Choosing a College:

How to find the right one for you

Ascendium

2020-21 Academic Year

WHEN YOU FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE FIT

- ACADEMICALLY
- SOCIALLY
- FINANCIALLY

You're more likely to:

GRADUATE

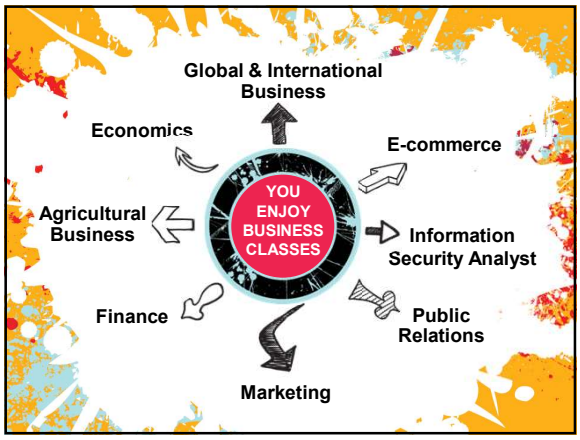
START BY ASKING YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS

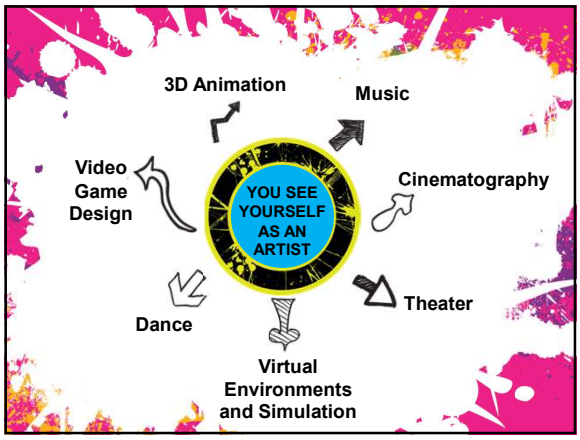
- What do you want to study?
- How long do you want to go to college?
- What features are important to you?
- Do you meet the admission requirements?
- What will it cost to attend?

YOUR INTERESTS
CAN BECOME THE MAJOR OR PROGRAM YOU STUDY

Think about:

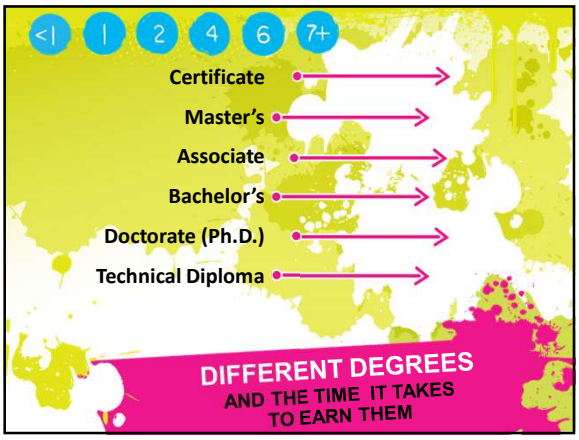
- What your favorite classes are
- What your hobbies are
- What you love to do
- What you can see yourself doing after high school

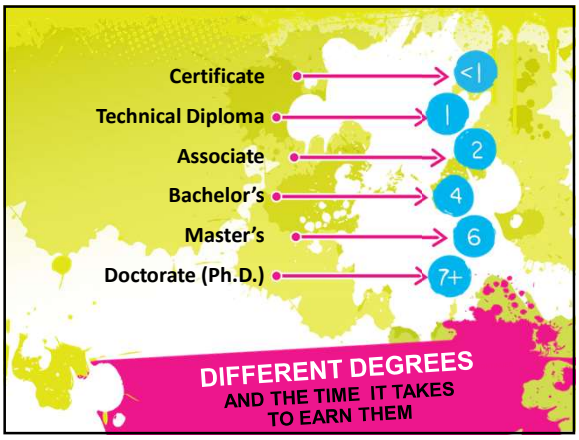



3D Animation
Music
Video Game Design
YOU SEE YOURSELF AS AN ARTIST
Cinematography
Theater
Dance
Virtual Environments and Simulation

Fishing & Wildlife
Certified Nursing Assistant
Farming & Agriculture
YOU LIKE WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS
Welding
Machine Tool Operations
Culinary Arts
Construction and Remodeling

BASCOM HALL
HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE?


<1
1
2
4
6
7+
Certificate
Master's
Associate
Bachelor's
Doctorate (Ph.D.)
Technical Diploma
DIFFERENT DEGREES
AND THE TIME IT TAKES
TO EARN THEM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DIFFERENT DEGREES
AND THE TIME IT TAKES
TO EARN THEM

DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS, AND DEGREES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE—
Certificate, Technical Diploma
and Associate Degree
2-YEAR COLLEGES—
Associate Degree
4-YEAR COLLEGES—
Bachelor's Degree

GOOD NEWS—YOU HAVE LOTS OF COLLEGES TO CHOOSE FROM

Public *Non*profit
Private *Non*profit
Private *For*-profit
What are the differences?

Public *Non*profit
- Eligible for State Aid
- Credits may transfer

Private *Non*profit
- Eligible for State Aid
- Credits may transfer

Private *For*-profit
- **NOT Eligible** for most State Aid
- Credits likely will **NOT transfer**
- Tuition costs could be up to **4.5 TIMES HIGHER**

DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

- **Madison College**
  - Technical Diploma in Nursing (1 year)
  - Associate Degree in Nursing (2 years)
- **UW-Madison**
  - Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (4 years)
- **Edgewood College**
  - Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (4 years)

DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

- **Northcentral Technical College**
  - Welding Robotic Operation Technical Diploma (1 year)
  - Welding Technical Diploma (1 year)
  - Welding Fabrication & Robotics Associate Degree (2 years)
- **Mid-State Technical College**
  - Welding Technical Diploma (1 year)

DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH

☐ **vs.** ☐

UW-Milwaukee **UW-Stout**

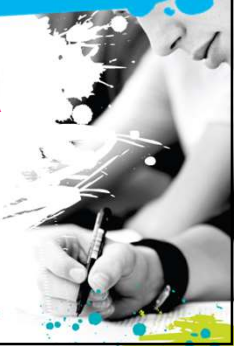
DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

APPLIANCE TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA

☐ **Milwaukee Area Technical College**

VS.

☐ **Madison College**



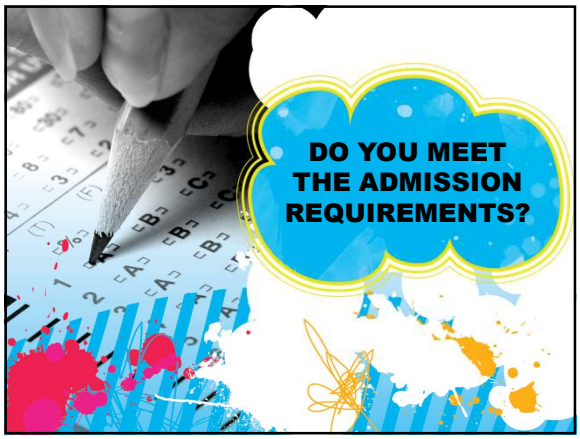
DIFFERENT COLLEGES OFFER
DIFFERENT MAJORS, PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

Do some research:

- Visit college websites to see what programs or majors they offer
- Ask your counselors and teachers for help
- Use websites to find and compare colleges
  - **bigfuture.org**
  - College Navigator (**nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator**)

Location/setting
Size
THINK ABOUT
Retention & graduation rates
Housing options
Student population

Are there things to do that interest you when you are not in class?
- Sporting events
- Music
- Theatre
- Cultural activities
- Religious activities
- Campus groups


DO YOU MEET THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO GET INTO THE COLLEGES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

Technical colleges

Open enrollment

- Requires a high school diploma
- Typically no GPA requirement

KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO GET INTO THE COLLEGES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

2-year and 4-year colleges

Search college websites

- Admission requirements
  - Required high school classes
  - Grade point average
  - Standardized test scores
    - ACT or SAT taken your junior or senior year

The cost of college includes

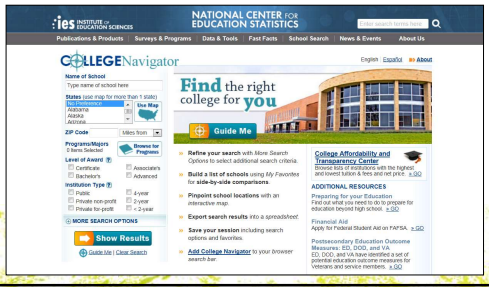
- Tuition and fees
- Room and board (where you live and what you eat)
- Books and supplies
- Travel and personal expenses

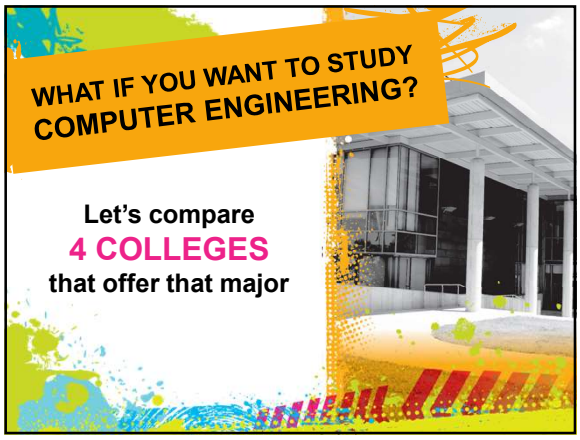
APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

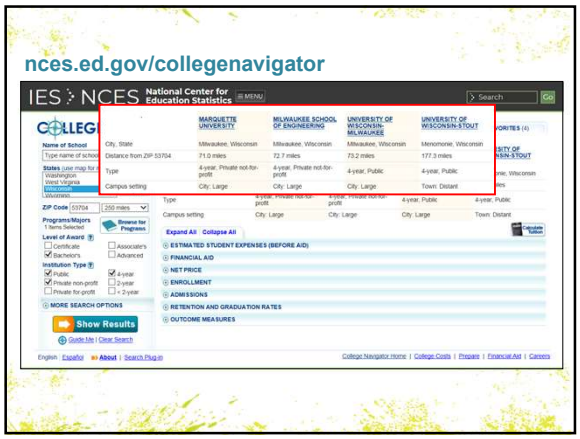
- **Complete the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**
- **Financial aid can lower the cost of college**
  - Grants
  - Work-study
  - Scholarships
  - Student loans

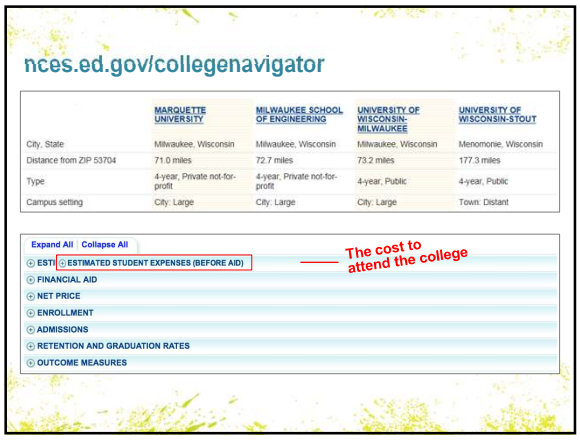
USE COLLEGE NAVIGATOR TO COMPARE COLLEGES

nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator




WHAT IF YOU WANT TO STUDY COMPUTER ENGINEERING?
Let's compare
4 COLLEGES
that offer that major


nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
IES NCES National Center for Education Statistics
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT
City, State
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Menomonie, Wisconsin
Distance from ZIP 53704
71.0 miles
72.7 miles
73.2 miles
177.3 miles
Type
4-year, Private not-for-profit
4-year, Private not-for-profit
4-year, Public
4-year, Public
Campus setting
City: Large
City: Large
City: Large
Town: Distant
Expand All
Collapse All
ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES (BEFORE AID)
FINANCIAL AID
NET PRICE
ENROLLMENT
ADMISSIONS
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
OUTCOME MEASURES
Show Results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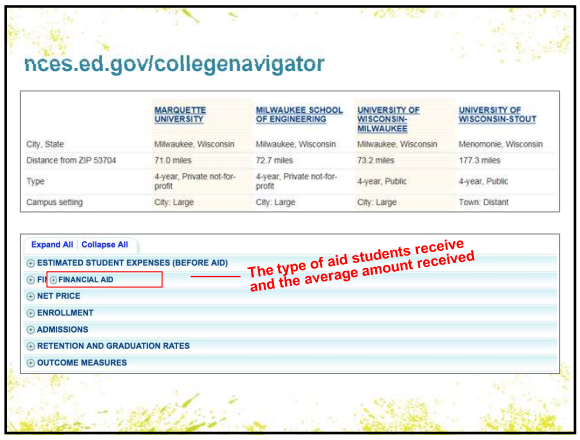
ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES (BEFORE AID)
The cost to attend the college
FINANCIAL AID
NET PRICE
ENROLLMENT
ADMISSIONS
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
OUTCOME MEASURES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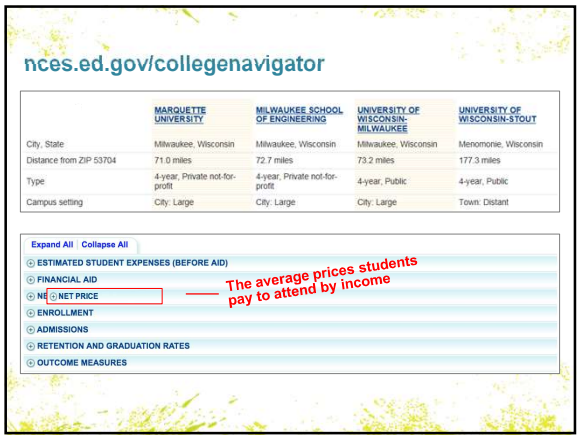
ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES (BEFORE AID)
FINANCIAL AID
NET PRICE
ENROLLMENT
ADMISSIONS
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
OUTCOME MEASURES
The type of aid students receive and the average amount received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ADMISSIONS
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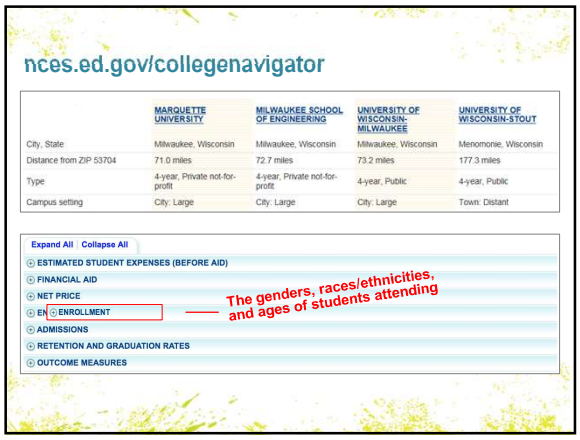
OUTCOME MEASURES
The average prices students pay to attend by income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FINANCIAL AID
NET PRICE
ENROLLMENT
ADMISSIONS
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
OUTCOME MEASURES
The genders, races/ethnicities, and ages of students attending

nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

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Campus setting	City: Large	City: Large	City: Large	Town: Distant

Expand All | Collapse All

- ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES (BEFORE AID)
- FINANCIAL AID
- NET PRICE
- ENROLLMENT
- ADMISSIONS
- RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
- OUTCOME MEASURES

The percentage of students admitted and SAT/ACT test scores

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Percentage of students who stay in college and the percentage of those graduating

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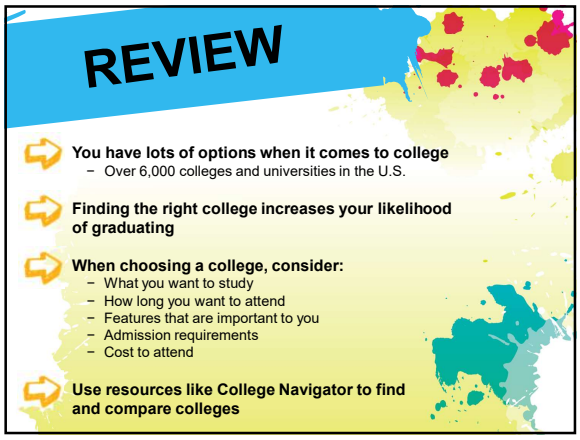
- OUTCOME MEASURES

The number of students who earn a degree/certificate within 6 or 8 years

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

- Go to the college's website and search "visit" or "tour campus"
- Find contact information to call and set up your visit or ask questions
- Schedule your visit while college classes are in session (ideally Monday through Thursday)
- Ask if the college sponsors an overnight program to get an even better feel for the campus


REVIEW
You have lots of options when it comes to college
– Over 6,000 colleges and universities in the U.S.
Finding the right college increases your likelihood of graduating
When choosing a college, consider:
– What you want to study
– How long you want to attend
– Features that are important to you
– Admission requirements
– Cost to attend
Use resources like College Navigator to find and compare colleges

THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING
Ascendium
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