



COLLEGE FIT KEY TERMS

COLLEGE FIT - The degree to which a college meets a student's academic, social and financial needs. Research has shown that where students enroll in college can be just as important as if they enroll.

PELL GRANT - Available to students with high financial need, the Pell grant is a form of money for college from the federal government that does not need to be paid back. Because a student's eligibility for the Pell grant is determined by their income, looking at the percent of Pell eligible students enrolled in a college can give you a good idea of the socio-economic diversity of a school.

TUITION AND FEES - Tuition and fees represent the cost of taking classes at a college or university. There are additional costs associated with attending college, such as housing, books, and transportation.

AVERAGE DEBT OF GRADUATES - This number represents the average amount of debt that graduates hold upon completing their degree. This debt typically comes in the form of loans. Repayment for those loans will typically begin upon a student's graduation.

FIRST YEAR RETENTION RATE - For community colleges and four year colleges, this figure represents the number of students who continued in college after their first year.

SIX YEAR GRADUATION RATE - For four year colleges, this represents the percentage of students who have completed their program and graduated within 6 years of enrolling.

AVERAGE LICENSURE EXAM PASS RATE - This number represents the percentage of students who took their program's required licensure exam and passed.

JOB PLACEMENT RATE - This number represents the percentage of students who graduated or completed their program of study and obtained a job in a related field one academic year after graduation.

OPEN ADMISSIONS - At schools with open admissions or open enrollment, all students who apply are admitted. However, for certain popular programs, there may be a wait list and certain majors (ex-Nursing) may have additional academic requirements for admission.

SELECTIVE - At selective institutions, not all students who apply are admitted. Selective institutions typically have academic requirements, though their grades and score requirements are not as high as highly selective institutions. Students should research admissions requirements at selective institutions to determine if they are a good fit academically.

HIGHLY SELECTIVE - Schools that are highly selective only admit a very small percentage of their applicants. They typically have very high academic standards and only admit students with the highest grades and test scores.

COMMUTER - Housing is typically not available on campus for students at commuter schools. Students usually live off campus and commute to and from their classes.

RESIDENTIAL - Housing is provided on campus for students. On many residential campuses, the majority of students live on campus and/or there may be a requirement for students to live on campus during their freshman year.