

COLLEGE BOUND

Helpful tips for getting into college and the smartest ways to pay for it.

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The Most Popular College Majors and How to Choose the Right One For You

Choosing a college major can be a daunting task. It is difficult to decide exactly what you want to be when you are 17 or 18 years old, but there are things you can do to help yourself make the right decision. First, you can take an online personality quiz to find out what majors will fit best with your likes, dislikes and goals. One such quiz can be found at: http://homeworktips.about.com/library/maj/bl_majors_quiz.htm.

Next, take a look at last years' top majors and decide if any of them are of interest to you. Take this opportunity to not only look at the title of the major but what classes would be involved in order to receive a degree in this major. Would you excel in these classes? Would you enjoy these classes? Do you feel these classes would be useful in shaping you into a viable worker?

Also, take the time to research these majors even more by finding out what

career paths would be available to you after obtaining your degree. Are you interested in these career paths? And most importantly, will more education be needed to reach your goal? If so, are you prepared for more schooling? Here's a list of 2009's top majors:

1. Business
2. Social Sciences and History
3. Education
4. Psychology
5. Nursing
6. Communications
7. Biology
8. Engineering
9. English
10. Computer Science

It's also a good idea to research job trends to find out which industries will have the most job openings for at least the next 10-15 years. That way, you can more easily obtain an entry-level position and have a chance to establish yourself before there's any falloff. Careers with potential growth

for 2011 and beyond are:

1. Computer software engineers, applications
2. Database administrators
3. Medical assistants
4. Physician assistants
5. Desktop publishers
6. Home health aides
7. Computer systems analysts
8. Physical therapist aides
9. Computer and information systems managers
10. Audiologists

This is not to say that computers and healthcare are the only majors worth studying. It is important to not only choose a major for the job potential but to also have passion for what you are studying. What are you passionate about? Some people are passionate about helping people or making a difference in the world. Some wish to bestow art upon the world. And some people find passion in just making a lot of money, regardless of the field.

Continued ...

Spotlight On Univ. of Connecticut



Location: Storrs, CT
 Undergraduates: 20,000
 Male/Female: 50/50
 Entrance Difficulty: Moderately difficult
 Acceptance Rate:
 50% of 22,000 applicants
 SAT Math Avg.: 619
 SAT CR Avg.: 593
 SAT Writing Avg.: 600
 ACT Composite: 24-29
 First-year students returning: 92%
 Grad in 4 Years: 60.6%
 Cost of Attendance: \$41,202
 Avg. Percent of Need Met: 72%
 Most Popular Programs:
 Social sciences, Business/marketing,
 Health professions and related sciences

Fun Facts:

- Founded in 1881, offers a variety of top-quality academic programs through the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Liberal Arts and Sciences; the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Family Studies, Fine Arts, Nursing, and Pharmacy.
- The 4,104-acre campus is located in Storrs, 30 miles from Hartford.
- The university's undergraduate programs are ranked 64 among all national universities, and #1 public university in New England by *US News & World Report*
- The only public university in New England with a School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine and School of Law.
- Offer a number of special programs including a New York semester, a Washington semester, an urban semester and a semester at sea.
- Enrollment has jumped dramatically in recent years while academic quality has also increased.
- Recently completed an historic building program called UCONN 2000, a tenyear, \$1 billion program to renew, rebuild and enhance UConn's campuses.

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Practical Considerations

There was a special report on the PBS NEWSHOUR recently about college graduates struggling to find meaningful employment (check it out at: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/july-dec10/graduates_12-03.html). One of the profiled students graduated with an anthropology degree. He's making \$9/hour washing trash cans. Other struggling grads had majors such as history, creative writing and comparative literature.

"I can hire someone with a *master's* degree in history for \$20,000 a year," says Jim Coyle, president of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. Jim was a history major in college. But he was pragmatic; as a "backup plan" he also got a degree in economics. And it's *that* degree which opened the doors to his considerable success.

What's the lesson? It's OK to study subjects such as anthropology and history. But just make sure you also get some marketable skills. Otherwise you might find yourself the most educated trashcan-washer around. To be sure, college isn't 100% about getting a job; but you have to feed, clothe and shelter yourself somehow. Here are some careers that pay a good salary:

| UNDERGRAD DEGREES BY SALARY | STARTING MEDIAN PAY | MID-CAREER PAY |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Petroleum Engineering | \$93,000 | \$157,000 |
| Chemical Engineering | \$64,800 | \$108,000 |
| Applied Mathematics | \$56,400 | \$101,000 |
| Nursing | \$52,700 | \$68,200 |
| Economics | \$48,800 | \$97,800 |
| Finance | \$47,500 | \$91,500 |
| Accounting | \$44,600 | \$77,500 |
| Marketing | \$38,600 | \$77,300 |

Source: PayScale

For the complete list, go to <http://www.payscale.com/best-colleges/degrees.asp>

Student of the Month

News You Can Use



Allison Rose

*Student: Allison Rose
High School: Westfield
Class: 2011*

*Favorite Subjects: Math and Physics
Favorite Activities: Swimming, lacrosse,
volunteering at an animal shelter
Favorite Book: Nineteen Minutes
College Acceptances: Georgetown, Boston
College, Villanova, Stevens, Loyola
Waiting to Hear: Penn, Columbia,
Franklin & Marshall*

Q: You've applied to an impressive list of colleges. What made you pick the schools you did?

A: For the most part I picked schools that had strong academic programs and curricula that give you a chance to graduate as a well-rounded person. I also wanted to be near a big city.

Q: What do you feel were your strengths? What worried you?

A: My grades, test scores and extracurricular activities were my strengths. I worried about my essays because writing is not my forte. I also wondered if I had enough academic awards.

Q: You did manage to score two 800 scores on your SAT exams.

A: The 800 on the regular SAT was a bit of a surprise because it wasn't stuff we necessarily studied in high school. I was proud of the 800 on the SAT II 'cause I really worked hard to achieve that.

Q: What do you expect to major in?

A: Mathematics, probably applied mathematics.

Q: You've been offered scholarships to play

lacrosse and swim, correct?

A: Yes, although I don't know that I'm going to accept them. I may have to walk on to a team depending on where I end up. For example, if I attend Georgetown or Columbia, I'll probably try to swim. I've spoken to the coaches. At this point I think I would like to continue sports in college – at least give it a try.

Q: Besides schoolwork and sports, you also do volunteer work. How do you manage to get everything done?

A: I learned time management a long time ago. My life has been ruled by Excel spreadsheets. My Mom taught me from Day 1 that school always comes first.

Q: What's it like to work with Complete College Planning Solutions?

A: It's been one of my best experiences, and has helped me so much from beginning to end of the college process. It's helped with organization. Made me more confident. Helped me discover what I wanted in a college. I really appreciated the help with the essays, because as I said, that's not my comfort zone. The editing team helped guide me through them. Kathi helped me find a topic, then worked with me to make it flow and showed me what colleges would be looking for. The whole team was a tremendous help. I give them an A+

Q: What surprised you about the college process?

A: I was surprised how easy it was to know if a school was a good fit just by seeing it in person. There's no better way than to visit campuses and see for yourself and hear for yourself from actual students.

Q: Anything you regret?

A: I never studied vocabulary words, something that lots of kids start in their freshman year. I could have improved my critical reading scores.

Q: Well, I think you might be a little too tough on yourself. The way I see it, you're going to have some terrific choices. How will you ultimately decide?

A: I'll make a pros and cons list. Visit the schools again. Talk to some students. Talk to the swim coach.

Q: Put together a spreadsheet?

A: You never know.

Great Resource for Divorced or Single Moms

Ian was recently a guest on the Savvy Divorced Chicks Radio Show, hosted by Colleen Bushby, the Life Transformation Coach and founder of the online community SavvyDivorcedChicks.com.

Having grown a very successful residential interior design business during her 15 year marriage, Colleen discovered after going through her painful divorce with 4 young children that she no longer felt fulfilled helping women make their homes beautiful...she was passionate about helping divorced women make their lives beautiful.

Colleen has guided thousands of divorced women to overcome the challenges they face and transform their lives so they truly can be "better, not bitter!"™ Colleen is a graduate of the Coaches Training Institute and provides one-on-one coaching, as well as group coaching programs including her signature "Breakthrough After Breakup" Program. For more information on Savvy Divorced Chicks and to receive your Free Guide, "Jumpstart Your Life After Divorce... 5 Savvy Steps You Can Take NOW!" go to www.SavvyDivorcedChicks.com.

View the Great Masters While Sitting in Your Pajamas

The geniuses at Google have created "Art Project," accessible at <http://www.googleartproject.com>. Basically, you can tour all of the great art museums of the world. Walk up to a masterpiece, enlarge it and view it. Go to another room of the museum and keep going. Featured museums include:

- MoMA
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Uffizi, National Gallery in London
- Freer Smithsonian, and more
- You can even tour the Palace at Versailles.



Ask the Professor

Q: Have you ever heard of a college admissions department making an error in reviewing a student's application?

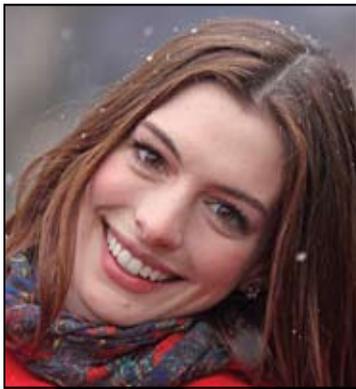
A: I heard of one earlier this year. According to *The Daily Collegian* (10/11/10), a newspaper published independently by Penn State students, a computer error caused the PSU Admissions Office to notify 700 prospective students that they had been accepted to the University when in fact they had not. In most, but not all, cases, Penn State was honoring the acceptances, according to the report. This occurred last fall.

Did You Know?



- ✓ Ever wonder what part legacy plays in college admissions? Thomas Espenshade from Princeton conducted research that suggests the weight of legacy is equal to an additional 160 points on their SAT score.
- ✓ At the California Institute of Technology, children of alumni make up a mere 1.5 percent of admits.
- ✓ At Notre Dame, 25% of this year's freshman class are children of alums.

College Match Game



Which college did Anne Hathaway attend?

- A.) Williams
- B.) NYU
- C.) BYU
- D.) TCNJ
- E.) Georgetown

Answer: B.) Anne Hathaway grew up in Millburn, NJ and attended New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study.



Upcoming FREE workshops

March 10 – 7:30 pm
Parsippany-Troy Hills Library

March 30 – 7:30 pm
Chatham Public Library

There are 2 ways to reserve a seat:
Online: www.myacfa.com
Call: 1-973-467-0101



"THEY'RE GOOD AUTO MECHANICS, BUT THAT SONG THEY WHISTLE CAN GET ON YOUR NERVES."

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