessibility



**Employable Majors/
Academics**



**Employable Majors/
Academics**



**Employable Majors/
Academics**



**Employable Majors/
Academics**



Most students do not
live on campus



Is close to home



Is in an
urban location



It is easy to transfer
to another college



Courses are likely
to be challenging



Has the major I currently
want to pursue



The high demand for graduates is
supported by the availability of
internship opportunities
connected to my major



Has a wide variety
of course offerings



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



Culture/Climate



My academic profile (SAT/GPA) is similar to that of the freshman class



Sports and/or fraternities/sororities are a big deal



Is a single-gender school (e.g., a women's college)



More than half of students graduate in 4 years



Has small classes



Is a minority-serving institution (e.g., a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Hispanic-Serving Institution or a Tribally Controlled College or University)



Freshmen take a "Succeeding in College" (freshman orientation) course



Has a large proportion of minority students



**Student Support
Services**



**Student Support
Services**



**Student Support
Services**



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Services**



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**Student Support
Services**



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Services**



**Student Support
Services**



The majority of students return
after freshman year



There is an office dedicated to
supporting First Gen students



Tutoring is widely available
and easy to access



New students get a peer mentor



Has a Student Support
Services program



Has great mental health support



Has a free writing lab
with convenient hours



Has a strong alumni network

**\$
Cost**



I would qualify for merit-based aid



Students graduate with lower than average debt



Most students have Pell grants



The posted sticker price on the website seems affordable



Most students receive financial aid



Many students receive grants or scholarships from the college



Work-study job opportunities are easily found



It is easy to apply for financial aid