

*Finding the  
Right Fit*  
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**SCHOOL SHOPPING**  
FINDING THE RIGHT FIT



# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. BHS College Counseling Philosophy on “Good Fit”
3. Priorities/Factors to Consider in a College
4. Resources







**Social Fit**



BAINBRIDGE HIGH  
SCHOOL

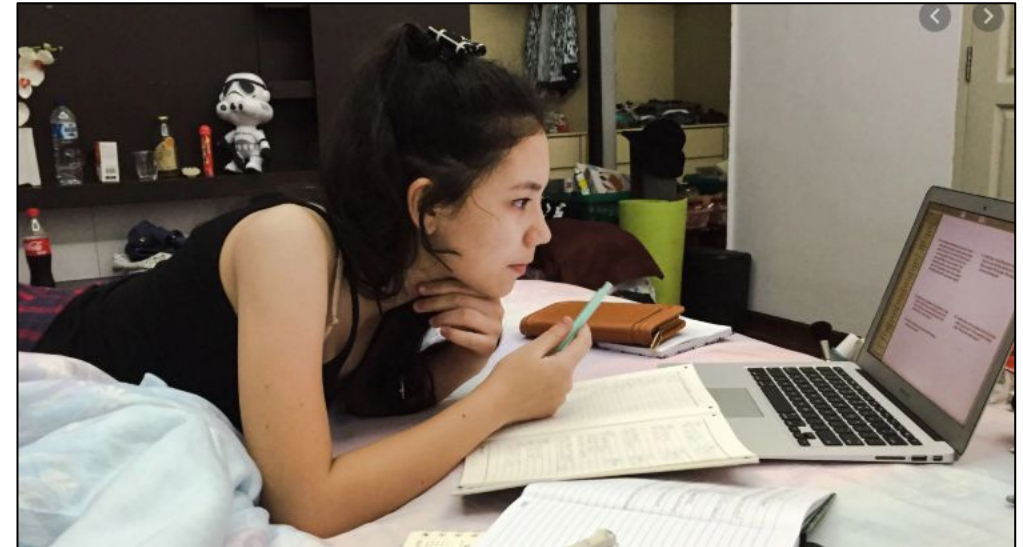


**BHS College  
Counseling  
Philosophy**

**Academic  
Fit**



**Financial  
Fit**



**Are you in  
The Driver's  
Seat Of Your  
Life?**



not

**GOAL** - Now's the time for *research*,  
*reflection*, and then *action*.





# Who Am I?

Discovering me, on my journey

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Discovering me, on my journey



# College Research: Where do I start?

## *Qualities that Will Make a College Right for You*

# **Start** with these **Questions**

2. Are you applying to **in-state Public Colleges**?

1. Do you know how much you can **afford**?

3. Are you applying to **Private Schools**? If so, in-state, out-of-state or both?

# Type of School

- 2 year Community College (AA and possibly transfer)
- 4 year college/university
- Co-Ed?
- Single Sex - Wabash, Wellesley
- Direct Entry Program (CS at UW)
- Pre-Professional Programs





# School Size - this is huge

*(pun intended)*

- (Really small)
- Small
- Medium
- Large
- (Humongous)



# Small schools

under 5,000



- Easy and often expected access to professors
- Professors hired for both academic *and* teaching talents
- Easier access to services and activities
- An emphasis on creating and participating in a community
- For some, can become a bit claustrophobic



# Medium schools

5,000-15,000



- Wider choice of academic offerings while still maintaining a more-personal feeling of larger schools
- Undergraduate professors expected to enjoy teaching (as opposed to being researchers)
- A community, but not as tightly-knit as smaller schools
- Access to professors in and out of class varies - you'll want to check if this is important to you



# Large schools

15,000 - 30,000



- “Feels like *real* college”
- Widest choices of programs, chance for more-specialized undergraduate degrees
- Blend of high-end and more-relaxed activities
- You may need to wait until third year before having much full professor contact time – important to check
- Bureaucratic – **need to advocate** for yourself, stay on top of things
- Sporty vibe

# Curriculum/Academic Program

- **Prescribed** (no choice or almost no choice)
- **Highly-structured** (limited choice)
- **Moderately-structured** (moderate choice, duh)
- **Loosely-structured** (few requirements)
- **Minimal structure** (hardly any requirements)
- **None** (yes, such schools exist)



# Methods of Instruction

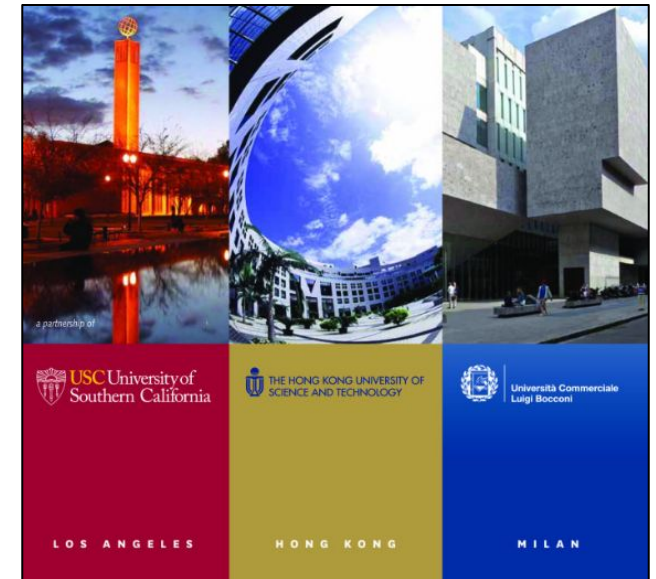
- Lecture (sometimes with discussion section)
- Lecture/lab (especially in the sciences)
- Seminar
- Distance learning
- Independent Study





# Bonus Method of Instruction

- *Study Abroad* - For a semester or a year.
- Usually a chance to dig deep in a couple of subjects at another school or a special program
- Very popular and often opens new doors while simultaneously adding focus
- Co-Op Programs
- “J-Terms,” Winter Terms
- Block Schedule
- Undergrad research?



# Activities

- Semi-pro/restricted access - Previous experience (and sometimes excellence) required
- Need to apply, but fairly open
- Intra-mural sports
- MUN, Quidditch, Newspaper

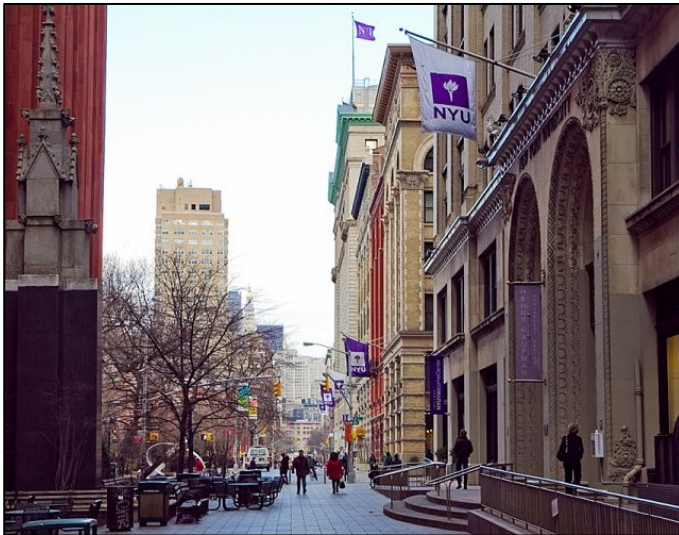




# Location

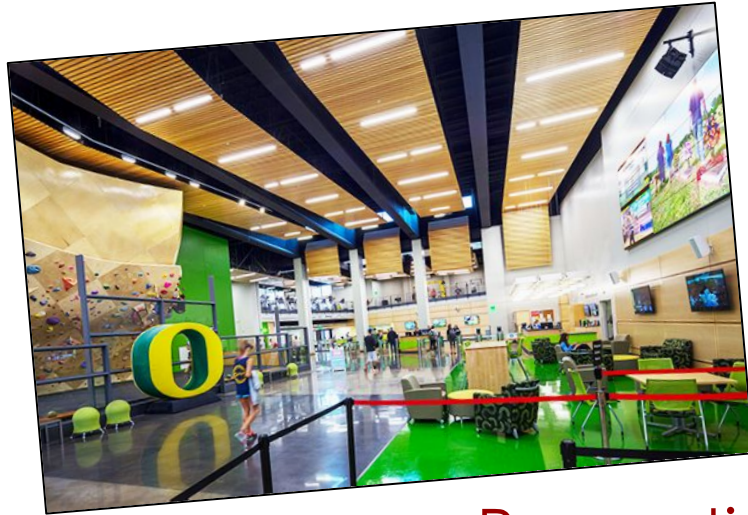
*Beware of the location trap*

- Urban
- Suburban
- Small city
- Small town
- Rural





# Facilities



Recreational



Dining Halls - FOOD!



Science  
Labs



Dorms



# Student Services



- Free Tutoring
- Writing Labs
- Orientation Program
- Career Counseling and/or Job Placement
- Assistance with Graduate School Applications
- Academic Support/Accommodations for students w/ Learning Disabilities
- Personal/Mental Health Counseling
- Health/Medical





# Academic Climate

- Competitive: Students actively try to out-do the rest, talking about grades common
- Cooperative: Students working to do their best, will often help others get there. Talking about grades diminished or even regarded as socially unacceptable.
- Completely independent: Usually at schools with no grades, usually cooperative students or those who very much enjoy being on their own.





# Cost



- Up to US \$75K in the US
- Education is an investment, invest in grad school instead?
- US financial aid: It's available; the most aid goes to students who show academic merit/a good fit for the school, and financial need. Highly selective schools are often the most-generous because they can afford to be.

# Social climate

- Extremely conservative (usually religious-based)
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Beyond liberal





# CAMPUS WE ♥ CAMPUS VIBES

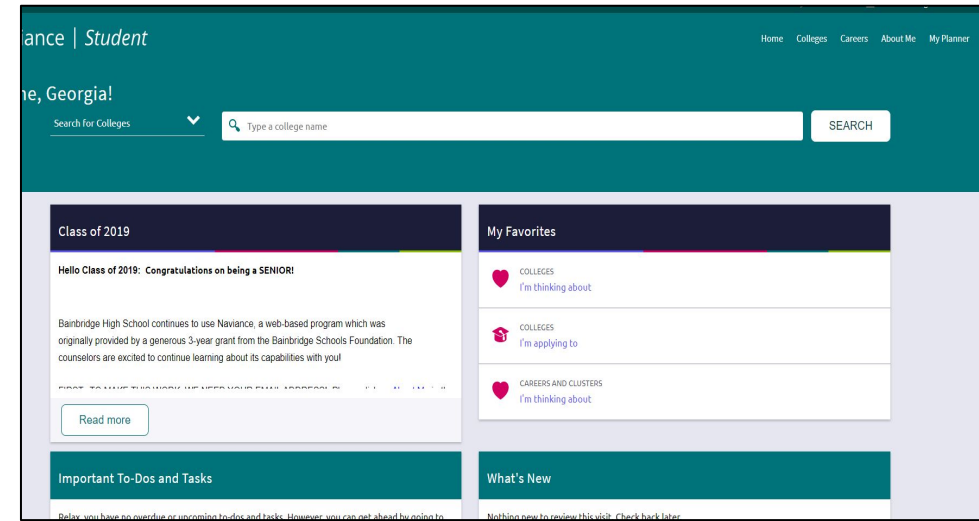




# It's Official! You're Researching Colleges

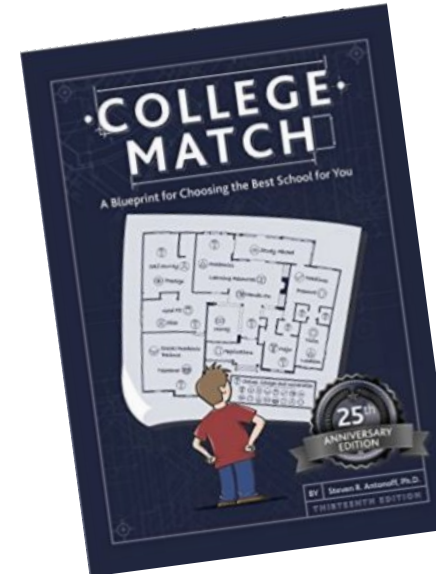
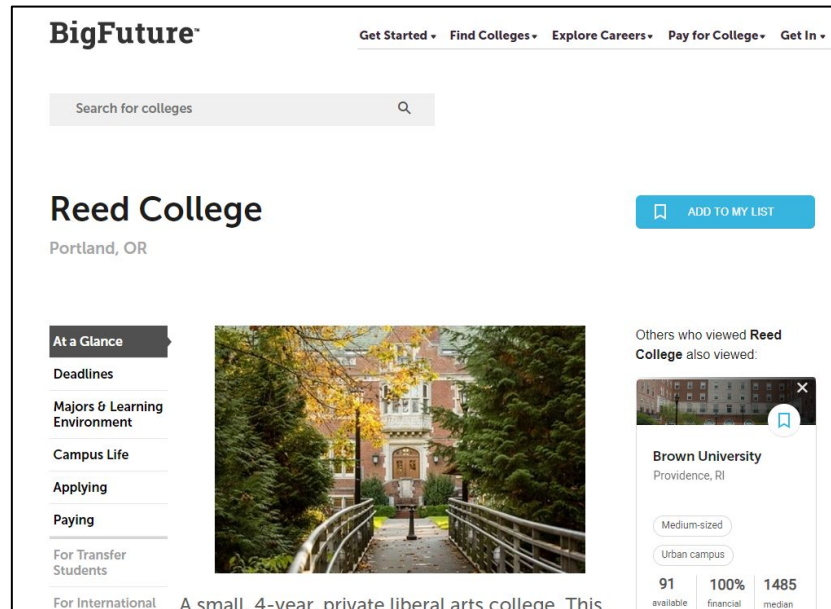


Campus Visits



Naviance = "Super Match"

Websites

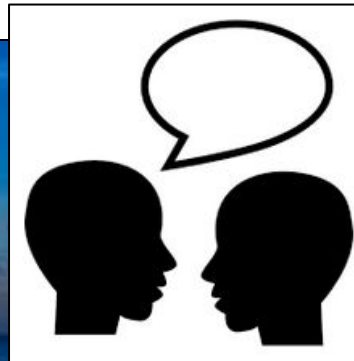


Books





**Self~Care  
Is The Best  
Healthcare**



**HUMOUR**



## ...and discuss these questions

- *What priorities am I most certain of?*
- *What priorities am I most uncertain of?*
- *Which priorities do I need information about, and what is that information?*
- *What priority/ies seem to matter least?*