

The
Princeton
Review®

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

An Overview of Colleges and Universities,
Degrees, and Major Selection

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AGENDA

- TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
- DEGREES- LEVELS, DEFINITIONS, REQUIREMENTS
- COLLEGE MAJORS, GOALS, OPTIONS, DEGREES
- CAREER AND MAJOR EXPLORATION AND PREPARATION
- RESOURCES



TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COLLEGE AND A UNIVERSITY?



The terms are often interchangeable.



Most universities have graduate schools that may include professional degree options like law, medicine, and business.



Typically, a college offers only undergraduate degrees (two or four-year).

PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- As of 2016 (most recent data), there were 1,594 non-profit private colleges and universities in the US.*
- Do not receive State or Federal funding.
- Set tuition based on internal factors without government restrictions.
- Independently determine admission requirements, academic options, and policies.
- Often smaller than public institutions - size ranges from below 1,000 to approximately 10,000 undergraduate students.

*Data from <https://nces.ed.gov/>



PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Two-year programs that offer Associate's degrees (AA), Certificates, and Diplomas.
- As of 2016, there were 910 public community colleges in the US.*
- These schools typically offer open enrollment - any student with a high school diploma can enroll.
- The average cost per year for full time tuition and fees is less than \$3,500.*
- Most of these schools do not provide housing and serve commuter students who live at home or with roommates.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

- As of 2016, there were 710 four year+ public universities in the US.*
- Some states have a network of public universities. i.e. The University Of California System.
- Public universities tend to be larger (often 30,000+ students) and less expensive (for in-state students) than private schools.
- Many states have a “flagship” public university. This is considered the most prominent public university in the state.

*Data from <https://nces.ed.gov/>

FOR-PROFIT (PROPRIETARY) SCHOOLS



- As of 2016, there were 700 private for-profit 4-year universities and 562 for-profit two-year colleges in the US.*
- These institutions may or may not be accredited and courses rarely transfer to non-profit institutions.
- They are operated by owners and investors with the goal of making money.
- Offer open enrollment and frequently include 2-year degrees in culinary, art, beauty, fashion, IT, drama, film, medical and dental technician work, and gaming.
- Do your research to determine if a college is for-profit!

*Data from <https://nces.ed.gov/>

WHAT IS A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

- The term “liberal arts” originates from both classical antiquity and the middle ages, when only free (liberales), elite individuals studied “trivium and quadrivium.”
- A liberal arts college tends to teach students to be critical thinkers who learn a broad range of subjects with areas of intellectual focus that are not necessarily professional or career-oriented.
- They tend to be small, with less than 3,000 students and small class sizes, with low student to teacher ratios.



WHAT IS A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY?

- A research university is a public or private school that tends to offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- These institutions typically offer both liberal arts degrees and “pre-professional,” or “professional” degrees.
- These universities tend to be medium to large in size, ranging from 5,000 to 35,000+ undergraduates.
- The University of Central Florida has the largest undergraduate student population in the country, with almost 60,000 students.

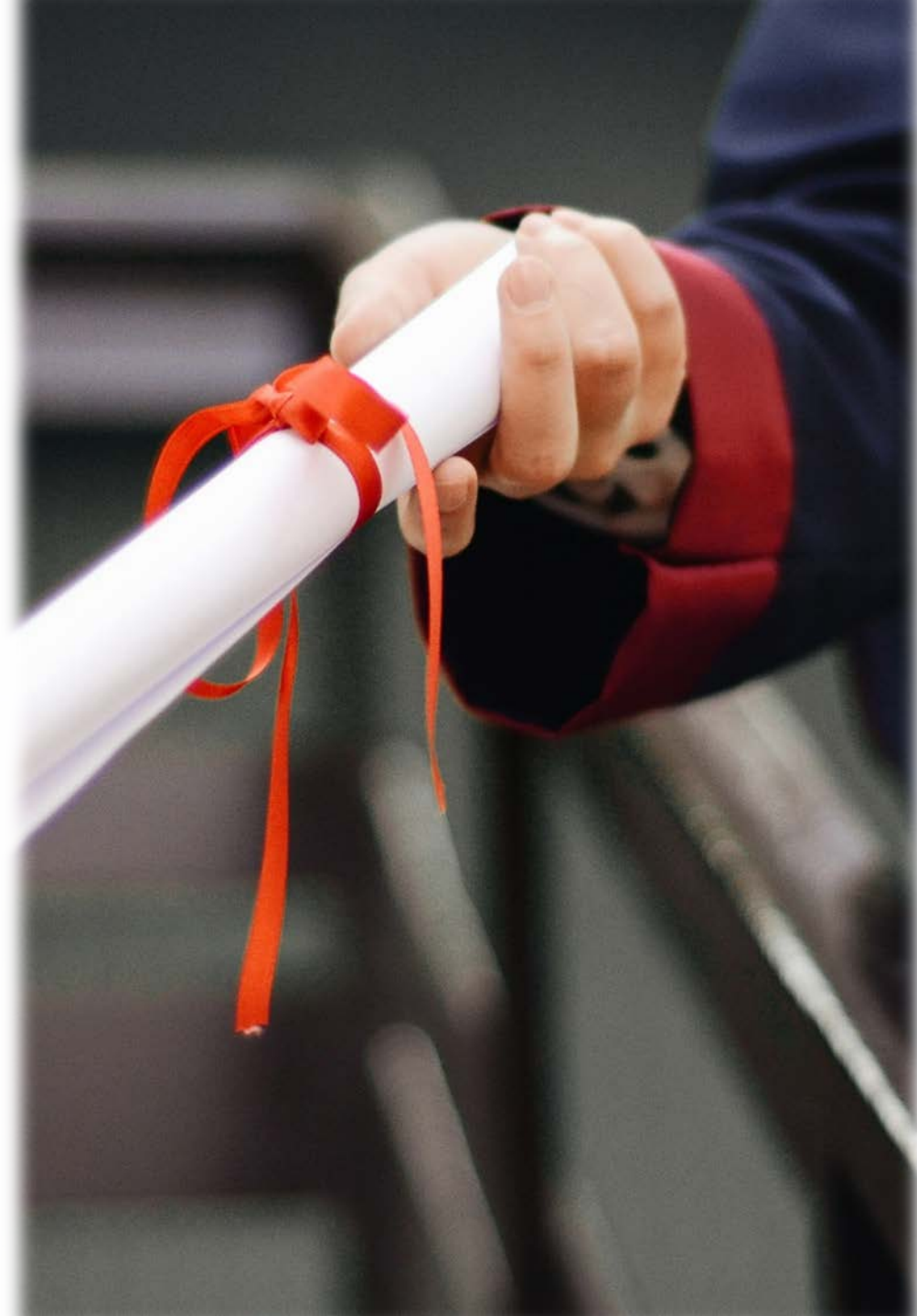


WHAT IS A “MISSION-DRIVEN” SCHOOL?

- These schools have specific focuses beyond academics, including religion, culture, and gender. Majors that want students to show demonstrated interest while in high school.
- Examples of Mission-Driven Schools:
 - HBCU's: Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - HSIs: Hispanic Serving Institutions
 - TCUs - Tribal Colleges and Universities
 - Religious Colleges and Universities
 - Single Sex Colleges and Universities
 - Specialty Schools

DEGREES: LEVELS, DEFINITIONS, REQUIREMENTS





MOST COMMON UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

- **Two-year/Community colleges:**
 - Associate's Degree - either an Associate's in Arts (AA) or, less frequently, an Associate's in Science.
- **Four-year colleges/universities:**
 - Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) - Earned by students who major in Humanities/Social Sciences.
 - Bachelor of Science (B.S.) - Earned by students who major in Applied Science/STEM.
 - Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) - Earned by students who major in music, art, drama, film and other creative fields.
 - Bachelor in Engineering (B.E.) - Earned by students who major in engineering. Note: Many schools may confer a B.S. to engineers.

MOST COMMON GRADUATE DEGREES

A graduation cap with a gold tassel is positioned on top of a stack of several books. The books have various colored spines, including red, white, and blue. The background is a solid dark gray.

Academic Master's Degrees:

- **M.A. - Master of Arts** - Typically earned by humanities students who intend to pursue a third degree.
- **M.S. or M.Sc. - Master of Science** - Typically earned by science students who intend to continue their education towards a third degree. Has a stronger research focus than an M.A.
- **M.F.A. - Master of Fine Arts** - Typically earned by students who plan to teach or pursue a creative career in film, theater, art, art history or restoration.



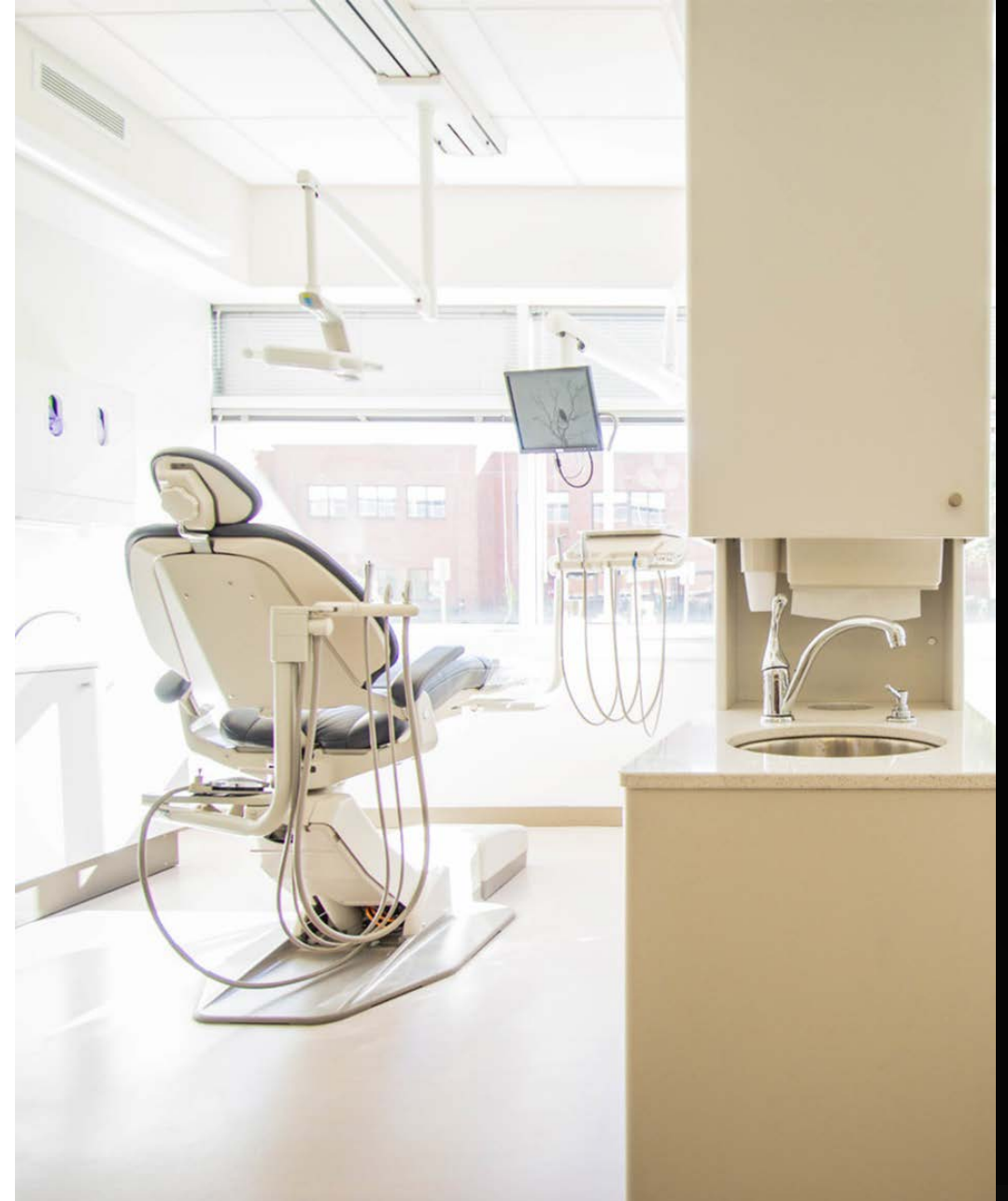
MOST COMMON GRADUATE DEGREES

Common Professional Master's Degrees:

- M.B.A. - Master's in Business Administration - typically two years of grad school. Students who pursue an M.B.A. have often spent time in the business field after earning their undergraduate degree.
- J.D. (Juris Doctorate) - Law degree - typically three years of grad school.
- M.Ed. - Master's in Education - one and a half or two years, depending on the area of focus.
- M.D. - Medical Doctor - four years of medical school including clinical hours plus 3-7 years of residency, depending on area of specialty.
- D.D.S. - Doctor of Dental Surgery - four years of dental school including clinical hours.
- Pharm.D. - Doctor of Pharmacy - three (accelerated) to four years including clinical hours.
- D.V.M. - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - four years of veterinary school including clinical hours (plus two to three additional years for specialists.)

SPECIALTY DEGREES

- BS/MD or BA/MD - an accelerated medical program that combines a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts with a Medical Degree.
- BS/DPT - an accelerated medical program that combines a Bachelor of Science degree with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. These programs are not common.
- BS/DDS or BA/DDS - an accelerated program for students who are ready to commit to dental school while applying to their undergraduate college.
- BA/JD - an accelerated Bachelor's of Arts degree and Law degree, also called a 3+3.



COLLEGE MAJORS: GOALS, OPTIONS, DEGREES



GOALS AND TIMELINE: WHEN TO SELECT YOUR MAJOR

- Most colleges do not require students to declare their major until the end of their second semester of sophomore year in college.
- What if you declare your major on your college application and change your mind?
 - This is fine, as long as you change it before the end of sophomore year!
 - Some majors require preparation while in high school.





CAREER AND MAJOR EXPLORATION AND PREPARATION

CAREER EXPLORATION

- Start early!
- If you love a particular subject of study, have fun in a club or enrichment program, research majors that focus on that subject and look into careers those majors lead you towards.
- Consider taking career tests and interest inventories to further investigate potential areas of study.
 - <https://www.princetonreview.com/career-search>
 - <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/students/career-search>
- Spend time on college websites





MAJOR SELECTION

Factors to consider

- Is it a competitive major that you need to prepare for in high school?
- Are there many options to specialize in within the field?
- What curriculum will you have to take in college?
- Is it offered at many colleges throughout the country or is it specialized with limited college options?
- Is it in a growing employment sector?
- Will you need multiple degrees?
- <https://www.onetonline.org/>

College Prep/Application Timeline

Sample Timeline Based on Junior Year (if Not Taking a Gap Year)

OCT of 10th Grade

- Take a PSAT Practice Test if Available
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars

Summer of 10th Grade

- Prep for SAT or ACT if you're ready and have completed Algebra II

OCT of 11th Grade

- Take the PSAT NMSQT Test
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars
- Start researching programs and schools that you like.

FEB/MAR. of 11th Grade

- Take the SAT or ACT Official Test 1st time
- Start thinking about with AP Tests you want to do (if any)

May of 11th Grade

- Take your AP Tests
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars
- Get your short list ready for virtual or in person college visits

Summer of 11th Grade

- Take the SAT or ACT Official Test 2nd time (if needed)
- Virtually or In Person visit some colleges on your list (ask questions) !!

Sept/Oct. of 12th Grade

- Start Writing your Essays & Personal Statements!
- Request your LORs

Dec./Jan. of 12th Grade

- Submit your FAFSA
- Submit Application for Private Schools w/Jan. Deadline

Nov. of 12th Grade

- Submit your Applications to CSU/UC, Private Schools w/Early Deadlines

12th Grade Begins

Freshman Year
- Don't worry about anything beyond getting comfortable with High School!



RESOURCES

The Princeton Review Resources:

SAT/ACT Prep - SAT or ACT Self-Paced:

- Full access to 280+ online video lessons, 377 online drills, 3,200+ online practice questions, Full Length SAT Practice tests and detailed score reports + access for 1-year from date of enrollment.

AP Test Prep - AP Cram Course:

- Two class sessions (6 hours total) with an expert instructor reviewing the most tested content on the exams + a copy of Princeton Review's Cracking the AP book in your course's subject and an Online Student dashboard for scoring your practice tests. Subjects: AP World History, APUSH, AP English Lang., AP English Lit., AP US Gov., AP Calculus A/B, AP Bio, AP Chem., AP Physics 1, AP Stats, AP European History.

Academic/GPA Help: 10 Hrs. Homework Help (6-months):

- Instant Homework Help – 24/7 tutor help to master even the most difficult problems. Over 3000 vetted-trusted tutors available in over 80 subjects including: Chemistry, Algebra, English, US History, World History, Biology, Earth Science and more...

College Admissions Counseling:

- College List Strategy Session: One-hour, virtual meeting with a College Counselor to discuss your specific college admissions questions and strategize a college list plan.



PREPARE

Are all the pieces in place before you apply?

Grades

Test Scores

Activities & Experiences

Leadership & Service

Letters of Recommendation

Personal Statement

CAREER SEARCH TOOLS AND SURVEYS:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/career-search>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/students/career-search>

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

<https://www.mynextmove.org/>

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

<https://blog.careeronestop.org/category/audience/students/>

COLLEGE MAJOR SEARCH TOOLS:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/majors?ceid=nav>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

