

# Which College or Career is Right For You?

## Overview

It is never too early for students to start considering and exploring which school or program they would like to enroll in after high school. Students will explore and gather information on different colleges and programs they are interested in. Information collected will be used to assist in individual post-secondary planning.

**Subject:** College/Career Search

**Topic:** College/Career Comparison

**Grade:** 11 & 12

## Materials

Counselor and students will require access to the Internet and a computer lab.

College/Career decision making worksheet

## Instructions

This activity can be done in classrooms, small groups or with individual students.

1. Introduce the College/Career Comparison chart. Explain to students that this is an excellent way to "do their homework" on multiple schools at once and visually compare their positive and negative aspects. Discuss how this worksheet is an excellent activity for researching potential schools or programs and to clarify values and important themes for students in their decision making process (Is the distance a big factor in their choice? What about the class size or greek life?).
2. When students are beginning their college application process, try to encourage them to apply to at least 2 "reach" schools (Schools that might be a reach to get into) 2 "target" schools-- schools they believe they may end up at ultimately, and 2 "safety" schools--schools they would like to keep as options just in case there was a situation that caused them to not get into the colleges or programs of their choice.
3. Students will go to the [College Decision Making Worksheet](#) Google Doc and print it out. Individually or in groups, using Google Search, they will research potential universities and/or programs.
4. Information collected will be used to assist in individual or group post-secondary planning.

College Comparison Chart	1. Reach	2. Reach	3. Target	4. Target	5. Safety	6. Safety
Location (Distance from Home, Urban vs. Suburban vs. Rural)						
Size (Enrollment, Physical Size of Campus)						
Environment (Type of School Setting, Religious Affiliations)						
Admissions Requirements (Deadlines, Tests Required, Avg. Scores & GPAs)						
Academic (Your Major is offered, HS Courses required, typical class sizes)						

The Creative School Counselor  
<http://sites.google.com/site/creativeschcounseling>

Daniels, Allie. "Deciding on a College Using the FREE College Comparisons Worksheet." *The Creative School Counselor*. N.p., 13 July 2013. Web. 22 July 2014.

<<https://sites.google.com/site/creativeschcounseling/lessonplans/decidingonacollegeusingthefreecollegecomparisonsworksheet>>.

## Resources

Google Search and Google Apps.

## Rubric

Counselor will monitor work and answer questions as needed.

## Standards

Per the MCPS K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Program, Career Domain:

**STANDARD 1:** Students identify individual strengths and interests to make informed education and career decisions.

1. I know there are a variety of resources and opportunities available to me to increase my knowledge and abilities.
2. I know my interests that exist outside of school may impact my career choices.

3. I know there are a variety of individual careers.

STANDARD 2: Students demonstrate knowledge and skills to explore career opportunities.

STANDARD 3: Students reflect on and apply strategies, personal qualities, and skills to successfully navigate the world of work.

3. I know the process for obtaining my post-secondary goals.

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