

# Six Keys to Finding a Good College Fit

*MEFA Webinar*

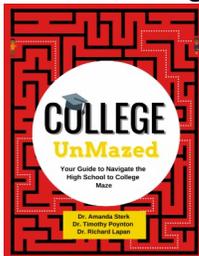


# ABOUT US

Dr. Sterk, Dr. Poynton, and Dr. Lapan have partnered together to bring research informed practices and data driven strategies to help students and families navigate the college-going process through a robust student workbook and corresponding curriculum.

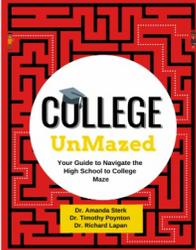
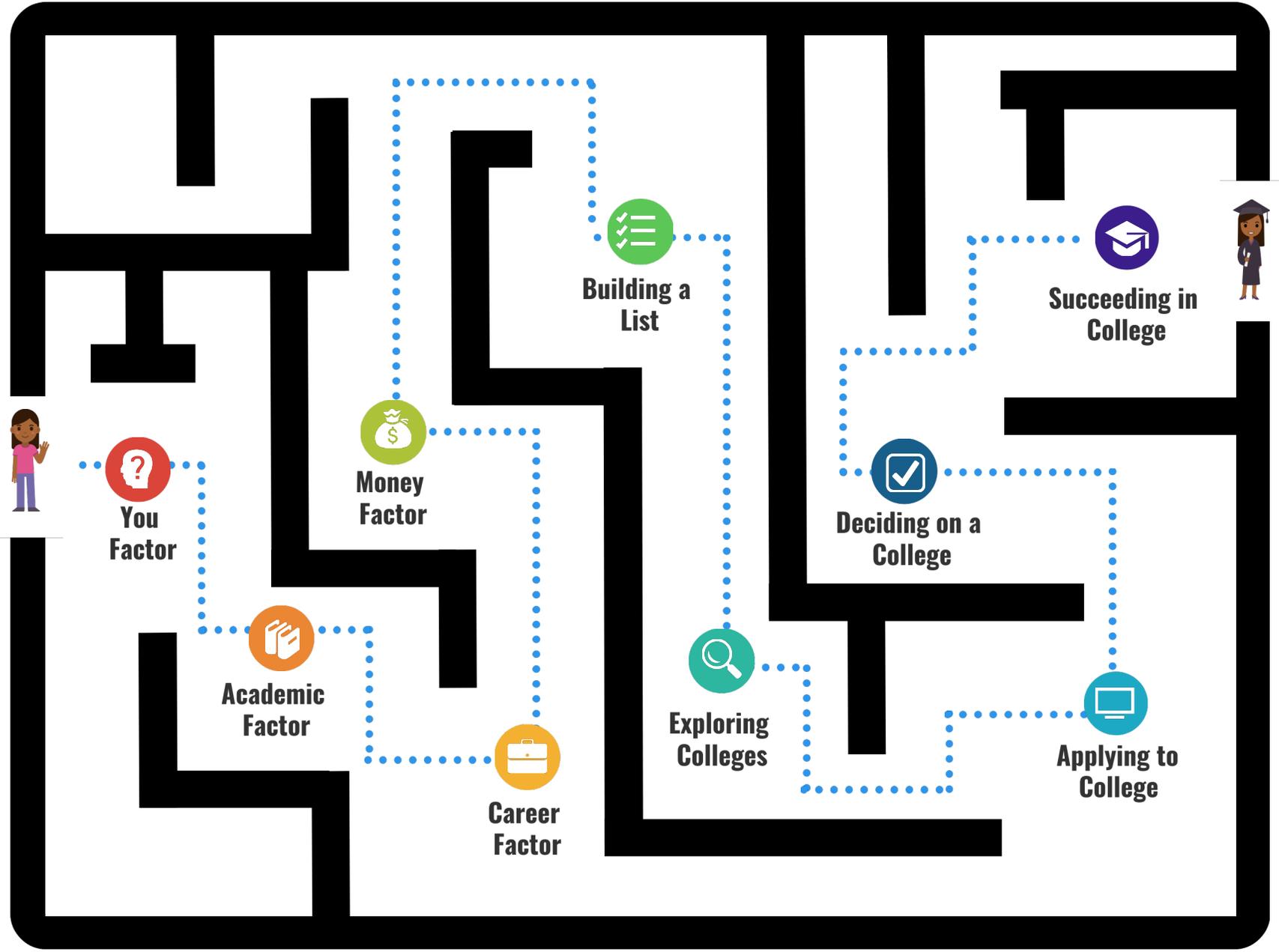


Dr. Timothy Poynton



College UnMazed, LLC.  
[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)  
[info@collegeunmazed.com](mailto:info@collegeunmazed.com)  
© 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved

# COLLEGE UNMAZED



College UnMazed, LLC.  
[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)  
[info@collegeunmazed.com](mailto:info@collegeunmazed.com)  
© 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved

# COLLEGE UnMazed®

Your Guide to Navigate the High School to College Maze

## SELF & COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

4 Factors essential for building a set of skills and abilities preparing you to become college and career ready.

### YOU FACTOR

#### 8 STRENGTHS

- Agency
- Positive Beliefs
- Effective Goals
- Knowing Yourself
- Becoming a Successful Student
- Character for Workplace Success
- College Knowledge
- College Support Network

#### ACTIVITIES

- Work Experience
- Community Involvement
- Creative Pursuits
- Major-Specific Activities
- School Clubs & Activities
- Leadership

### MONEY FACTOR

#### MONEY SOURCES

- Institutional
- National
- State
- External
- Subsidized
- Unsubsidized
- Parent Plus

- Gift Aid
- Loans
- Work Study
- External

- Out-of-pocket
- Savings/529

#### MONEY TERMS

- Award Letter
- EFC/SAI
- FAFSA/CSS Profile
- Cost of Attendance
- Net Price

### ACADEMIC FACTOR

#### PROGRAMS

- Credit-by-Examination
- Dual Enrollment
- Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Industry Certification

#### GRADES

- Recalculated
- Weighted
- Unweighted

#### TESTING

- Pre-ACT
- PSAT
- ACT
- SAT
- Test Optional

### CAREER FACTOR

#### CAREER SELF KNOWLEDGE

- Interests
- Abilities
- Values

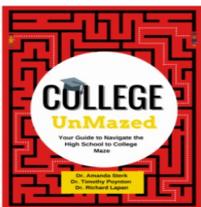
- Realistic
- Investigative
- Artistic
- Social
- Enterprising
- Conventional

#### DEGREES

- Certificates
- Associate
- Bachelor's
- Master's
- Doctorate

#### CAREER PATHWAYS

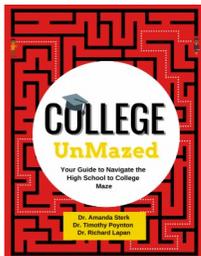
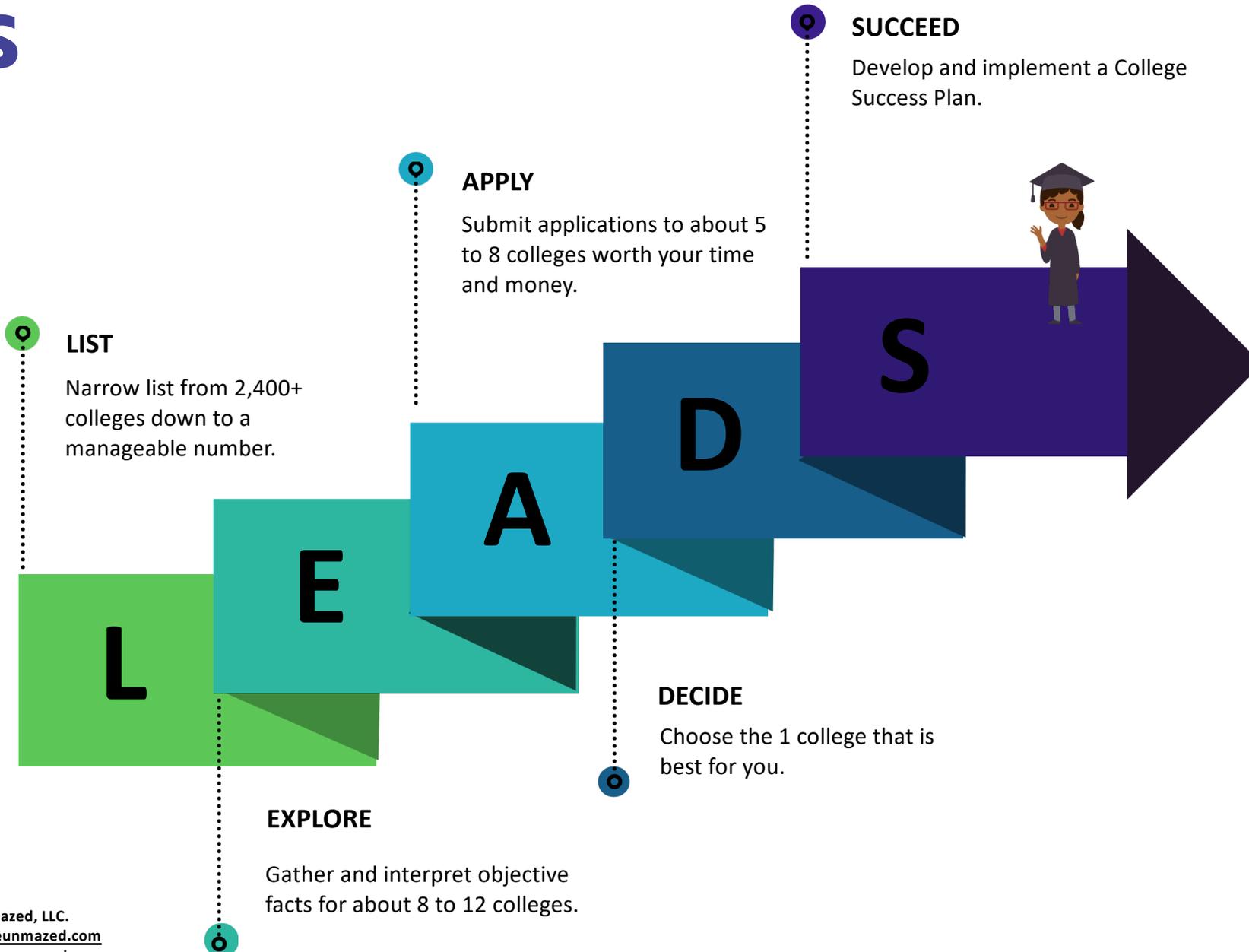
- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
- Business, Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics



College UnMazed, LLC.  
[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)  
[info@collegeunmazed.com](mailto:info@collegeunmazed.com)  
 © 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved



# LEADS



# COLLEGE UnMazed®

Your Guide to Navigate the High School to College Maze

## LEADS STRATEGY

5 steps to making an informed college decision



- Academic Match
- Career Match
- Financial Match
- Personal Match
- Student Outcomes
- Student Support

### 6 KEYS

- 2+2
- 4+1/3+2
- Colleges That Change Lives
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities
- Honors
- Internships
- Learning Communities
- Limited Access
- Study Abroad

### COLLEGE PROGRAMS

- Eligibility
- Budget
- Financial Aid Office

### COLLEGE SUCCESS PLAN

- Financial Integration
- Academic Integration
- Social Integration

- Relationships
- Extracurricular
- Comfort/Climate

- Orientation/Welcome Activities
- Faculty & Staff
- Advisors
- Learning Resources

- Direct Costs
- Indirect Costs
- Self-Help Aid
- Net Price

### AWARD LETTERS

- Admit
- Alternative Admissions
- Defer
- Waitlist
- Deny

### ADMISSION DECISIONS

### INFORMED DECISION

- Create
- Evaluate
- Analyze
- Apply
- Understand
- Remember

### ADMISSION TYPES

- Open Access
- Competitive
- Selective
- Highly Selective

### VISITS

- Formal
- Informal
- Fly-ins
- High School Visits
- College Fairs
- Virtual Fairs

### ACADEMIC & NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS

- |                 |                             |                        |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rigor           | Talent/Ability              | First-generation       |
| Class Rank      | Interview                   | Alumni Relation        |
| GPA             | Character/Personal          | Geographical Residence |
| ACT/SAT         | Extracurriculars            | State Residency        |
| Essay           | Volunteer Work              | Religious Affiliation  |
| Recommendations | Work Experience             | Racial/Ethnic Status   |
|                 | Level of Applicant Interest |                        |

### DOCUMENTS

- Résumé
- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- ACT/SAT
- Transcript
- FAFSA/CSS Profile

### APPLICATIONS

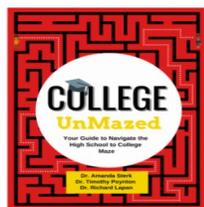
- Common App
- Coalition App
- Institutional

### ALTERNATIVE ADMISSIONS

- Support Programs
- Online
- Alternative Programs
- Alternative Term

### DEADLINES

- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Priority Deadline
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admissions



College UnMazed, LLC.  
[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)  
[info@collegeunmazed.com](mailto:info@collegeunmazed.com)  
 © 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved



# What is FIT?



# 6 Keys of College Fit

**Academic Match**  


- ACT/SAT Scores
- GPA
- Selectivity
- Student-to-faculty ratio
- Program size and availability

**Career Match**  


- Alumni network
- Mentoring
- Internships
- Career placement

**Financial Match**  


- Sticker price
- Gift aid
- Net price
- Median debt

**Personal Match**  

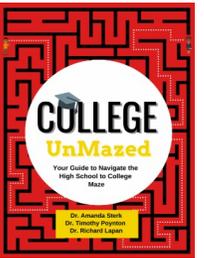

- Diversity
- Institution type
- Recreational options
- Living arrangements (dorms, food, etc.)

**Student Support**  


- Tutoring services
- Academic labs/tutoring centers
- Counseling centers
- Disability/Adaptive services
- Recreational and community service organizations

**Student Outcomes**  


- Graduation rate
- Retention rate
- Alumni salary
- Loan default rate





*Primary objective of List phase is to identify options that generally fit you without getting overwhelmed and missing any good options. Should ideally have about 10-15 colleges. California has 233 four-year college, Texas 129, Massachusetts 91. Wyoming has 3 four-year colleges.*

## Personal Match

- Location
- Distance from home
- Size of campus (small, medium, large)
- Sports teams
- Religious affiliation
- Special mission (HBCU, tribal, single sex)

## Career Match

- Majors & programs offered

## Academic Match

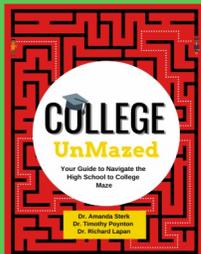
- Online/distance learning options
- Availability of weekend classes
- Credit for life experience
- Available degrees (certificates, Associate, Bachelor's)
- Type of college, 2- or 4-year
- Public or private

# Developing a List

1. Career pathways
2. Housing available on or near campus
3. Distance from home
4. School size
5. Varsity athletic teams
6. Institution type
7. Level of award

***What is not considered at this stage?***

***Cost, Chance of Admission***



College UnMazed, LLC.

[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)

[info@collegeunmazed.com](mailto:info@collegeunmazed.com)

© 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved

Name of School  
Type name of school here

States (use map for more than 1 state)  
No Preference  
Alabama  
Alaska  
Use Map

ZIP Code Miles from

Programs/Majors  
0 Items Selected  
Browse for Programs

Level of Award  
 Certificate  Associate's  
 Bachelor's  Advanced

Institution Type  
 Public  4-year  
 Private non-profit  2-year  
 Private for-profit  < 2-year

MORE SEARCH OPTIONS

Tuition & Fees  
Maximum State you live in

Undergraduate Student Enrollment  
Minimum to Maximum

Housing?  Yes

Campus Setting  
 Rural  Suburban  
 Town  City

% of Applicants Admitted  
Minimum to Maximum

Test Scores – 25th Percentile  
SAT Reading/Writing: Min Max  
SAT Math: Min Max  
ACT Composite: Min Max

Varsity Athletic Teams  
 Men  Women  
No Preference

Extended Learning Opportunities  
 Distance learning only  
 Weekend/evening  
 Credit for life experience

Religious Affiliation  
No Preference

Specialized Mission  
No Preference

Show Results

Guide Me | Clear Search

Find the right college for you

Guide Me

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an *interactive map*.
- » Export search results into a *spreadsheet*.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » [Add College Navigator](#) to your browser search bar.

### College Affordability and Transparency Center

Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Preparing for your Education

Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

#### Financial Aid

Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

#### Postsecondary Education Outcome Measures: ED, DOD, and VA

ED, DOD, and VA have identified a set of potential education outcome measures for Veterans and service members. [» GO](#)

#### Careers

Deciding on a career? Consult the *b/s.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)



*All 6 Keys considered in Explore; primary objective is to get to about 8-12 colleges you Explore more deeply through visits and further investigation with Six Keys.*

*Here is where you begin to consider cost and chance of admission.*

### **Academic Match**

- ACT/SAT Scores
- GPA
- Selectivity
- Student-to-faculty ratio
- Program size and availability

### **Career Match**

- Alumni network
- Mentoring
- Internships
- Career placement

### **Personal Match**

- Diversity
- Institution type
- Recreational options
- Living arrangements (dorms, food, etc.)

### **Financial Match**

- Sticker price
- Gift aid
- Net price
- Median debt

### **Student Support**

- Tutoring services
- Academic labs/tutoring centers
- Counseling centers
- Disability/Adaptive services
- Recreational and community service organizations

### **Student Outcomes**

- Graduation rate
- Retention rate
- Alumni salary
- Loan default rate

*We can better estimate chances of admission if we know how a particular college views the importance of the academic and non-academic factors they consider when making admission decisions*

Figure 6.2



**MALLEABLE  
NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS**

- Talent/ ability
- Interview
- Character/ personal qualities
- Extracurricular activities
- Volunteer work
- Work experience
- Level of applicant interest

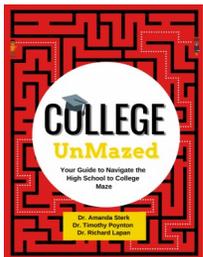
**LESS MALLEABLE NON-  
ACADEMIC FACTORS**

- First generation
- Alumni relation
- Geographical residence
- State residency
- Religious affiliation/ commitment
- Racial/ ethnic status



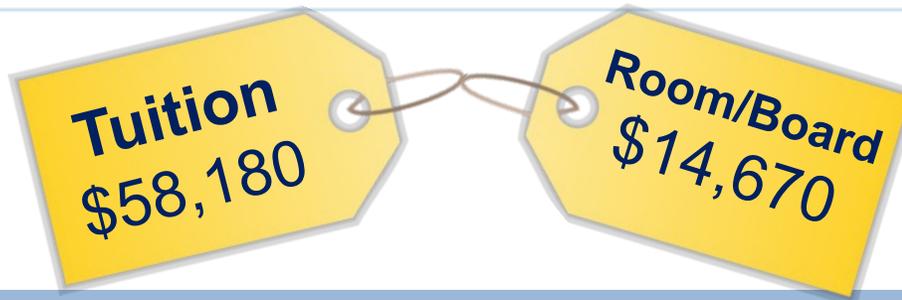
**C7 Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in first-time, first-year, degree-seeking (freshman) admission decisions.**

C7		Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered
C7	<b>Academic</b>				
C7	Rigor of secondary school record	X			
C7	Class rank		X		
C7	Academic GPA	X			
C7	Standardized test scores	X			
C7	Application Essay				X
C7	Recommendation(s)				X
C7	<b>Nonacademic</b>				
C7	Interview				X
C7	Extracurricular activities			X	
C7	Talent/ability			X	
C7	Character/personal qualities				X
C7	First generation				X
C7	Alumni/ae relation				X
C7	Geographical residence				X
C7	State residency				X
C7	Religious affiliation/commitment				X
C7	Racial/ethnic status				X
C7	Volunteer work			X	
C7	Work experience				X
C7	Level of applicant's interest		X		



TYPE OF AID	NUMBER RECEIVING AID	PERCENT RECEIVING AID	TOTAL AMOUNT OF AID RECEIVED	AVERAGE AMOUNT OF AID RECEIVED
Any student financial aid <sup>1</sup>	457	100%	—	—
Grant or scholarship aid	457	100%	\$18,808,097	\$41,156
Federal grants	103	23%	\$600,988	\$5,835
Pell grants	103	23%	\$477,157	\$4,633
Other federal grants	91	20%	\$123,831	\$1,361
State/local government grant or scholarships	63	14%	\$148,550	\$2,358
Institutional grants or scholarships	457	100%	\$18,058,559	\$39,515
Student loan aid	272	60%	\$2,325,668	\$8,550
Federal student loans	264	58%	\$1,340,674	\$5,078
Other student loans	64	14%	\$984,994	\$15,391

70% AVERAGE tuition discount!



*You will find this in Financial Aid section of College Navigator*

**September 20, 2022**

Lasell University today announced plans to reduce tuition and room and board costs to bring greater transparency to its pricing and make a Lasell undergraduate education accessible to a broader group of students.

At its recent meeting, our [Board of Trustees](#) approved the rate of \$26,000 for tuition and \$13,500 for standard room and board, making Lasell housing and meal plan rate among the lowest in the Boston area and in all of New England. This reduction in price better reflects the actual out of pocket costs that the majority of current Lasell students pay after scholarships are factored in.

For the **2023-2024** academic year, the combined tuition and standard room and board price will decrease from \$59,130 to \$39,500, a 33% reduction from the 2022-2023 published rate.

According to research conducted by Sallie Mae, 60% of high school students won't consider a college or university— even if it meets individual academic, geographic, and social criteria— if the published price is deemed beyond their means. These decisions are often reached without a real understanding of the scholarships and generous financial aid packages that school's like Lasell offer, financial support that can make the cost of attendance more accessible.

Full-time beginning undergraduate students who were awarded grant or scholarship aid from federal, state or local governments, or the institution.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Average net price	\$29,688	\$28,518	\$28,867

Full-time beginning undergraduate students who were awarded Title IV aid by income.

AVERAGE NET PRICE BY INCOME	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
\$0 – \$30,000	\$20,511	\$19,563	\$20,988
\$30,001 – \$48,000	\$22,008	\$19,297	\$21,587
\$48,001 – \$75,000	\$22,571	\$22,415	\$23,577
\$75,001 – \$110,000	\$23,339	\$25,585	\$26,292
\$110,001 and more	\$34,698	\$31,982	\$30,872

*Net Price for low-income student at UMA = \$6,061, high income = \$24,211*

*You will find this in Net Price section of College Navigator*

Characteristic	SUNY at Albany	SUNY Empire State College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	SUNY Cortland	Syracuse University
Student-to-faculty ratio (Explore)	19	18	17	16	15
% admitted (Explore)	57%		57%	52%	69%
% admit who enroll (Explore)	18%		15%	20%	16%
SAT Reading 25th Percentile (Explore)	550		620	550	
SAT Reading 75th Percentile (Explore)	620		720	610	
SAT Math 25th Percentile (Explore)	540		680	550	
SAT Math 75th Percentile (Explore)	630		780	610	
ACT Composite 25th Percentile (Explore)	22		29	22	
ACT Composite 75th Percentile (Explore)	28		34	26	

Academic Match

Student Outcomes	SUNY at Albany	SUNY Empire State College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	SUNY Cortland	Syracuse University
Retention rate (Explore)	83%	65%	91%	85%	89%
4 year graduation rate (Explore)	54%	18%	61%	53%	71%
6 year graduation rate (Explore)	64%	25%	86%	71%	83%
Cohort default rate (Explore)	4%	4%	1%	4%	3%

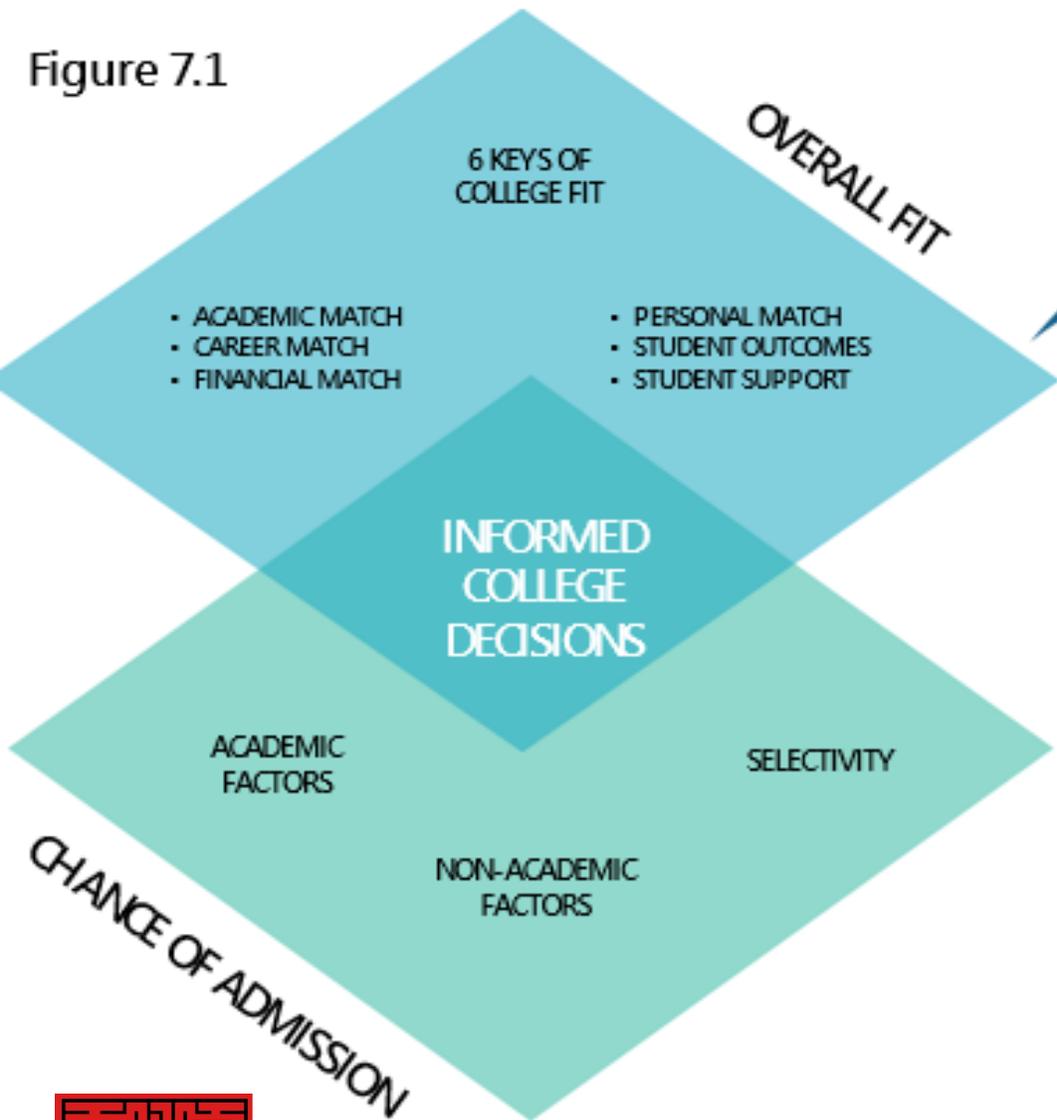
Tuition and fees, in state (Explore)	\$10,160	\$7,630	\$57,012	\$8,677	\$55,926
Tuition and fees, out of state (Explore)	\$27,750	\$17,540	\$57,012	\$18,587	\$55,926
Living arrangement - Room and board, On Campus (Explore)	\$14,620		\$15,954	\$13,100	\$16,356
Living arrangement - Room and board, Off Campus (not with Family) (Explore)	\$9,994	\$11,600		\$13,100	\$16,356
Living arrangement - Other (On Campus) (Explore)	\$1,720		\$1,608	\$2,860	\$1,806
Living arrangement - Other (Off Campus, with family) (Explore)	\$2,050	\$1,226		\$3,260	\$1,806
Living arrangement - Other (Off Campus, not with family) (Explore)	\$2,050	\$2,226		\$2,860	\$1,806
Avg. overall Net Price, from IPEDS (Explore)	\$17,486	\$12,059	\$40,661	\$17,743	\$47,177
Avg. Net Price (income \$0-\$30,000)			\$22,878		\$17,250
Avg. Net Price (income \$30,001-\$48,000)			\$20,738		\$19,737
Avg. Net Price (income \$48,001-\$75,000)			\$29,788		\$23,533
Avg. Net Price (income \$75,001-\$110,000)			\$31,589		\$28,653
Avg. Net Price (income over \$110,000)			\$43,003		\$47,284
% of students receiving institutional aid (Explore)	70%	56%	83%	58%	85%
Avg. amount of institutional aid (Explore)	\$3,860	\$649	\$31,461	\$2,185	\$24,390

Financial Match





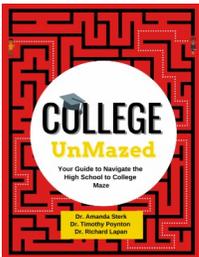
Figure 7.1



~~SAFETY, TARGET REACH~~

Figure 7.5

My Overall Fit by Chance of Admission		Chance of Admission		
		High	Moderate	Low
Overall Fit	Low			
	Moderate			
	High			





*Primary objective of Decide phase is to choose which college to attend. You again attend to Six Keys but now more strongly weight Desirability, the emotion-based side of informed college decision making.*

**1**

This college has a **little** of what I want and need to be satisfied and successful

**17 or lower = Low Fit**

**2**

This college has **some** of what I want and need to be satisfied and successful

**18–23= Moderate Fit**

**3**

This college has **much** of what I want and need to be satisfied and successful

**4**

This college has **most** of what I want and need to be satisfied and successful

**24–30 = High Fit**

**5**

This college has **everything** I want and need to be satisfied and successful

College	Student Outcomes	Academic Match	Personal Match	Career Match	Financial Match	Student Support Services	Total Key Score	Overall Fit

*Revisit 6 Keys with additional information such as Award Letters*

Figure 8.1

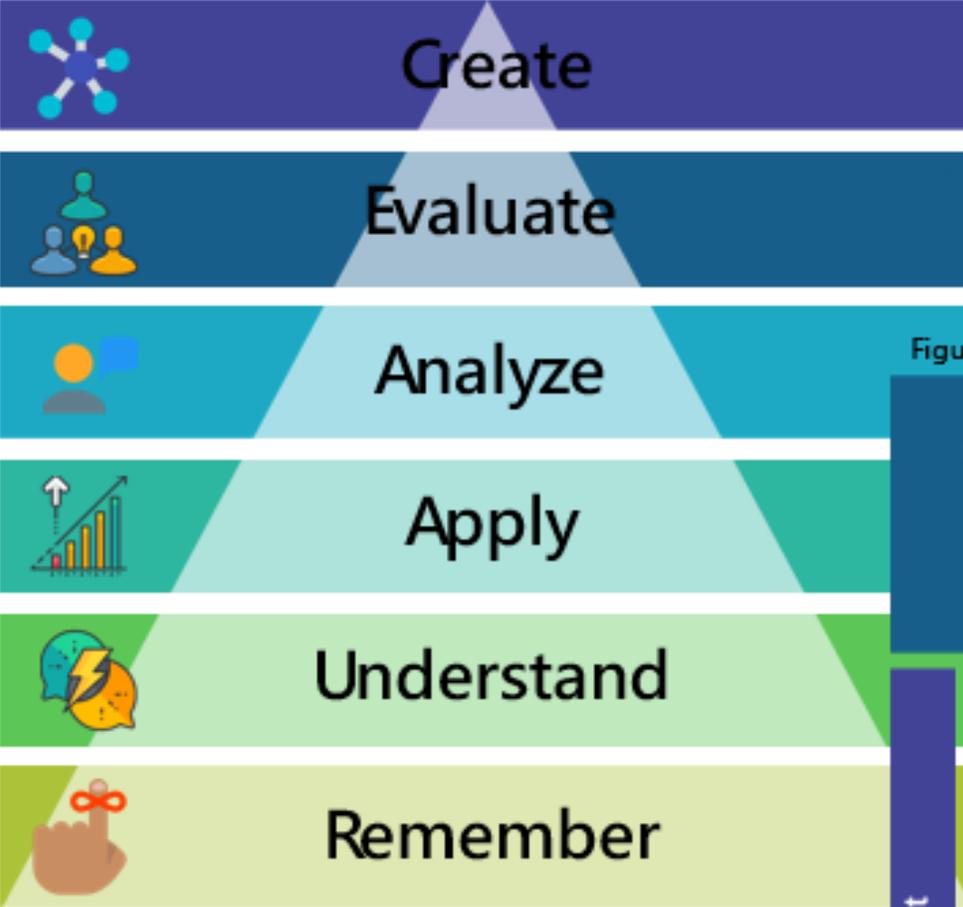
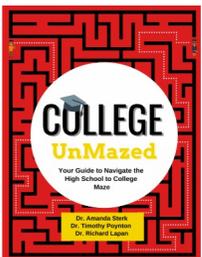
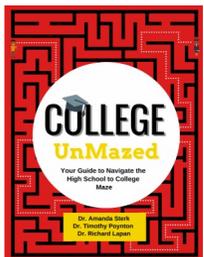
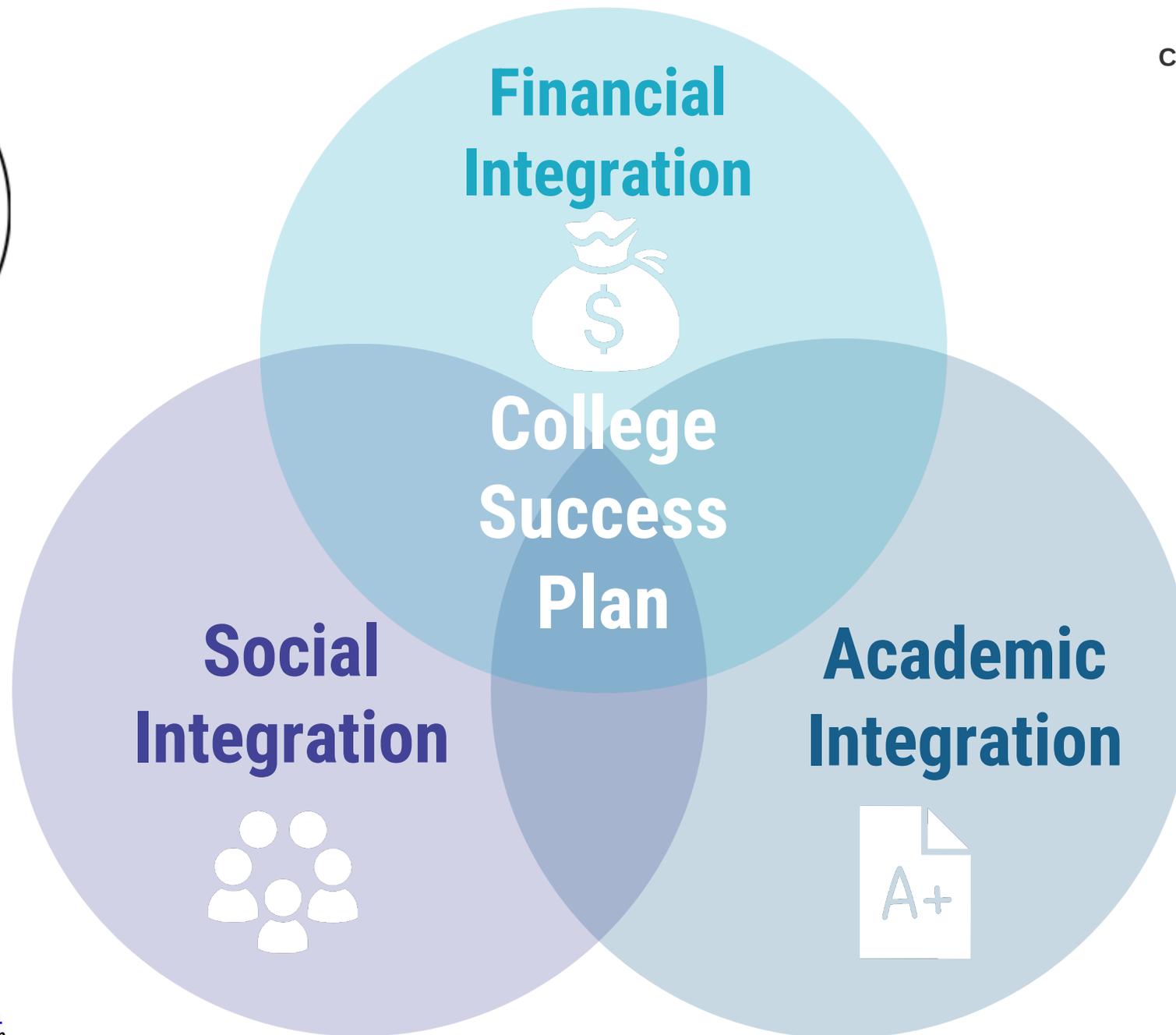


Figure 8.8

		Desirability		
		Low	Moderate	High
Overall Fit	Desirability by Overall Fit	Low	Moderate	High
	Low			
	Moderate			
High				





You  
Factor



Career  
Factor



Academic  
Factor



Money  
Factor

Developing  
a List



Exploring  
Colleges



Applying to  
Colleges



Deciding on  
a College

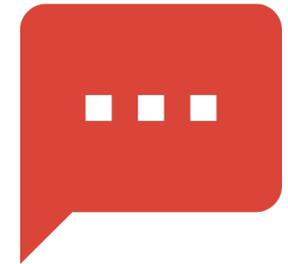


Succeeding  
in College

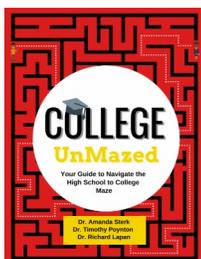


# Questions?

# info@collegeunmazed.com



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Spotify: @CollegeUnMazed



College UnMazed, LLC.  
[www.collegeunmazed.com](http://www.collegeunmazed.com)  
info@collegeunmazed.com  
© 2022 College UnMazed®, all rights reserved