

# You've Placed the Deposit for College, Now What?

*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.

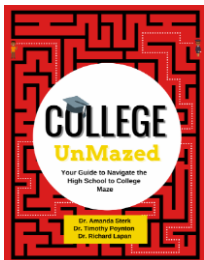


Dr. Timothy Poynton

Dr. Richard Lapan

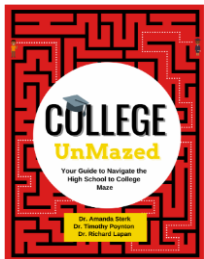
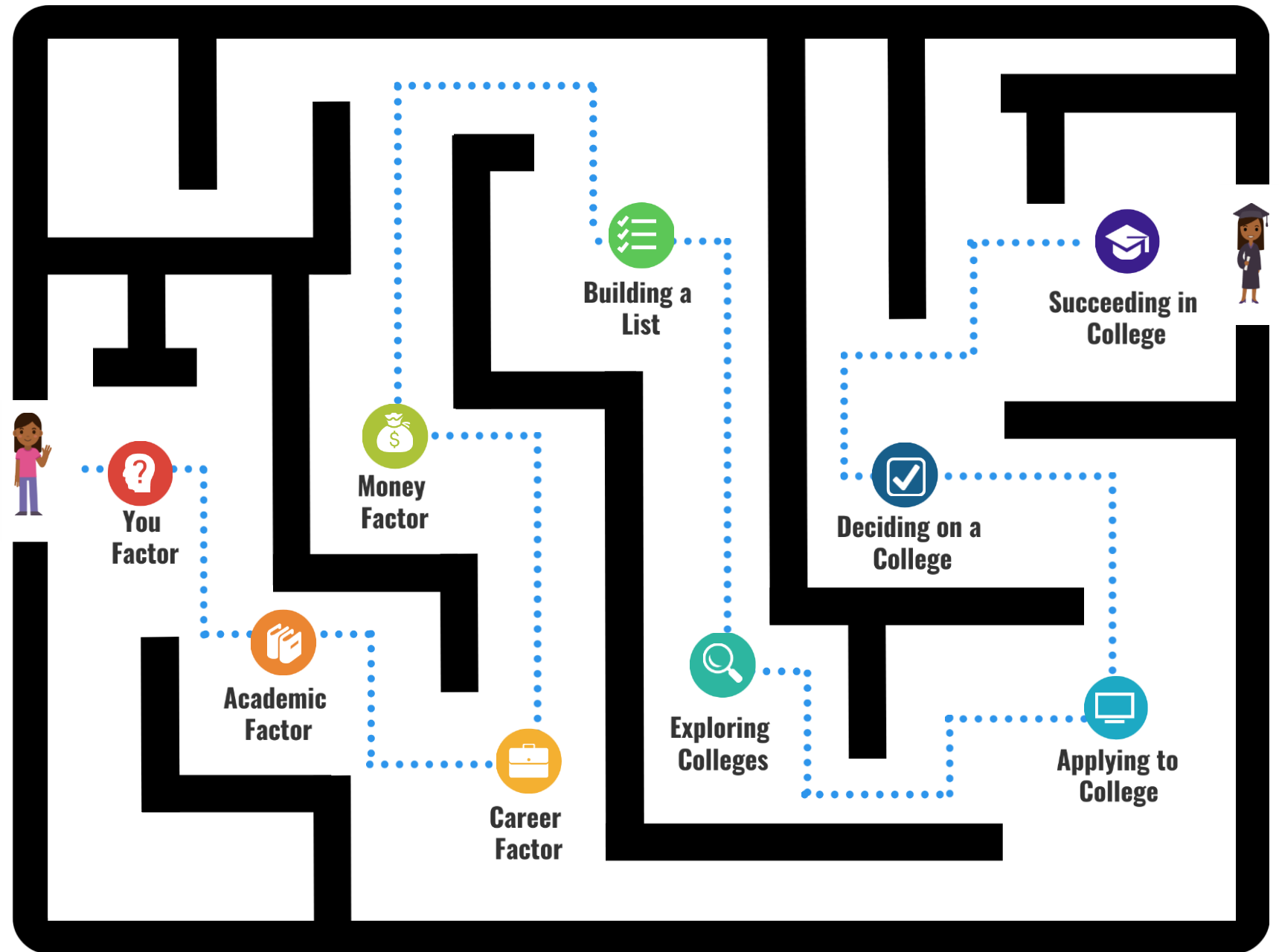


Dr. Amanda Sterk



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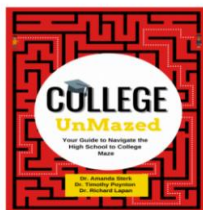
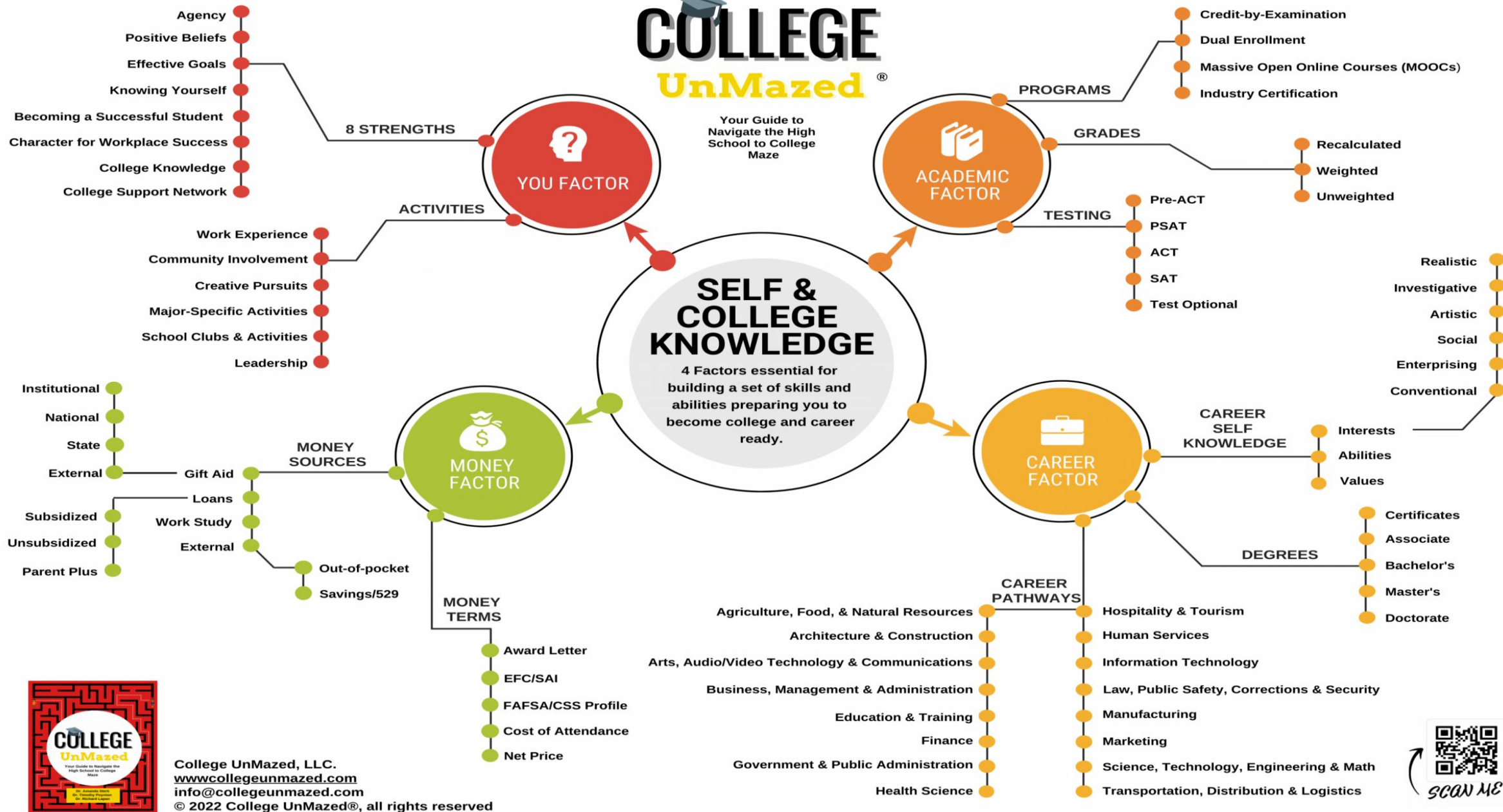
# COLLEGE UNMAZED



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# COLLEGE UnMazed®

Your Guide to Navigate the High School to College Maze

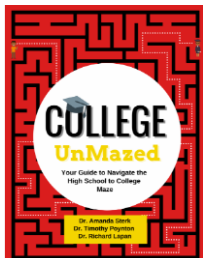
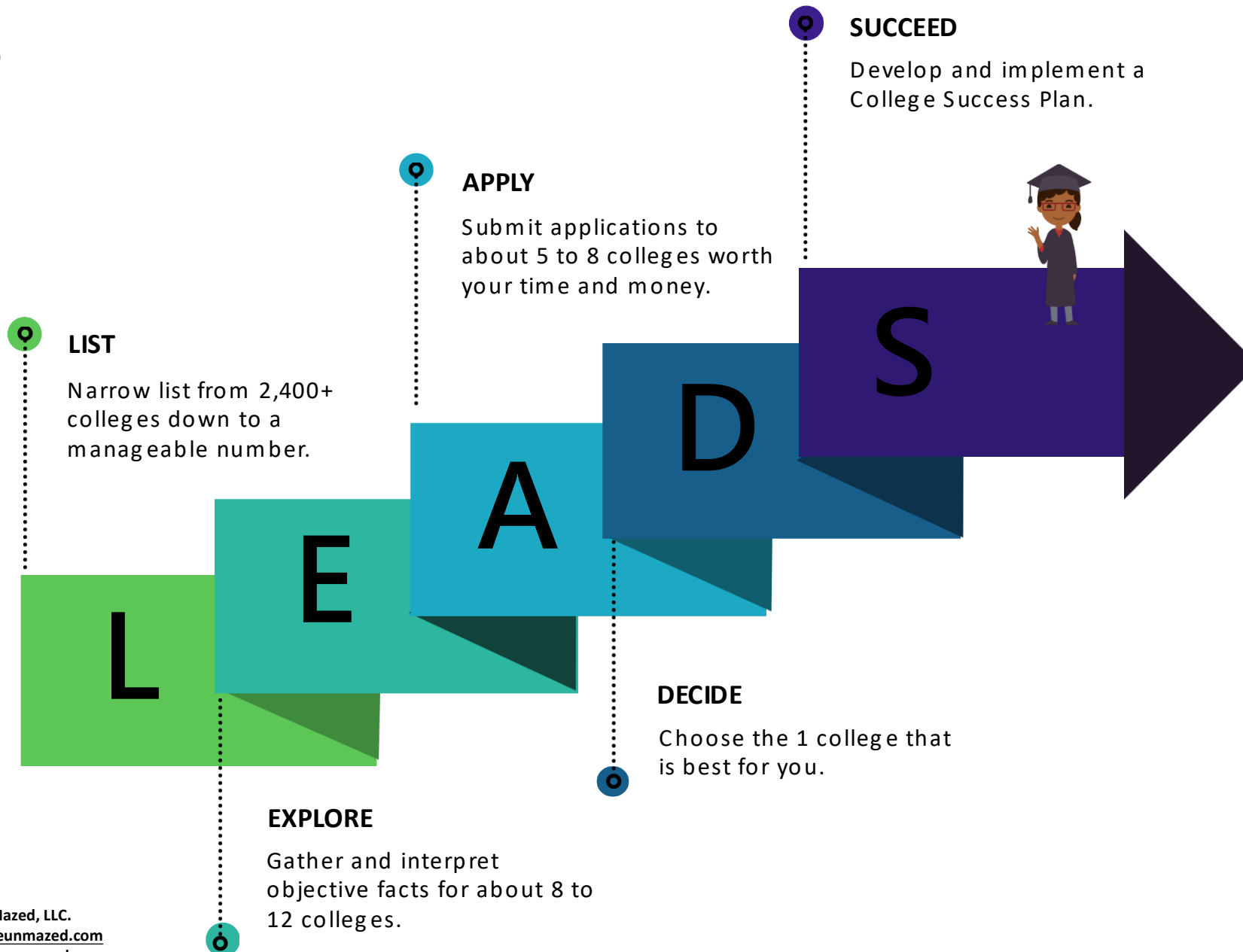


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# LEADS



# COLLEGE UnMazed®

Your Guide to Navigate the High School to College Maze

## LEADS STRATEGY

5 steps to making an informed college decision

LIST

EXPLORE

SUCCEED

DECIDE

APPLY

- 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

- INFORMED DECISION
- Create
  - Evaluate
  - Analyze
  - Apply
  - Understand
  - Remember

ADMISSION DECISIONS

- Admit
- Alternative Admissions
- Defer
- Waitlist
- Deny

AWARD LETTERS

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

COLLEGE SUCCESS PLAN

- Financial Integration
- Academic Integration
- Social Integration

- Relationships
- Extracurricular
- Comfort/Climate

- Eligibility
- Budget
- Financial Aid Office
- Orientation/Welcome Activities
- Faculty & Staff
- Advisors
- Learning Resources

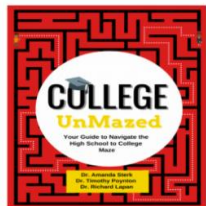
2+2

4+1/3+2

- Colleges That Change Lives
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities
- Honors
- Internships
- Learning Communities
- Limited Access
- Study Abroad

6 KEYS

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



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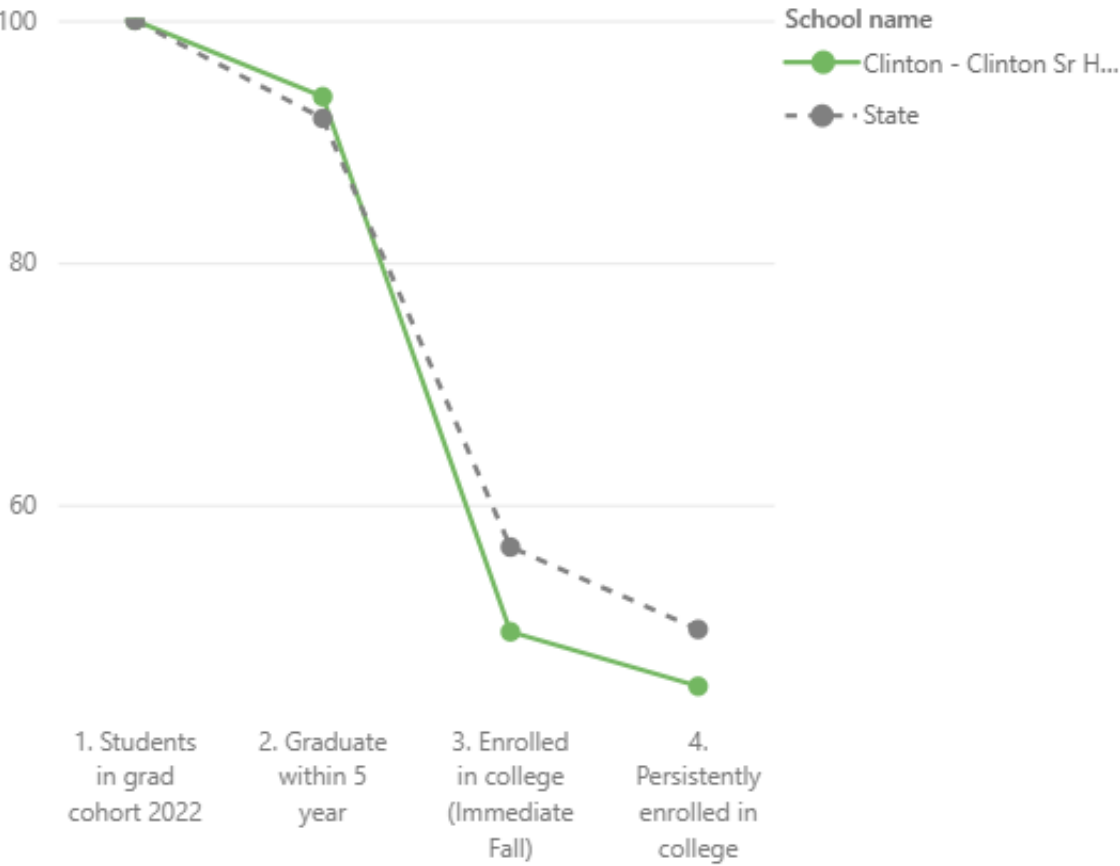
# Students progression from high school through second year of postsecondary education

**Suppression:** Data is suppressed if fewer than 10 students for HS Performance category and fewer than 6 for others.  
**Note:** From 2022 onward, low income is reported instead of economically disadvantaged. For more information, click [here](#).

Show more about data

Select a student group:

All Students

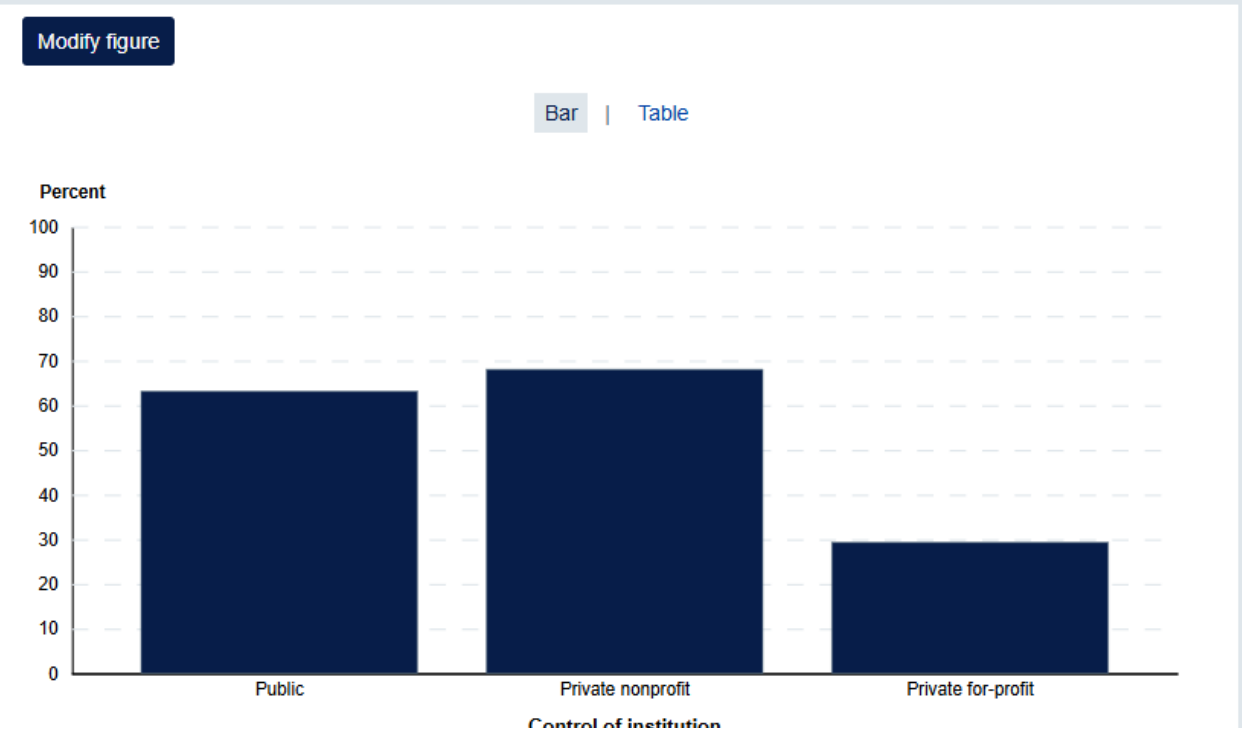


School name		1. Students in grad cohort 2022	2. Graduate within 5 year	3. Enrolled in college (Immediate Fall)	4. Persistently enrolled in college
State	Stud included	73,901	67,914	41,721	36,696
	# of students				
	%/Avg	100.0	91.9	56.5	49.7
Clinton - Clinton Sr High	Stud included	111	104	55	50
	# of students				
	%/Avg	100.0	93.7	49.5	45.0

- 69% of 2022 graduates (71 students) planned to attend – 55 showed up on campus in Fall
- That is 22% ‘melt’ rate over summer
- Additional 5% did not make it into sophomore year

- Before pandemic, nearly 40% of students got a degree within 6 years of HS graduation (only 40% made it to second year of college in 2021; 45% in 2022).
- Look up your school at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/dart/> (Success After High School dashboard)

Figure 3. Graduation rate within 150 percent of normal time (within 6 years) for degree completion from first institution attended for first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students at 4-year postsecondary institutions, by control of institution and sex: Cohort entry year 2014



- Summer melt rates are estimated to be between 10 and 40%
- Nationwide retention rate at 4 year colleges is about 80% - 1 in 5 don't return as sophomores
- Private colleges tend to have better 4 and 6 year graduation rates; why?
- You can find retention and graduation rates for your college at **collegenavigator.gov**

GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES

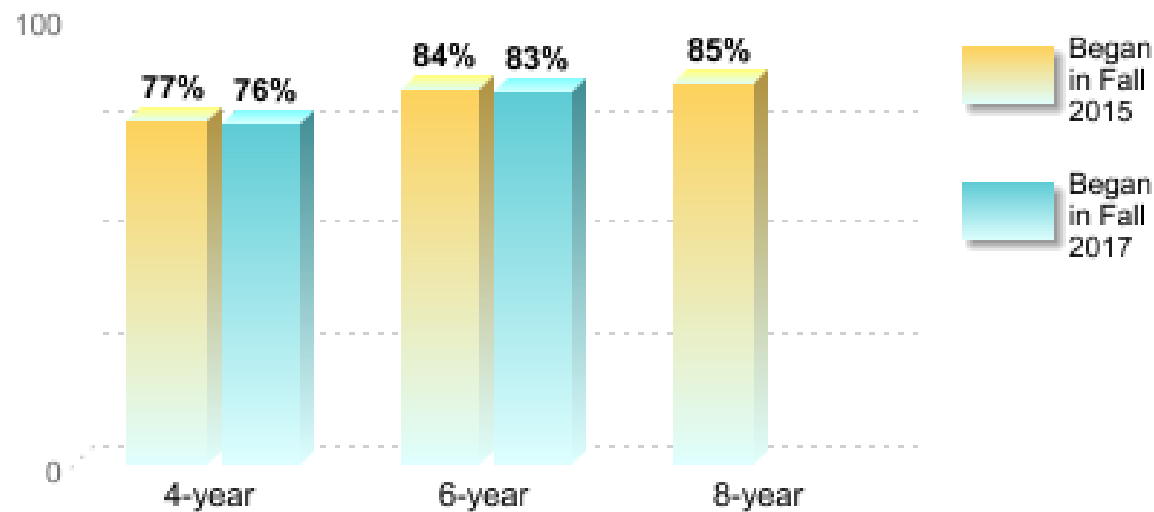
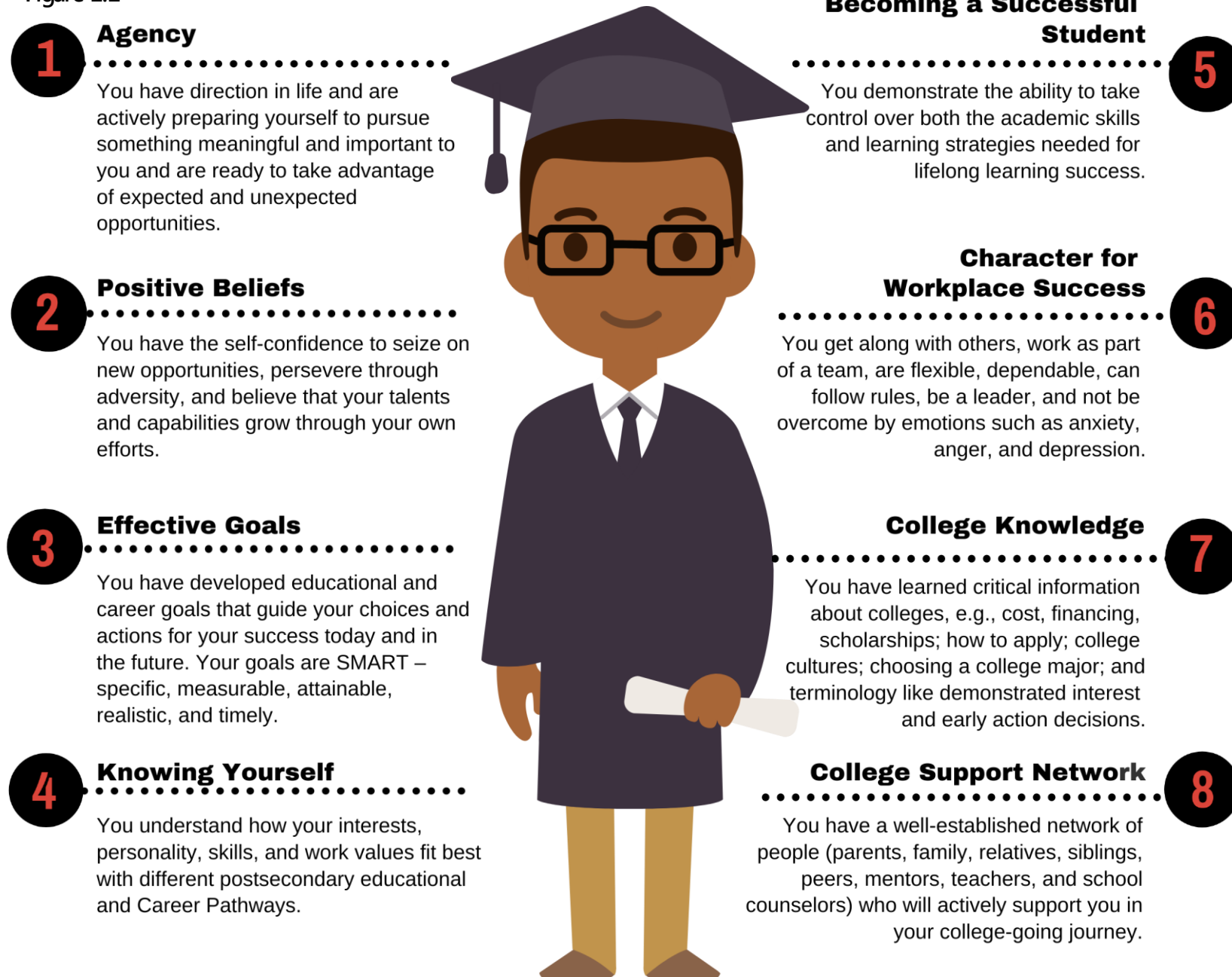


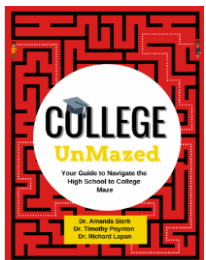
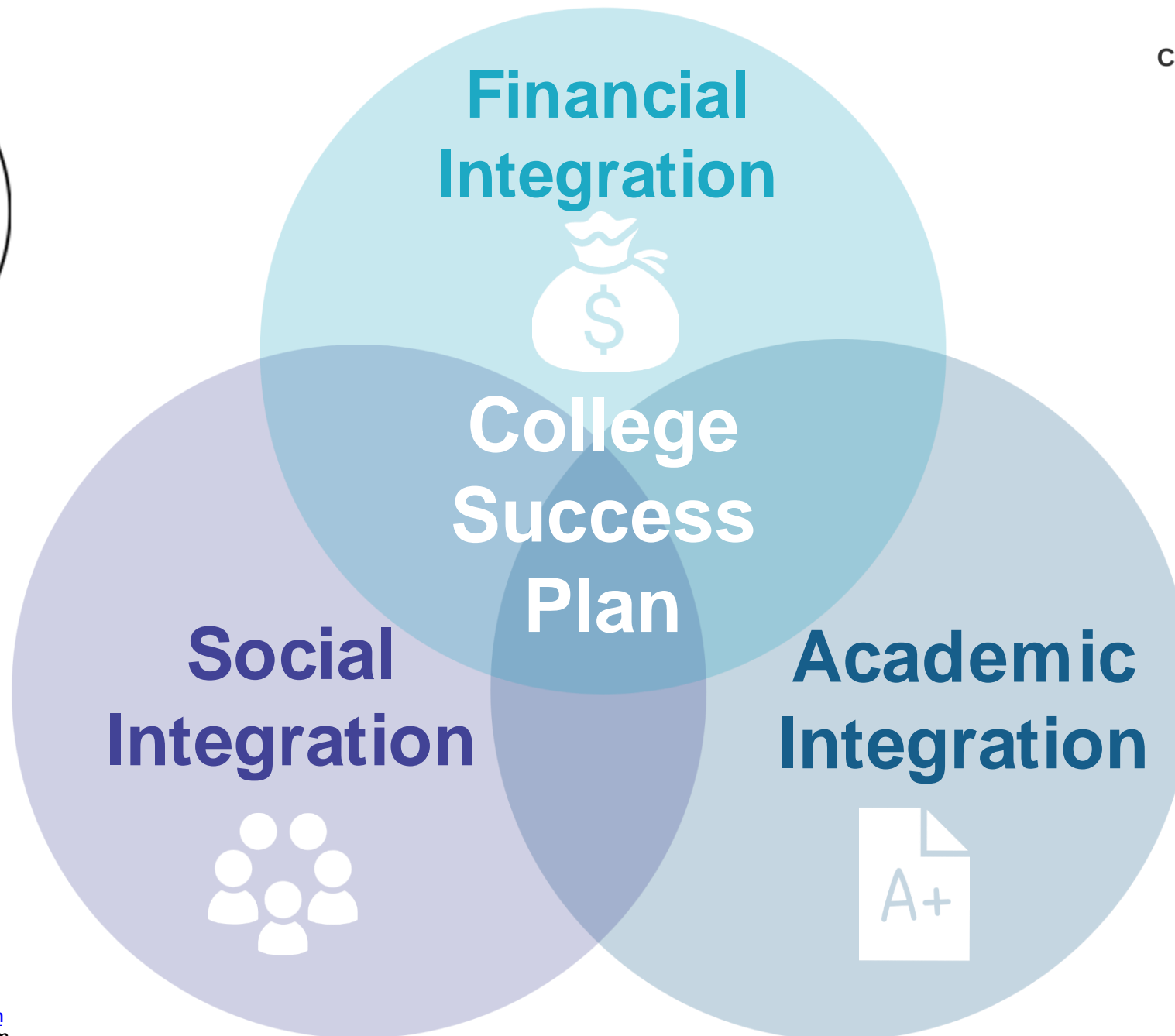


Figure 1.2



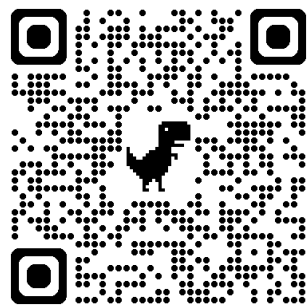
# 8 College & Career Readiness Strengths





- Most-cited reason for not completing college is financing
- FAFSA needs to be completed every year
  - CSS Profile – maybe
  - About 1 in 5 are selected for FAFSA verification, Pell grant recipients are higher
- Scholarship eligibility – read the fine print. Ensure you understand any eligibility requirements
- If you have work-study on award letter, find out how to get job on campus
- Budget for every year, not just the first year
  - If four-year graduation rates are low, additional time is additional cost
- If college more than 120 (or so) miles from home, consider dropping from auto insurance (means they can not drive period, check with your own insurance)
- Find out how health centers on campus work

## Financial Integration



# FINANCIAL PLAN

Summer	School Year
Part-time job: Increase hours to build up savings.	Part-time job: Pick up shifts, if possible, when on break from college
Loans: Determine amounts to accept from award letter	Loans: Research private loans in case they are needed for year 2
Work-Study: Apply for work-study	Work-Study: Build work-study hours into a weekly schedule, save half for year 2, apply for year 2
Scholarships: Complete requirements to ensure you meet and maintain eligibility	Scholarships: Maintain eligibility for full scholarships (e.g., GPA above 3.25)
FAFSA: Be prepared to respond if selected for verification of FAFSA information	FAFSA: Reapply for financial aid for year 2 by completing the FAFSA
Budget: Emily and her family create a budget that includes personal expenses	Budget: Follows budget, and modifies as needed

*Make a plan that includes monthly budget for academic and non-academic expenses*



# Academic Integration



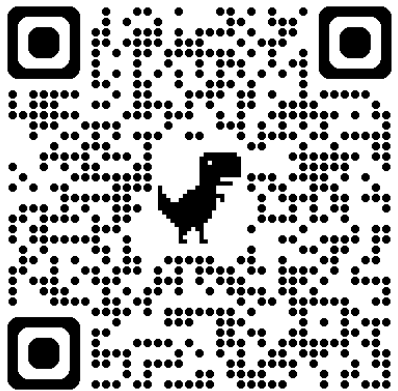
- While orientation provides a lot of helpful information, it is a lot at once
  - Try to attend the earliest orientation possible to have the most options for classes
- If a major is in mind, find out what requirements are and how to gain entry if needed (e.g., gateway classes)
- Learn how to navigate registration system, waitlist, and advising.
  - E.g., if a class is full ask professor if you can join
- Be prepared to find support. Professors are often required to have office hours, students should attend them – even if not having problems
- Much less structured time in college; what are self-management strategies?



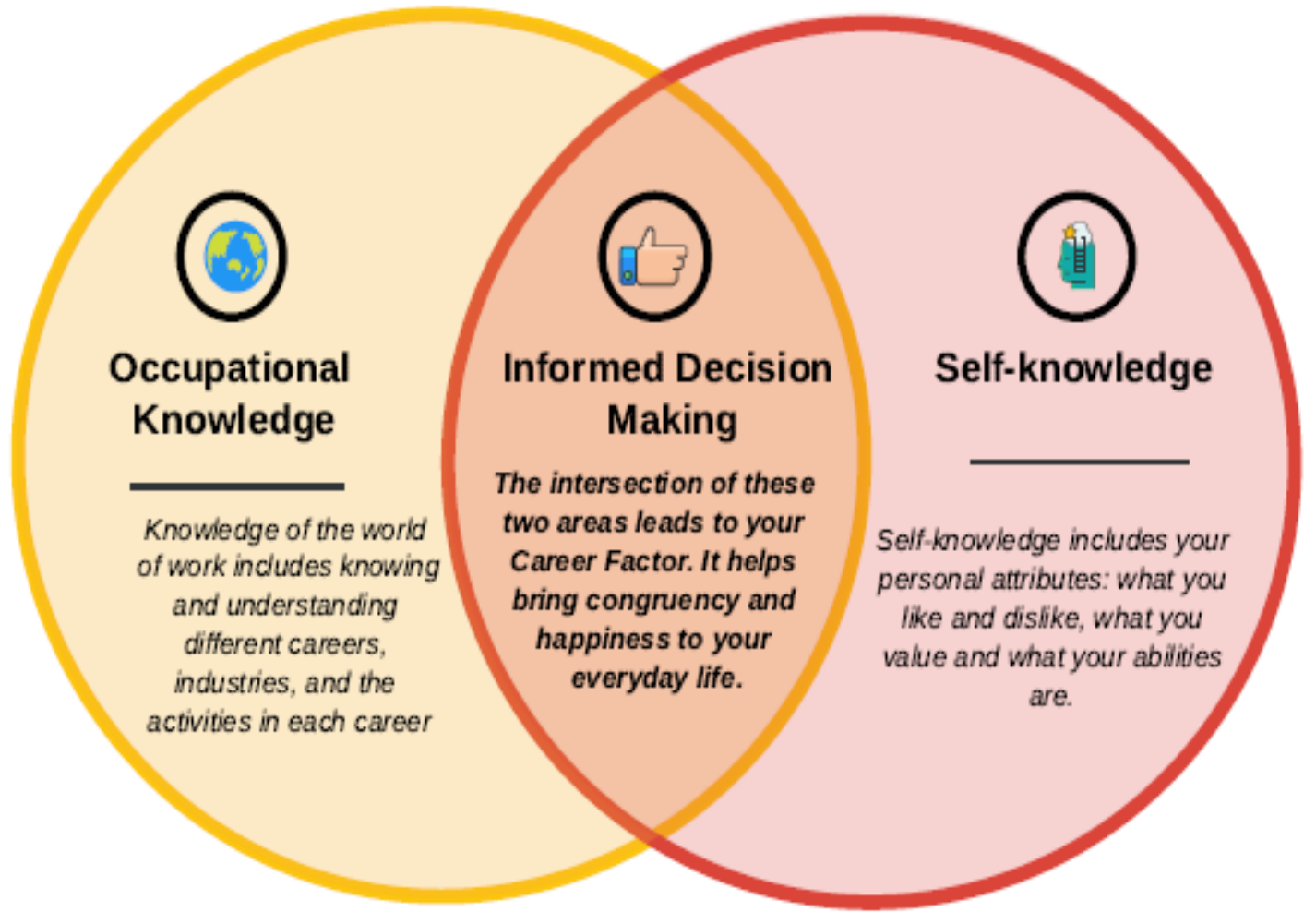
# Academic Integration



- Applying for transfer credit as needed
  - Dual enrollment/early college/AP (etc) – check college policies and either bring needed information to orientation or get things started beforehand
  - Think about whether or not ‘duplicating’ credit is worthwhile
- For students with 504 or IEP – find out how to access accommodations
- Think about the kind of academic/mental health support you might need, and where/how to access it
- Be prepared to change your mind about your major!
- Find clubs/activities that can help you explore/solidify your interest



# CAREER FACTOR



- Build occupational knowledge by
  - Reflecting on past work/internship/job shadow/family experiences
  - Taking coursework and reflecting on aspects you like/dislike
  - Taking advantage of internships/field experiences/informational interviews
- Build self-knowledge by
  - Taking career interest and values assessments
  - Talking with career counselors/ coaches
  - Trying new things to help you understand your abilities, likes, dislikes, and values

# ACADEMIC PLAN

Summer	School Year
Advisor: Major in Psychology and Minor in Cognitive Science; develop a 4-year plan of study	Advisor: Meet with an academic advisor to continue the discussion of major and minor; review and revise 4-year plan of study
Courses: Enroll in fall semester classes	Courses: Enroll in spring semester classes
Learning Resources: Learn about all support services and resources available	Learning Resources: Take advantage of: academic advising, career center, Mathematics support, Office of Student Research and the Student Research Conference, and the writing center.
Psychology Club: Contact student representative and faculty advisor; join	Psychology Club: Attend meetings and participate in club activities

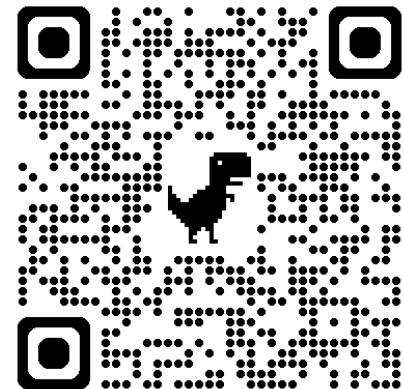
*Make a plan that balances your interests and requirements, and think about whether or not you may need new time management strategies*



# Social Integration



- How have you navigated social situations where you meet a lot of new people?
- Living on campus
  - How to pick roommate?
  - Preparing to live with strangers (who may become lifelong friends)
  - Participating in campus life/activities – you will need to take a break from academics, what will you do?
  - Preparing for challenges – who is there to support?
- Commuting
  - Still can be helpful/rewarding to get involved in campus life/activities
  - Navigating the sometimes competing interests
- Social events/activities for new students



# SOCIAL PLAN

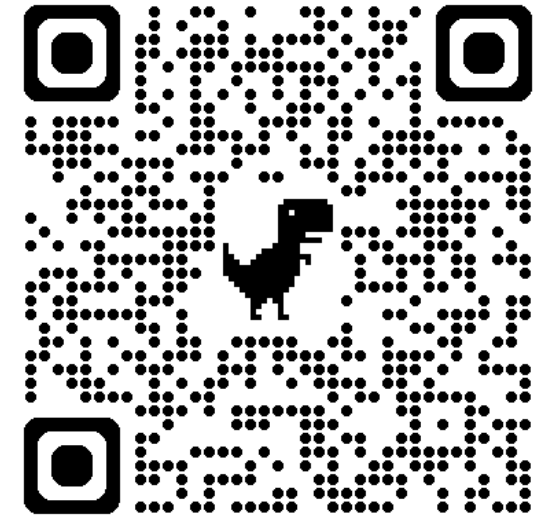
Summer	School Year
Truman Week Social Activities: Meet and make friends	Calendar Year Social Events: Participate and deepen relationships with peers and friends
Athletics: Contact soccer coach and fill out online questionnaire to be considered for the women's team; try out for the team	Athletics/Intramurals: Become a member of the women's soccer team; if this doesn't work out select Intramurals (individual and team sports) to stay physically fit and active across the academic year; take advantage of wellness programs and exercise classes; meet students with like interests
Residence Hall: Explore on-campus options and become an active participant in choosing college roommate	Residence Hall: Become an active member in residence hall governance and social activities; effectively manage relationship with college roommate
Family: Engage family in information gathering and discussions; get their feedback and insights	Family/Parent Day: Invite family to Family Day scheduled in early October of each school year at Truman, plan for regular contact with family and extended support network across the academic year

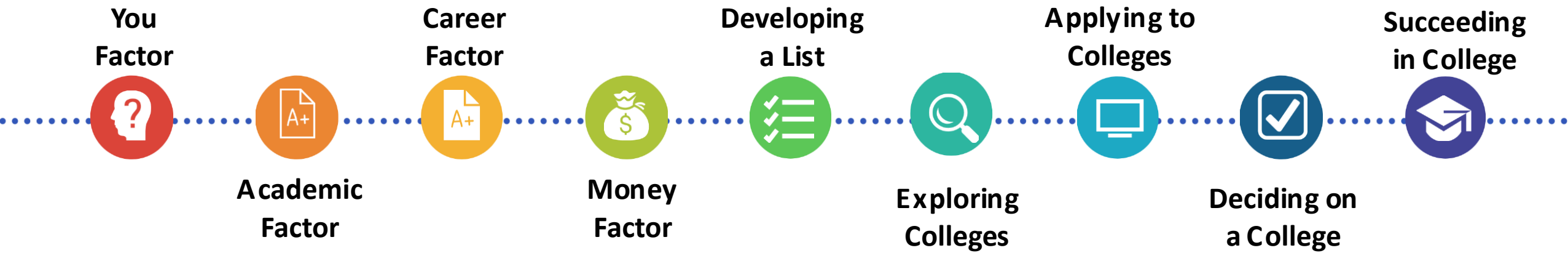
*Make a plan that emphasizes making connections*

# FINAL THOUGHTS

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- Check your email regularly
- See if HS counselors are in at all over the summer
- Support student in advocating for themselves



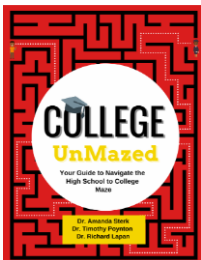


# Questions?

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