

COLLEGE BOUND

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

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College Majors and Future Income

Parents send their children to college to broaden their minds, develop their intellect and hopefully, to acquire the skills needed to enter and thrive in the working world. But when it comes time to pick a college major, students and parents should know that in the real world, college majors are not all equal. Some skills are valued much more than others in the job market.

That's not to say that students should only choose their major based on income potential. It's important for students to choose a major based on future job potential but also based on interest, passion and talent. Some people are passionate about helping others, and some are passionate about climbing the ladder and building wealth. To help your student develop a better chance of finding

and keeping a high paying job, consider the tips below.

- When choosing a major, students would be negligent in failing to do a little research beforehand. The economy is what it is, and the real world is difficult to navigate, even when you have that prized sheepskin framed on the wall.
- That's why when it comes time for students to consider majors, we encourage them to find out what career paths might be available to those students who follow that path. Also, consider whether or not additional education would be required for a particular job or profession and whether or not your student has the initiative and

resources to pursue additional schooling.

- Research has indicated that careers posed for potential growth in the future include: computer software engineers; database administrators; medical assistants; physician assistants; desktop publishers; home health aides; computer system analysts; physical therapist analysts; computer and information system managers and audiologists.
- As for the income potential for certain college majors, a recently published article in Time magazine listed the 20 best and worst paid college majors. For the study, Time used data from the U.S. Census, the Georgetown University Center on

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Spotlight On Grove City College



Location: Grove City, Pennsylvania

Undergraduates: 2,499

Male/Female: 50/50

Acceptance Rate: 74 percent of applicants were admitted

Cost of Attendance: \$21,008 (includes tuition and room and board)

Average High School GPA: 3.71

SAT Critical Reading Scores over 600 – 68 percent

SAT Math Scores over 600 – 65 percent

ACT scores over 30 – 31 percent

Interviews are recommended

- Grove City College is an independent, co-educational Christian liberal arts and sciences college founded in 1876
- Grove City's tuition is less than half of the national average for private colleges. It is rated #1 "Top Value" private liberal arts college in the nation by *Consumer's Digest*
- 2,500 full-time students enjoy the school's 180-acre campus located 60 miles from Pittsburgh
- 94 percent of the students live on campus and campus housing is guaranteed
- Most popular campus organizations are Salt Company, Warriors for Christ, Orientation Board, Touring Choir
- Students can choose from 50 fields of undergraduate study, as well as preprofessional programs such as pre-law and pre-medical
- Grove City College's placement services are ranked among the top 20 in the nation by *The Princeton Review*
- Notable Grove City College alumni include Harold Dodds, a former president of Princeton University and Ed Breen, CEO of Tyco International Ltd.

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Education and a report published by Workforce. The findings are below.

Highest Earning Majors

- Mining and Mineral Engineering
- Metallurgical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering (noticing a trend yet?)
- Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Mathematics and Computer Sciences
- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration
- Petroleum Engineering

Lowest Earning Majors

- Health and Medical Preparatory Programs
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Communication-Disorders Sciences and Services
- Studio Arts
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- Social Work
- Human Services and Community Organizations
- Theology and Religious Vocations
- Early-Childhood Education
- Counseling and Psychology

When choosing a major, student should ask themselves several questions, such as:

- ✓ When do I have to declare my major? Some majors have a lot of requirements so it may pay to declare early in your college career. But if you're unsure about your future path, it may pay to wait to declare.
- ✓ Would I do well in this major? Some students aren't cut out for math, others can't handle a foreign language very well. Make sure your abilities match your major.
- ✓ Have I done any research on this major? It's necessary to look into future career paths, and also to speak with students and professors who have insight into the major and what it can offer you.
- ✓ Is my college/university known for this major? How strong is the academic department?
- ✓ What are the requirements for this major? Be sure you know exactly what to expect before you commit. Check out the required and elective courses to see if you're still interested in pursuing a particular field of study.
- ✓ Ask yourself why you want to pick a certain major. Is it because you're headed to law school or medical school, or are you choosing a major simple because you're out of ideas?

Does Your College Offer a Good ROI?

Parents know that a college education doesn't usually come cheap. And with all the expense associated with earning a four-year degree, it's no wonder parents and students ask whether or not a college education is really worth it.

Study after study does show that having a college degree pays off in the long run. Students who earn a bachelor's degree will, over their lifetime, out earn those with just a high school diploma.

But studies also show that not all degrees are as marketable in the real world, and some schools may even have a greater ROI, or return on investment, than others.

Payscale, a Seattle-based data compensation company, recently ranked U.S. schools by their annual ROI, what a student pays to attend versus what they get back in earnings. Below are schools with the highest and lowest ROIs, calculated on earnings over a 30-year period.

Top 10 ROI Schools

School	Cost to Attend	Annual ROI
Harvey Mud College	\$212,900	11.2%
California Institute of Technology	\$207,400	11.2%
MIT	\$208,100	10.7%
Stanford	\$220,200	10.4%
Princeton	\$205,600	10.6%
Harvard	\$210,400	10.4%
Dartmouth	\$212,000	10.3%
Duke University	\$210,900	10.2%
University of Pennsylvania	\$212,800	10%
University of Notre Dame	\$203,500	10.1%

Bottom 10 ROI Schools

School	Cost to Attend	Annual ROI
Marywood University	\$165,900	-7.8%
University of Montevallo	\$100,700	-12.3%
Jackson State University	\$117,900	-12.3%
Nazareth College of Rochester	\$151,800	-12.3%
College of the Ozarks	\$104,200	-12.3%
Meredith College	\$142,100	-12.3%
Medaille College	\$130,100	-12.3%
Judson University	\$151,000	-12.3%
Seton Hill University	\$160,200	-12.3%
Savannah College of Art and Design	\$176,900	-12.3%

Finding a good fit college or university is dependent upon many factors, including degrees and programs offered, the size and setting of a school, financial aid, and even emotional issues such as student contentment. In other words, what a student gets out of a college education may be due in part to what that student puts into it.

News You Can Use

Getting Ready for the Dorm

If you look at all the newspaper sales flyers that usually come out in July and August, you'd think that a college dorm room is about the size of a small ranch home. Not so. If your son or daughter is headed off to college this fall, there's a lot they'll need to bring with them. But there's also not a whole lot of room to work with.

To make the most of cramped dorm space, consider the following tips.

Map out the room. When your child attends orientation, you'll probably get a chance to take a look at a typical dorm room. Take measurements, and then when you're back home, recreate the size using masking tape. That will give you a realistic view of how much space there is to work with. Be sure you mark off the space that will be taken up with the bed, dresser and desk.

Communicate with Roommates: Once roommate assignments are known, it's a good idea to touch base. There's no reason you both have to bring a dorm-sized refrigerator. Figure out what items can be shared, so there's no unnecessary replicating.

Live Without: It's hard moving away from home, and there is the temptation to move all of one's childhood belongings with them, but that's only going to crowd the space. Bring one sentimental item with you, and as many pictures as you like. They can be tacked to the wall and don't take up much room.

Follow the List: Your child's school will provide you with a list of necessary items. You'll notice that couches, fancy chairs, a full service of plates and cups, and custom bookcases won't be on the list. Most of those items aren't necessary. People just think they are because the big box retailers want you to spend a fortune decorating the room.

Remember Lighting: One thing your student will need is extra lighting. Invest in tabletop lamp that will last the entire four years.



Ask the Professor

Q: Are college fairs a waste of time? Can't I get all the information I need online?

A: College fairs are definitely worth your time, but only if you go with a plan. Before you go, make a list of schools you want to see and any questions you might have about them. Don't go with friends – you want to make this visit about you, and not about them. Talk with the college rep who attends the fair, and make sure you tell them your name. Also, be sure you fill-out any response cards they might have. Most of all, ask questions; this is your chance to make contact, get noticed and get all of your questions answered, and you can't really do all of that online.

Did You Know?



✓ Looking for a marketable major? Here are four degrees with 0% unemployment:

- Actuarial science
- Astrophysics
- Pharmacology
- Geophysics

College Match Game



Which college did actress Julianne Moore attend?

- A: University of Maryland
- B: Boston University
- C: Kent State University
- D: Columbia University

Answer: B. Moore graduated from Boston University from the College of Fine Arts



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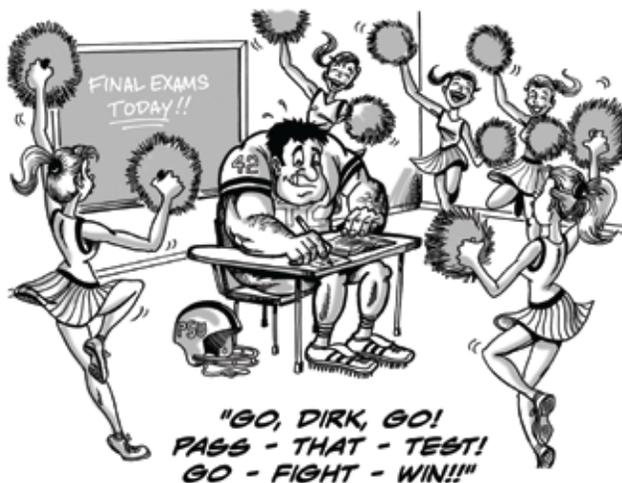
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