



**WHAT MAKES A
GREAT COLLEGE?**

THE TOP 10 PARTY SCHOOLS IN THE NATION

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. West Virginia University
3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. Lehigh University
5. Bucknell University
6. University of Iowa
7. University of Mississippi
8. Syracuse University
9. Tulane University
10. Colgate University

HAPPIEST COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY

1. Vanderbilt University
2. Rice University
3. University of Oklahoma
4. Tulane University
5. College of William & Mary
6. Kansas State University
7. Colby College
8. Saint Anselm College
9. University of Iowa
10. Clemson University

COLLEGES THAT PRODUCE THE MOST WAUBONSIE VALLEY TEACHERS

1. Illinois State University
2. Northern Illinois University
3. University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
4. North Central College
5. Eastern Illinois University
6. Western Illinois University
7. Benedictine University
8. Bradley
9. Aurora University
10. Wheaton College

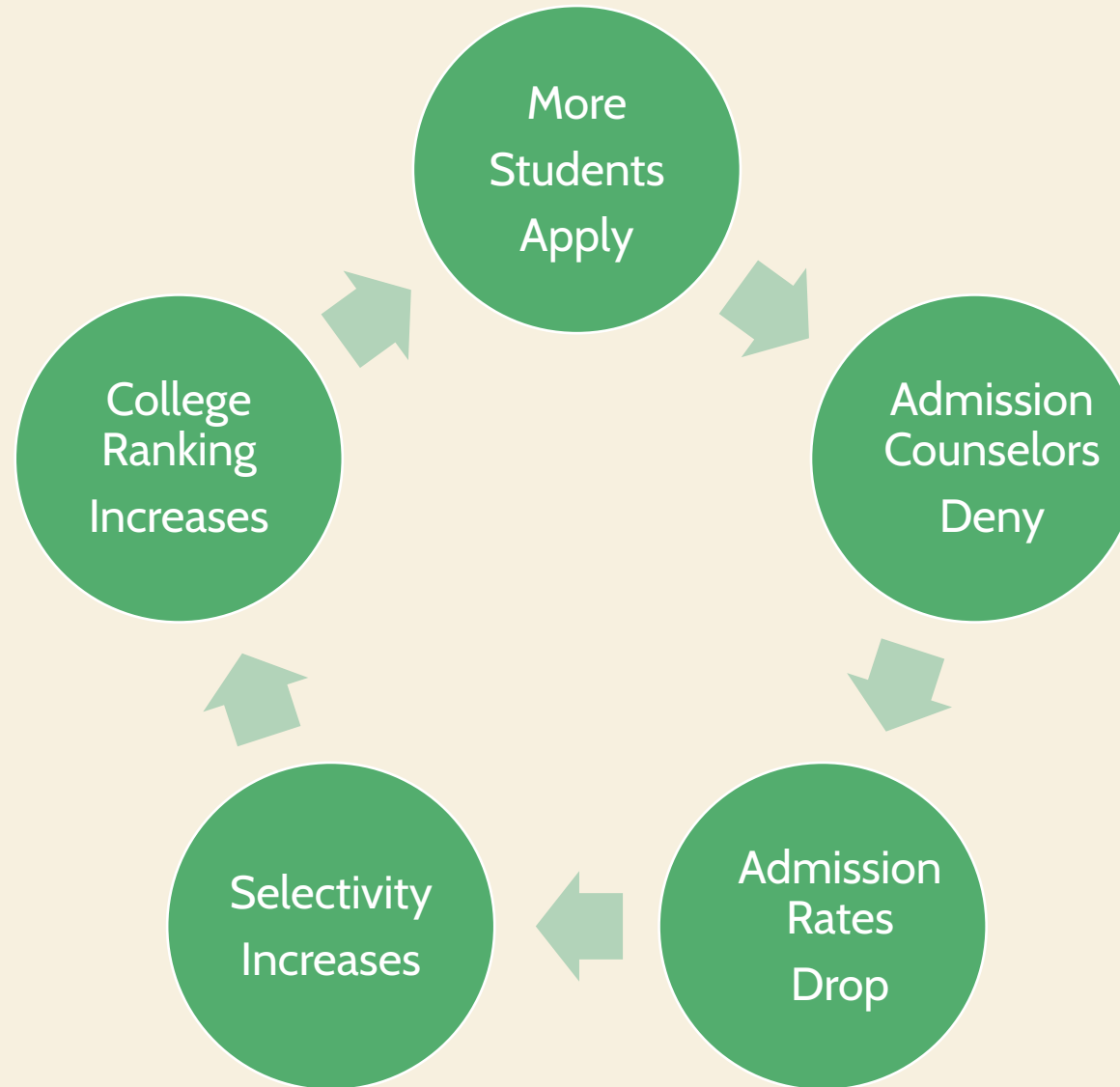
MOST SELECTIVE SCHOOLS (LOWEST ACCEPTANCE RATES)

- 1.** Stanford University
- 2.** Harvard University
- 3.** Yale University
- 4.** United States Naval Academy
- 5.** Princeton University
- 6.** Columbia University (NY)
- 7.** Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
- 8.** Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 9.** University of Chicago
- 10.** United States Military Academy - West Point



**Can You Really
Trust Rankings?**

THE CYCLE OF COLLEGE RANKINGS



**IT SHOULD BE ABOUT THE
BEST FIT,
NOT THE BEST SOUNDING
NAME**



WHAT IS A GOOD COLLEGE

FOR ME



Location,
Location,
Location,

LOCATION MATTERS

- Do you want to be able to come home?
 - 57% of freshmen attending a public four-year school choose one within 50 miles of home
- Where do you want to live during college? Where do you want to live after college?
- What type of work do you want to do?

SIZE MATTERS



Tall



Grande



Venti



Trenta

Note: Not to Scale

HOW BIG IS BIG?

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS @URBANA
CHAMPAIGN 44,068

- Waubonsie Valley
- Metea Valley
- Neuqua Valley
- DeKalb
- Naperville North
- Naperville Central
- East Aurora
- West Aurora
- Oswego
- Oswego East
- Wheaton Warrenville South
- Wheaton North
- Downers Grove North
- Downers Grove South
- Hinsdale Central
- Hinsdale South

HOW SMALL IS SMALL?

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE 2,782

- Waubonsie Valley
- One middle school's 8th grade class

CLASS SIZES

Large State Universities

44,068

- Student to Faculty Ratio 20:1
- Average Class Size 20-50
 - 20% of classes are 50+
- Lower Level Classes Led by Teaching Assistants

Small Private Universities

2,782

- Student to Faculty Ratio 15:1
- Average Class Size 20 or less
- No Teaching Assistants

The background of the image is a dense, overlapping collage of US dollar bills. The bills are primarily \$100 bills, with some \$10 bills visible. They are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and abundance, with various serial numbers and the portrait of Benjamin Franklin visible. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text "SHOW ME THE MONEY!".

**SHOW ME THE
MONEY!**

THE COST OF COLLEGE

- Sticker Price
 - Financial Aid
 - EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)
 - Student/Parent Loans
 - Related Expenses
 - Net Price
- Dual Credit / AP Credits

IS YOUR COLLEGE TUITION WORKING FOR YOU?

- Debt at Graduation
- Return On Investment
 - Varies by Major
 - Average Alumni Salary

ACADEMICS



AM I RIGHT FOR THIS COLLEGE?

- High School GPA
- Test Scores
- Admissions Standards
 - Graduation Standards

IS THIS COLLEGE RIGHT FOR ME?

- Major / Minor
- Resources
 - Library
 - Writing Center
 - Student Supports
 - Student Advisors
- Professors

OUTCOMES



STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Retention Rate
 - Nationwide, 1 in 3 students won't return for sophomore year
- Graduation Rate (four year and six year)
 - National average is around 60%
- Post Graduation
 - Workforce
 - Working in their field
 - Graduate School
- Career Services on Campus

COLLEGE EXPERIENCES THAT IMPACT COLLEGE AND FUTURE JOB SATISFACTION & WELL-BEING

1. TAKING A COURSE with a professor who makes learning exciting.
2. WORKING WITH PROFESSORS who care about students personally.
3. FINDING A MENTOR who encourages students to pursue personal goals.
4. WORKING ON A PROJECT across several semesters.
5. PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERNSHIP that applies classroom learning.
6. BEING ACTIVE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

ONLY 3% OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCE ALL SIX FACTORS!

COLLEGE

»» LIFE



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Friends on Campus
- Greek Life
- Clubs/Activities

Campus Culture

- Big Fish, Little Pond
- Personality and Feel
- Demographics
- Religious Beliefs
- Political Climate



So Finally, What is a Good College???

It Depends!

Make it depend on you.



**What Can I Do
Now...**

Important Dates for this Year

- September- Senior Q&A Sessions
- September 17th- Financial Aid Night
- September & October- Counselor Meetings
- October 1st- FAFSA Opens
- October 20th- FAFSA Workshop
- November 1st- Early Admissions Deadline
- January 2021- Green & Gold Scholarships
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Do Your Research

- SchooLinks is your friend
- Virtual College Visits
 - Big School & Small School
 - Call your favorites
 - Attend IACAC seminars
- Senior meeting in the fall

Letters of Recommendation

- Identify 2-3 trusted adults to ask for letters
 - Counselor/Teacher/Coach/club sponsor/community member
- Print Student Profile (found on counseling department website)
- Ask for letters in a personable way: phone call, Zoom, formal email

Start Your Applications

- Individual College Websites
- Common Application
- Coalition Application

Ask your counselor for an unofficial transcript or print from StudentVue

Commit to Applying for Scholarships!

- There are thousands of scholarships available
- Scholarship go unclaimed
 - *Really, scholarships go unclaimed!*
- It's not always the best student who wins the scholarship

WHAT MAKES A GREAT COLLEGE?

Questions???