Help your students practice selecting “good fit” colleges based on a variety of academic, social, financial, and other needs!

**ACTIVITY**

**Time:** 30-24 minutes

Using role play, students 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.

Students will reflect on how this experience may help their own college search and selection process.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

- College profiles (p. 4-10) printed and hung around the room
- Student attributes (p. 11-15) For up to 10 players, print and cut 1 set; for 11+ players, print 2 sets, etc
- 4 containers for student attributes (bags, boxes, etc.)

**STEP ONE: 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 reading their profiles that are posted around the room. 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.

**STEP TWO: 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 container). 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 students that their academic interests and hobbies may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities.

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 students 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 students to consider the net price of colleges and the amount of need met (the percentage of a student’s financial need that the college will provide 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 students to prioritize the circumstance relative to the other attributes. Encourage students to think about what additional information would be helpful for them to answer this question.

STEP THREE: Reflect & discuss.

Reflection Questions

- 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?
  - Remind students that “popular” majors don’t mean those are the only ones available. Also, at some schools, certain classes or activities might only be for students majoring in a particular subject (e.g. art or dance) whereas other colleges encourage or even require all students to participate in a wide variety of classes.
  - Encourage students 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) to get in.
- Connect this to your own experience—think about what academic, social, financial or other special circumstances are a priority for you.

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COLLEGE
It’s not a dream, it’s a plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT BODY</th>
<th>POPULAR MAJORS &amp; PROGRAMS</th>
<th>POPULAR EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>COST &amp; FINANCIAL AID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocean View Community College</td>
<td>Culture Studies, Culinary Arts, Liberal Arts, Music, Communications</td>
<td>Student Government, Intramural Sports, Music Ensembles, Newspaper</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $4,000 Average aid award: $2,500 63% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volcano Community College</td>
<td>Business, Computer Sciences, Liberal Arts, Education, Culinary Arts</td>
<td>Dance, Student Newspaper, Student Government, Choral Groups</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $4,000 Average aid award: $1,500 38% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honolulu City University</td>
<td>Business, Engineering, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Division I Sports, Drama, Marching Band, Radio Station</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $21,000 Average aid award: $10,000 48% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aloha State University</td>
<td>Education, Culinary Arts, Public Administration, Communications, Computer Sciences</td>
<td>Concert Band, Student Government, Intramural Sports, Dance</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $7,500 Average aid award: $3,000 40% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oahu County Private College</td>
<td>Business, Health Sciences, Communications, Music, Culture Studies</td>
<td>Study Abroad, Model United Nations, Orchestra, Student Government</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $45,000 Average aid award: $16,000 36% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaside Christian University</td>
<td>Business, Education, Theology, Health Sciences, Social Sciences</td>
<td>Division II Sports, Yearbook, Band, Newspaper</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $22,000 Average aid award: $9,500 43% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Center University</td>
<td>Business Management, Health Sciences, Law, Communications, Music</td>
<td>Division I Sports, Greek Life, Radio Station, Music Ensembles</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $37,622 Average aid award: $10,600 28% of need met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ocean View COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lihue, Hawai‘i

OPEN ADMISSION • SAT/ACT NOT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

1,400 Undergraduates

47% of students receive Pell Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID

Cost of attendance: $4,000
Average aid award: $2,500
63% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Culture Studies
Culinary Arts
Liberal Arts
Music Communications

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Student Government
Intramural Sports
Music Ensembles
Newspaper

47% of students receive Pell Grant

Ocean View Student Demographics

Asian 12%
Filipino 24%
Caucasian 7%
Pacific Islander 20%
Native Hawaiian 33%
Other 5%

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Volcano Crater
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Honolulu, Hawai‘i
OPEN ADMISSION • SAT/ACT NOT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

8,500 Undergraduates
38% of students receive Pell Grant

38% of need met

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance: $4,000
Average aid award: $1,500

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
Business
Computer Science
Liberal Arts
Education
Culinary Arts

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Dance
Student Newspaper
Student Government
Choral Groups

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Honolulu City UNIVERSITY
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi

72% ADMITTED • SAT/ACT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

13,000 Undergraduates
32% of students receive Pell Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance: $21,000
Average aid award: $10,000
48% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
Business
Engineering
Social Sciences
Health Sciences
Liberal Arts

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Division I Sports
Drama
Marching Band
Radio Station

Ocean View Student Demographics
Asian 24%
Filipino 22%
Caucasian 20%
Native Hawaiian 16%
Pacific Islander 10%
Other 8%

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It's not a dream, it's a plan.
Aloha State UNIVERSITY

Kapolei, Hawai‘i

83% ADMITTED • SAT/ACT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

3,000 Undergraduates

42% of students receive Pell Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID

Cost of attendance: $7,500

Average aid award: $3,000

60% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Education
Culinary Arts
Public Administration
Communications
Computer Sciences

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Concert Band
Student Government
Intramural Sports
Dance

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COLLEGE
It’s not a dream, it’s a plan.
Oahu County
PRIVATE COLLEGE
Honolulu, Hawai‘i
75% ADMITTED • SAT/ACT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

4,000 Undergraduates
21% of students receive Pell Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance: $45,000
Average aid award: $16,000
36% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
Business
Health Sciences
Communications
Music
Culture Studies

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Study Abroad
Model United Nations
Orchestra
Student Government

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It's not a dream, it's a plan.
Seaside Christian University
Laie, Hawaii

51% ADMITTED • SAT/ACT REQUIRED

Student Body

4,000 Undergraduates
53% of students receive Pell Grant

Caucasian 31%
Filipino 21%
Ocean View Student Demographics
Asian 26%
Native Hawaiian 7%
Pacific Islander 5%
Other 10%

Cost & Financial Aid

Cost of attendance: $22,000
Average aid award: $9,500
43% of need met

Popular Majors & Programs

Business
Education
Theology
Health Sciences
Social Sciences

Popular Activities & Events

Division II Sports
Yearbook
Band
Newspaper

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Capitol Center UNIVERSITY

Capitol City, Out-of-State

11% ADMITTED • SAT/ACT REQUIRED

STUDENT BODY

28,500 Undergraduates
32% of students receive Pell Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID

Cost of attendance: $37,622
Average aid award: $10,600
28% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Business Management
Health Sciences
Law
Communications
Music

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Division I Sports
Greek Life
Radio Station
Music Ensembles

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It's not a dream, it's a plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Interest</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You are interested in engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You love drama and art.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re not sure what you want to major in.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>You want to become a teacher.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You are considering a career in the medical field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You love computers and want to learn coding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You have always been interested in business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You love to cook for friends and family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are interested in journalism and communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You want to run your own company one day.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You struggle with standardized tests.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You have top scores in math and science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You got a ‘C’ in English junior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You got straight ‘A’s your sophomore year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You’ve taken AP courses in high school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>Your high school GPA is in the top 25% of your class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You like working independently on projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You learn best when participating in class groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You aren’t so proud of your grades, but know you can do better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC</td>
<td>You got a ‘C’ in Math this past year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You played sports all four years of high school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You love singing in your church choir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You have won debates and speech competitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You’re the president of your school’s Gay-Straight Alliance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You’ve done hula since you were little.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You love browsing travel blogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You have always wanted to join a sorority/fraternity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You volunteer as a camp counselor in summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You love theatre and have always been on stage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You like to play video games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your parents refuse to complete the FAFSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your grandparents are going to pay for your college education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You have a college savings account.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You’ll need to work 10+ hrs/wk during college.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You haven’t thought about how to pay for college.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You won a full scholarship to Aloha State University.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You don’t qualify for financial aid.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your mom works at Seaside Christian University, so you can get discounted tuition.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have applied for several scholarships, but haven’t heard back yet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re worried about how to pay for college.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can’t wait to get out of Laie, Hawai‘i.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You just found out you're going to be a parent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your parents are not supportive of your decision to go to college.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are responsible for the care of your three younger siblings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your significant other is moving to Kapolei.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your brother goes to school at Volcano Crater Community College.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have always wanted to go to a bigger college.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your parents graduated from Oahu County Private College.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You visited Aloha State University and you loved it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You would be the first in your family to go to college.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>