

College Planning Workshop

How to Select
Your College



Selecting a College is One of the Three Most Difficult Decisions

 Selecting Your Wife or Husband

 Selecting Your College

 Buying a Home



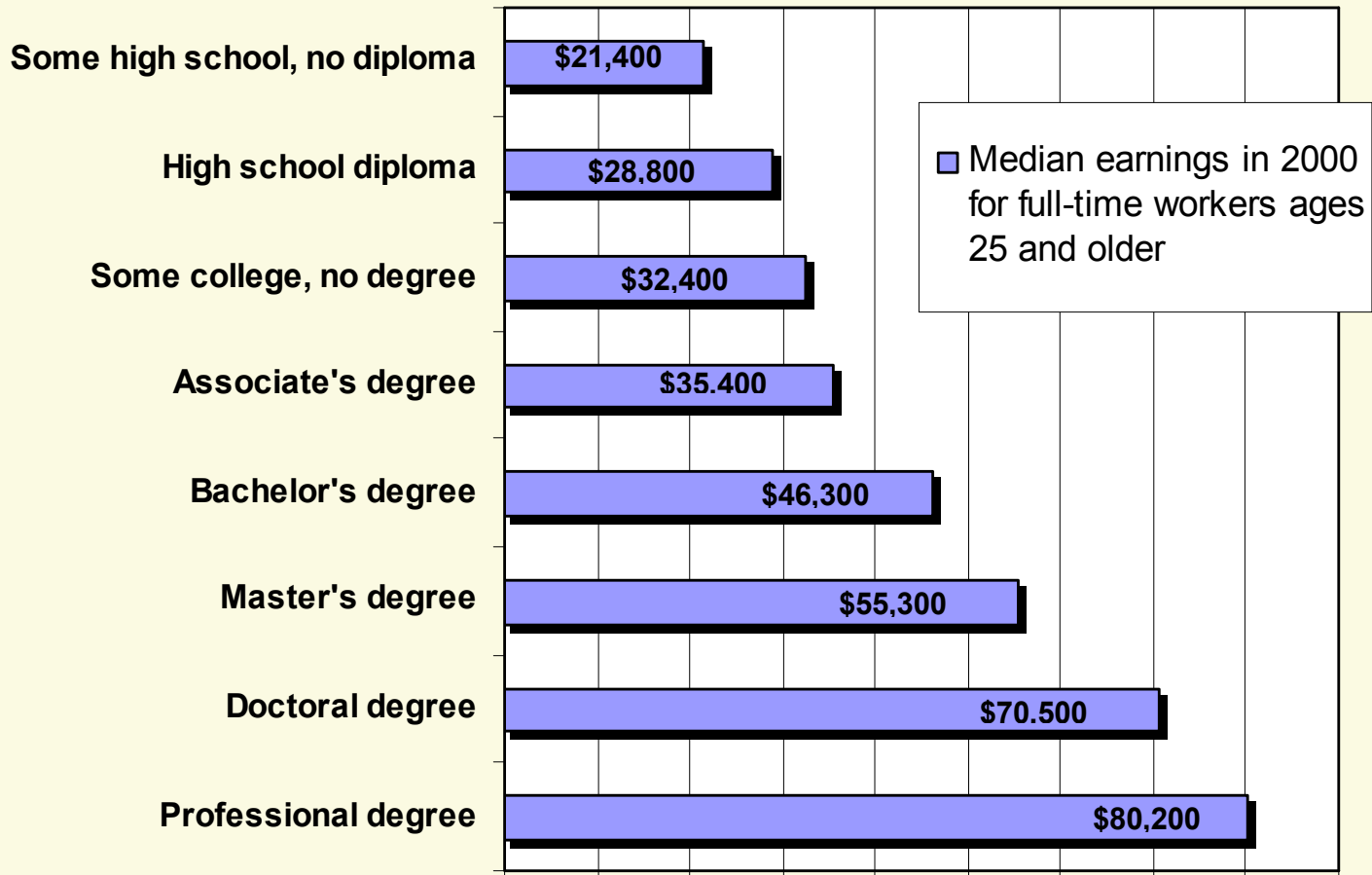
Questions To Ask/Consider About College

Analyze Yourself & Determine Your Needs for a College:

- 📄 What are your goals? (career/personal)
- 📄 Why do you want to go to college?
- 📄 What do you expect for the next four to five years?

MORE EDUCATION Can Equal

MORE INCOME



Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

Factors Most Noted in Considering a College

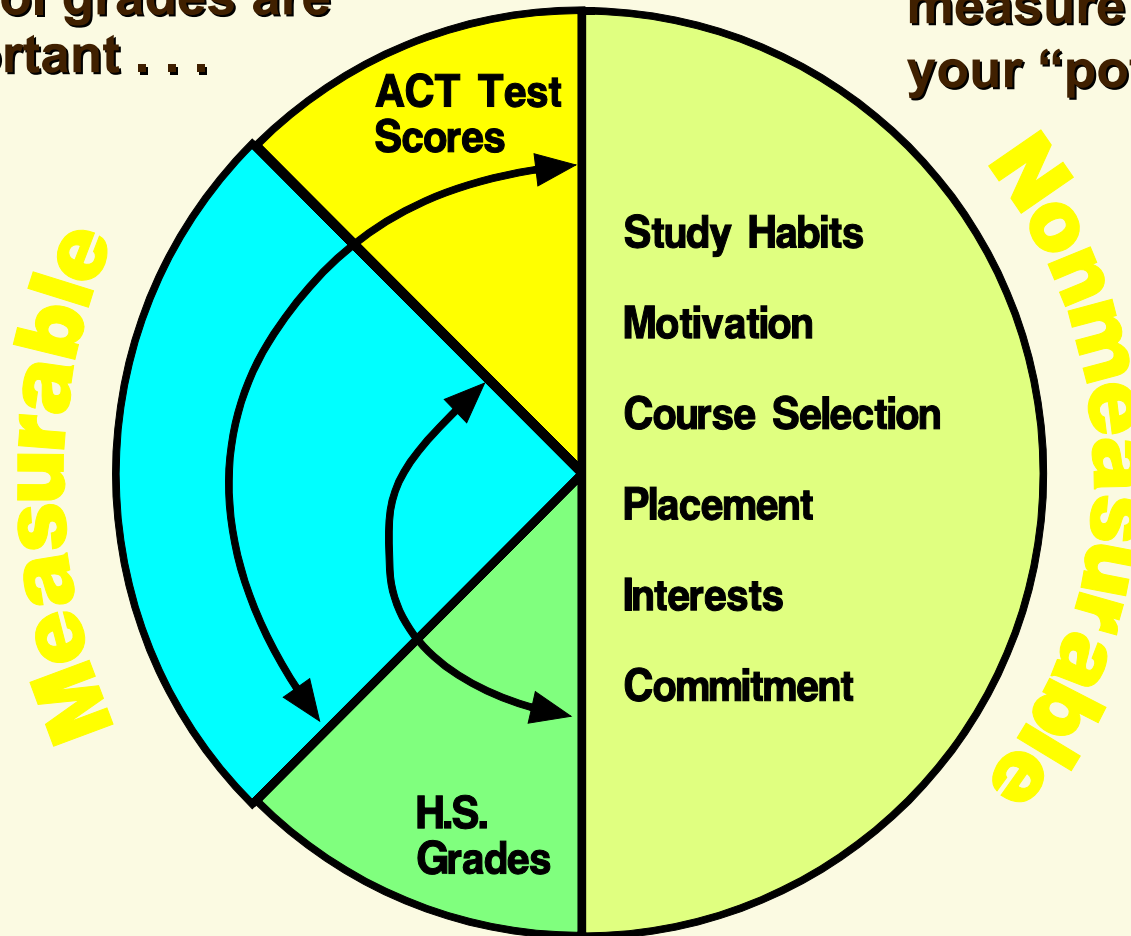


- 📄 Majors & Career Programs Offered
- 📄 Location/Campus Characteristics
- 📄 Campus Size/Safety
- 📄 Characteristics of Enrolled Students
- 📄 Selectivity
- 📄 Cost

College Success Factors

Test scores and high school grades are important . . .

. . . However, they measure only part of your "potential"

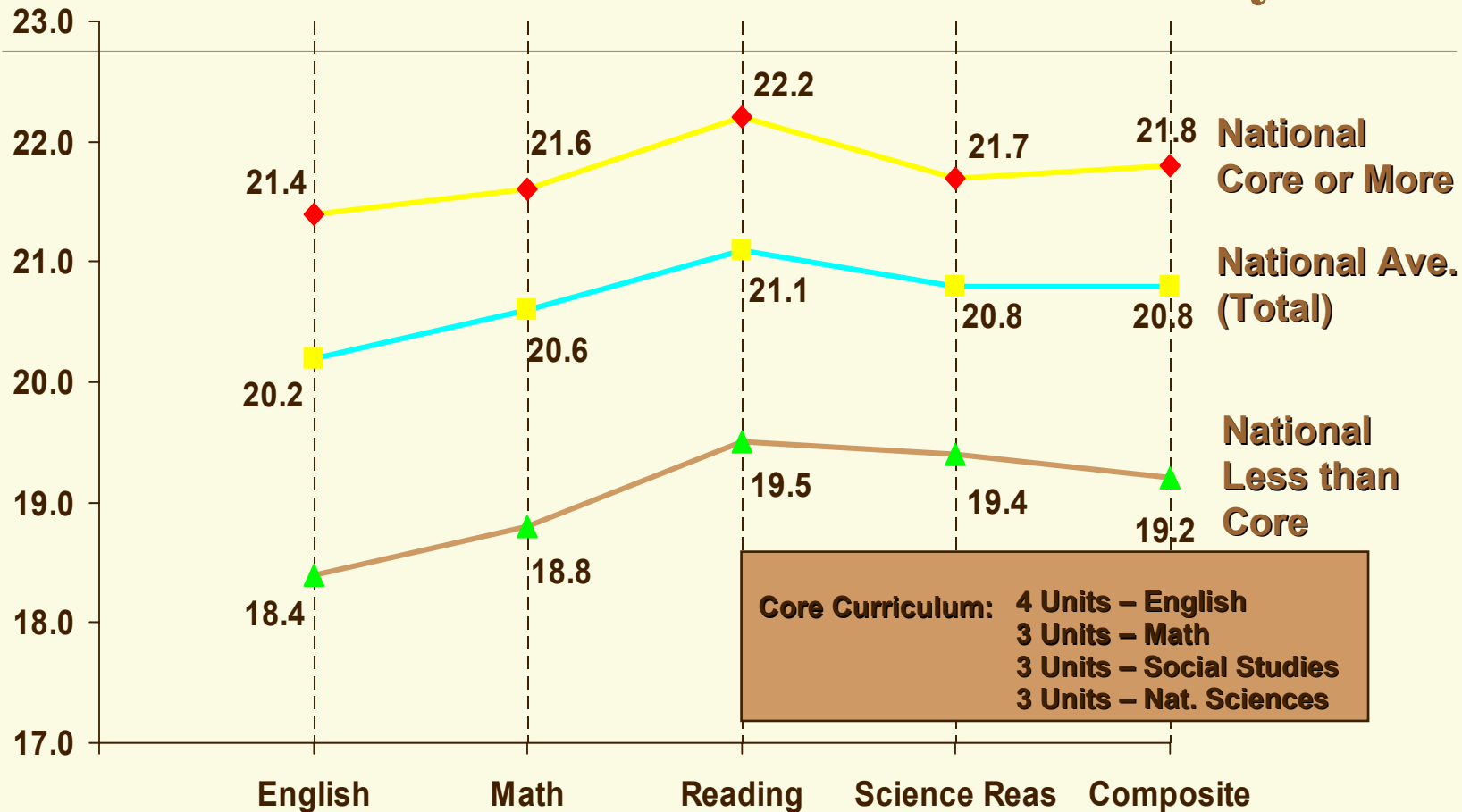


BE PREPARED: Complete a College Preparatory Curriculum

- ✓ 4+ units English
- ✓ 3-4 units Math
- ✓ 3-4 units Science
- ✓ 3-4 units Social Studies
- ✓ 1-2 unit Visual-Performing Arts
- ✓ 2-3 units one Foreign Language

“CORE = Better SCORE”




Core Curriculum/ACT Score Study




Source: 2002 ACT High School Profile

BE PREPARED:


Take the ACT or SAT Test

-  Try to take the ACT or SAT at least once before the end of the Junior year.
-  National test dates are usually in October, December, February, April & June.
-  **REGISTER AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO TEST DATE!** (late, on-site, and campus residual tests are available)

LOCATION

 +70% of students attend a college within 130-150 miles of their home

 +80% of students attend a college within their home state CHE

 Students & Parents claim the campus visit/tour most important in the college selections process

STAMATS College Bound Student Survey, 2001

Chronicle of Higher Education, 2002 Almanac

COST

Financial Questions To Ask/Consider

- 📄 What are rates for tuition, room/board, books and student fees?
- 📄 What types of scholarships and financial aid are available?
- 📄 How much do costs increase from year to year?
- 📄 Are deposits for enrollment and housing refundable?
- 📄 Are student jobs available both on and off campus?
- 📄 How much do books cost? Do they offer a rental program for books?

CAMPUS SIZE:

Questions to Consider

- How many students are enrolled at the campus? (undergraduate & graduate)
- What is the average class and lab size?
- How many students are enrolled in the largest classes?
- What is the faculty/student ratio and % of faculty with terminal degrees?
- Do graduate students teach classes?

Finding the Major

Questions To Ask /Consider About College

- 📄 Does the college offer my desired major or area of study?
- 📄 Does the college offer my desired after class activities?

CAMPUS CHARACTERISTICS

Questions To Ask /Consider About College

- ☞ What service can a student receive if undecided about a major?
- ☞ What is the computer availability?
- ☞ What are the average ACT/SAT scores for incoming freshmen/first year students?
- ☞ What % of the student body joins fraternities and sororities, if they exist?

Questions To Ask/Consider

Student Body:

- Is the school coed or single sex?
- What are the % of males and females?
(2001, 56% of the nation's college students were female, 57% female in Missouri)
- What health and support services are available? (tutoring, hospitals, day care, vocational guidance, etc.)
- How diverse is the student body?
- Are organizations available for minority students?

Room & Board Questions To Ask/Consider

☞ What are the housing options?

☞ How are rooms assigned?

☞ Can students change rooms or roommates if they are dissatisfied? Are underclassmen required to line on campus?



☞ Is there a cost difference for different types of housing?

Student Life Questions To Ask/Consider

- 📄 What activities are available on campus?
- 📄 **Are religious activities available?**
- 📄 What athletic and recreational facilities are available? Is there an additional cost for these facilities?
- 📄 **Do students get a discount to school sporting events?**

BEFORE APPLYING

Narrow Your Choices of Schools

-  Create a List of Colleges that meet **YOUR** needs
-  Before Applying, Narrow the List to 3 or 4 Institutions

List, Compare, and Visit Colleges

- College Comparison Worksheet
- Attend College Fairs
- Visit Campuses
 - Call the Admissions Office to schedule campus tours
 - Fall and Spring Semesters are best visit times - Summer is Okay, but less students and activities

Worksheet Sample

Key Items	Colleges/Universities		
	<i>Choice 1</i>	<i>Choice 2</i>	<i>Choice 3</i>
Major Offered			
Activities Offered			
Campus Size			
Distance from Home			
Miscellaneous			
Cost: Tuition, Fees Books, Supplies Etc.			

Review College Admissions Test Requirements

- 📄 ACT or SAT minimum standards.
- 📄 Schools may require additional tests of incoming applicants.
- 📄 When applying to a school check the requirements for admission.

Submit Application Materials

Be Sure to Include

 Application for Admission

 Application Fees


 High School and/or College Transcripts

 Recommendations


 Admissions Test Results

*Failure to do so can delay the processing of your application!

Know Application Fees and Deadlines

 Be aware of all application fees and deadlines.




 Write the dates on your calendar.

 If deadlines or fees for your applications are not met, they may not be processed.

CONCLUSION:

Do Not Be Afraid to Ask Questions!

Remember, Every College:

-  has different policies & techniques.
-  has different names for scholarships.
-  has different qualifications.

INTERNET RESOURCES

MO CBHE:

www.mocbhe.gov

College Planning:

www.collegeplan.org

Financial Aid:

www.finaid.org

Scholarships:

www.studentservices.com

www.unival.com

www.act.org

www.e-hound.org

www.fastweb.com

www.ed.gov/thinkcollege/early

www.collegeispossible.org



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