

# College Fit Game

## Purpose

Participants practice selecting good fit colleges based on a variety of academic, social, financial, and other needs. Using role play, participants will select one of seven colleges that will be a good fit for them based on several attributes and explain their reasons for choosing that particular college. They will reflect on how this experience may help their own college search and selection process.

## Time

30–45 minutes

## Audience

9th–11th grade students and their parents

## Materials needed

- 1 copy of college profiles (p. 3) for every participant, printed
- 1 set of college posters (p. 4-10), printed and hung around the room
- 1 set of student attribute cards (p. 11-15) for every 10 participants, printed and cut. *Participants may also partner up so one set will serve 20.*
- 4 boxes or bags for student attributes

## 1. Introduce the activity.

### Discussion questions

- What does “college fit” mean to you?
- What are characteristics of colleges that might make it a good “fit” for a student?
  - Some characteristics might be size, location, majors, diversity or the net price cost of attendance (tuition, housing, books, transportation and other costs minus financial aid).

Introduce the fictitious colleges that students will be selecting between by passing out the college profiles sheet and reading them aloud. Remind students that there are 4,000+ colleges in the country and these are just a handful of archetypal examples. Therefore, there is no perfect fit – there will always be several options that will allow students to be happy and successful.

Encourage students to “read between the lines” and describe what they can ascertain from a particular college based on the information provided (e.g. *the type of degrees offered based on the name, whether a school is public or private*). Encourage students to think about what type of student might be a good fit at each college.

## 2. Play the game.

### Give the following instructions to students:

This is a role play game. You will receive several attributes (e.g. *You played soccer all four years of high school*) that will describe your role and using those attributes, you will make decisions about which college would be a good fit. There will be four rounds and you will draw one or two attributes each round which may change the college you choose. Some attributes are deliberately vague so you should interpret as you see fit.



**Round 1:** Choose 2 **ACADEMIC** student attributes (select 2 pieces of paper from a box or bag). These may be information about how you learn best, what your interests are in and out of school or your academic preparation. Review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants that their academic interests and hobbies may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities. Also, “popular” majors don’t mean those are the only ones available.*

**Round 2:** Choose 1 **SOCIAL** student attribute. These may be your extracurricular activities at school, in the community or in your free time. Using both the academic attributes and the social attribute, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants that their extracurricular interests may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities.*

**Round 3:** Choose 1 **FINANCIAL** student attribute. These may relate to your family situation, scholarship potential, or how prepared you are to pay for college. Using the academic, social and financial attributes, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. *Remind participants to consider the net price of colleges and the percentage of a student’s financial need that the college provides with financial aid).*

**Round 4:** Choose 1 **OTHER** student attribute. These are family or personal circumstances that might influence your decision. Using all of the attributes selected, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your final choice with the group. *Remind participants to prioritize the circumstance relative to the other attributes. Encourage students to think about what additional information would be helpful for them to make their decision.*

### 3. Reflect & discuss.

- What were you thinking about when you made your decisions?
- How did it change with additional attributes and information? Did you end up selecting different schools each round based on new information?
- Were there other colleges that could have been a good fit?
- What other information would have been useful to make the decision in the game? What other information would be useful in real life?

*Encourage participants to consider graduation rates, full-time v. part-time students, the percentage of students who take out loans and their default rate, the type of degrees offered, and academic requirements (GPA, specific classes) for admission.*

- Connect this to your own experience – think about what academic, social, financial or other special circumstances are a priority for you.



| College  | Admission                              | Student body  | Popular majors  | Popular activities  | Cost & financial aid   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Coastside Community College</b><br>Coastside, Oregon      | Open admission<br>SAT/ACT not required | 1,600 undergraduates<br>53% receive Pell grants<br>67% White, 9% Latino, 1% Asian, 1% Black, 3% Native American, 4% Multiracial   | Culinary arts<br>Health professions<br>Manufacturing<br>Criminal Justice    | Varsity athletics<br>E-sports club<br>Annual day of service                   | Cost of attendance: \$17,000<br>Average aid award: \$2,500<br>43% of need met<br>Oregon Promise eligible |
| <b>Little River Community College</b><br>Suburbia, Oregon    | Open admission<br>SAT/ACT not required | 8,500 undergraduates<br>46% receive Pell grants<br>62% White, 10% Latino, 6% Asian, 6% Black, 1% Native American, 3% Multiracial  | General studies (A.A.O.T.)<br>Mechanic & Repairs<br>Business<br>Cosmetology | Theater and dance<br>Outdoor club<br>Quarterly career fair                    | Cost of attendance: \$16,000<br>Average aid award: \$1,500<br>80% of need met<br>Oregon Promise eligible |
| <b>Big State University</b><br>College City, Oregon          | 78% admitted<br>SAT/ACT optional       | 23,000 undergraduates<br>33% receive Pell grants<br>68% White, 7% Latino, 7% Asian, 1% Black, 1% Native American, 6% Multiracial  | Engineering<br>Pre-Med/Pre-Vet<br>Business<br>Psychology                    | ROTC<br>Division I athletics<br>Community service<br>Pride parade             | Cost of attendance: \$26,000<br>Average aid award: \$11,500<br>67% of need met                           |
| <b>Farmville State University</b><br>Farmville, Oregon       | 88% admitted<br>SAT/ACT optional       | 5,000 undergraduates<br>44% receive Pell grants<br>68% White, 9% Latino, 3% Asian, 4% Black, 2% Native American, 1% Multiracial   | Business<br>Education<br>Visual & Performing Arts<br>Criminal Justice       | Intramural sports<br>Student newspaper<br>Study abroad<br>Battle of the bands | Cost of attendance: \$23,000<br>Average aid award: \$10,000<br>55% of need met                           |
| <b>Suburbia Private College</b><br>Suburbia, Oregon          | 63% admitted<br>SAT/ACT test blind     | 2,000 undergraduates<br>21% receive Pell grants<br>65% White, 8% Latino, 6% Asian, 2% Black, 1% Native American, 1% Multiracial   | International Studies<br>English<br>Visual & Performing Arts<br>Biology     | Intramural sports<br>Student government<br>Study abroad<br>Luuu               | Cost of attendance: \$59,000<br>Average aid award: \$42,000<br>90% of need met                           |
| <b>Metropolis Christian College</b><br>Metropolis, Oregon    | 95% admitted<br>SAT/ACT optional       | 500 undergraduates<br>53% receive Pell grants<br>59% White, 11% Latino, 4% Asian, 9% Black, 1% Native American, 8% Multiracial    | Business<br>Education<br>Theology<br>Biology                                | Varsity athletics<br>Community service<br>Urban farm<br>Winter concert        | Cost of attendance: \$33,000<br>Average aid award: \$16,000<br>59% of need met                           |
| <b>Capitol City University</b><br>Capitol City, Out-of-State | 11% admitted<br>SAT/ACT required       | 6,500 undergraduates<br>14% receive Pell grants<br>48% White, 6% Latino, 20% Asian, 10% Black, 3% Native American, 2% Multiracial | History<br>Engineering<br>Biology<br>Social Work                            | Division I athletics<br>Greek life<br>Gospel choir<br>International food fair | Cost of attendance: \$68,000<br>Average aid award: \$44,000<br>100% of need met                          |

# Coastside Community College

*Coastside, Oregon*

# Little River Community College

***Suburbia, Oregon***

# Big State University

***College City, Oregon***

# Farmville State University

***Farmville, Oregon***

**Suburbia**

**Private  
College**

***Suburbia, Oregon***



# **Metropolis Christian College**

***Metropolis, Oregon***

# Capitol City University

*Capitol City, Out-of-state*

ACADEMIC

You are interested in engineering.

ACADEMIC

You love drama and art.

ACADEMIC

You don't know what you want to major in.

ACADEMIC

You want to be a teacher.

ACADEMIC

You are thinking about a career in the medical field.

ACADEMIC

You love working with your hands.

ACADEMIC

You are obsessed with animals.

ACADEMIC

You spend all your time reading and writing.

ACADEMIC

You love to cook for friends and family.

ACADEMIC

You want to be the boss.

ACADEMIC

You struggle with standardized tests.

ACADEMIC

You have top scores in math and science.

ACADEMIC

You got a 'C' in English junior year.

ACADEMIC

Your high school Spanish teacher is your favorite.

ACADEMIC

You got straight 'A's your sophomore year.

ACADEMIC

You've taken college courses in high school.

ACADEMIC

Your high school GPA is in the top 25% of your class.

ACADEMIC

You like working independently.

ACADEMIC

You learn best when participating in class discussions.

ACADEMIC

Your favorite class in high school is Physical Education (PE).

**SOCIAL**

You played soccer all four years of high school.

**SOCIAL**

You won your events in the state swim meet for the last two years.

**SOCIAL**

You love watching the Travel Channel.

**SOCIAL**

You love singing in your church choir.

**SOCIAL**

You're the president of your school's Gay-Straight Alliance.

**SOCIAL**

You served on your high school's Student Council for two years.

**SOCIAL**

You're a camp counselor during the summer.

**SOCIAL**

You dedicate 10 hours a week to your community's 4-H program.

**SOCIAL**

You play a lot of video games.

**SOCIAL**

You know all the best fashion blogs.

FINANCIAL

Your parents refuse to complete financial aid forms.

FINANCIAL

Your grandparents have agreed to pay for your college education.

FINANCIAL

You have a college savings account.

FINANCIAL

You'll need to work at least 10 hours a week during college.

FINANCIAL

You haven't thought about how to pay for college.

FINANCIAL

You won a full scholarship at Farmville State University.

FINANCIAL

You don't qualify for financial aid.

FINANCIAL

You have a twin who is also going to college.

FINANCIAL

Your parent just lost his/her job.

FINANCIAL

Your mom works at Metropolis Christian, so you can get discounted tuition.

**OTHER**

You can't wait to get out of Farmville.

**OTHER**

You just found out you're about to be a parent.

**OTHER**

Your parents are not supportive of your decision to go to college.

**OTHER**

You are responsible for the care of your three younger siblings.

**OTHER**

Your significant other will be living in Suburbia.

**OTHER**

Your brother is in college at Capitol City University.

**OTHER**

Your mother went to Suburbia Private College.

**OTHER**

You have always dreamed of going to Big State University.

**OTHER**

You visited Coastside Community College and loved it.

**OTHER**

You are undocumented.