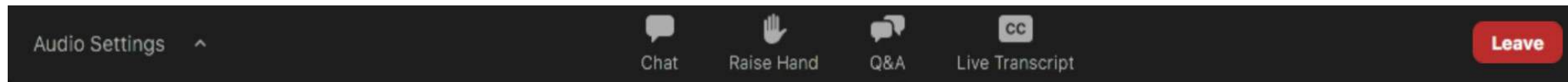


You've Placed the Deposit for College, Now What?



How to Participate



The *Audio Settings* allow you to control the volume levels

The *Chat* feature is disabled. To communicate with the host, please use the Q&A section

Have a question during the webinar? Type it in the Q&A section

Use the *Live Transcript* feature if you want to see closed captions

Click *Leave* to exit the webinar

About MEFA

State authority created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1982, helping families plan, save, and pay for college

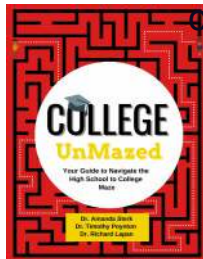
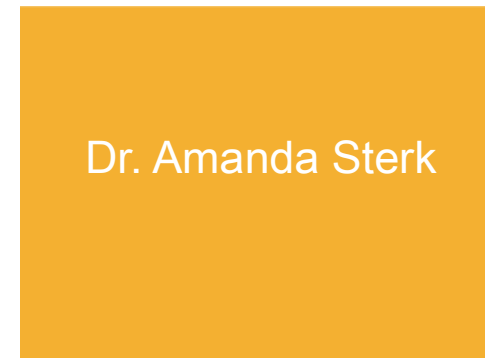


ABOUT US

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.

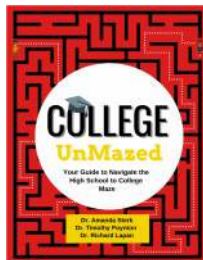
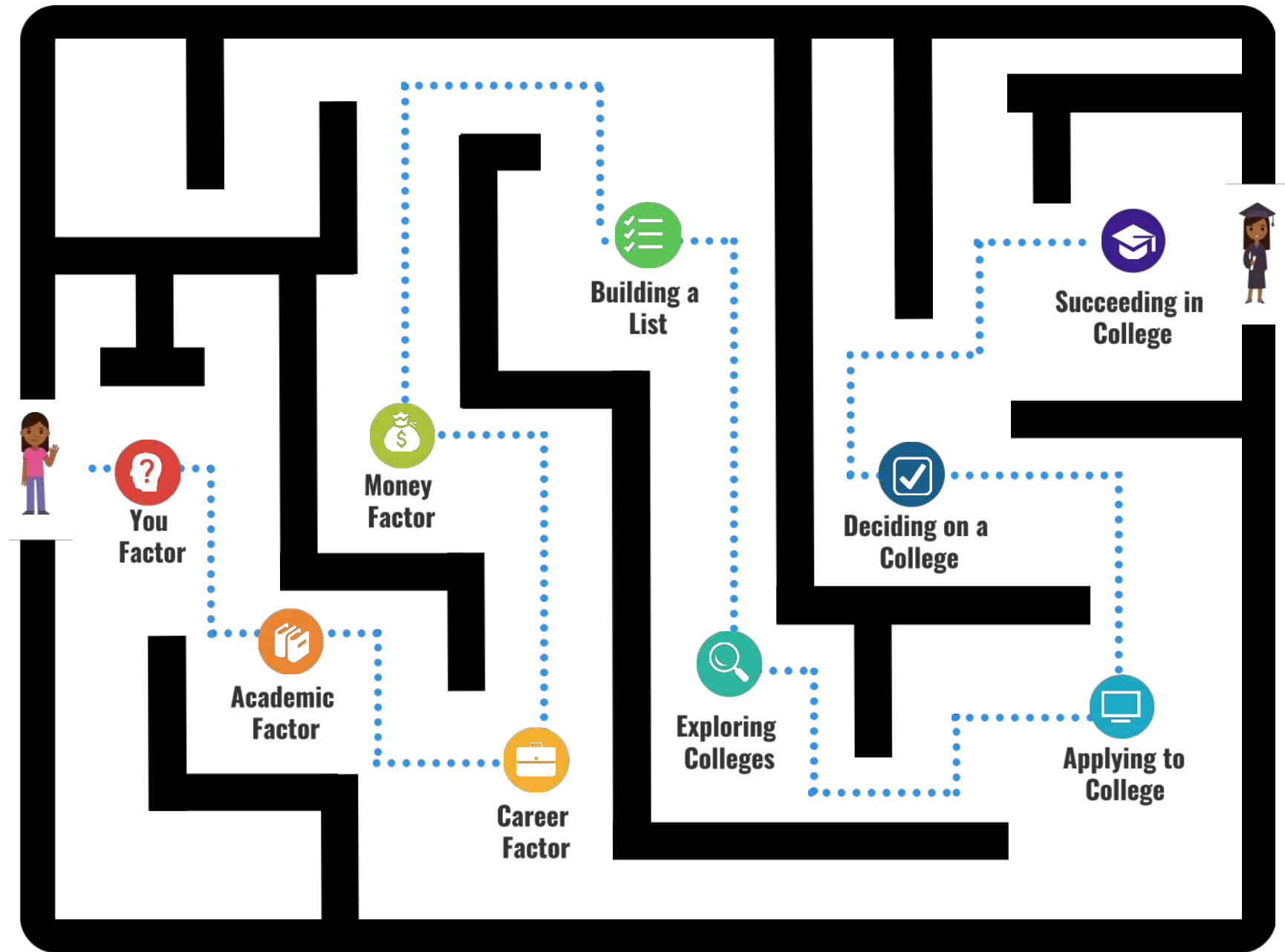


Dr. Timothy Poynton



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COLLEGE UNMAZED



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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

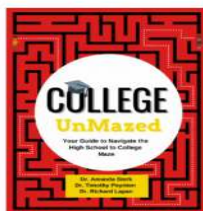
- Realistic
- Investigative
- Artistic
- Social
- Enterprising
- Conventional

DEGREES

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

CAREER PATHWAYS

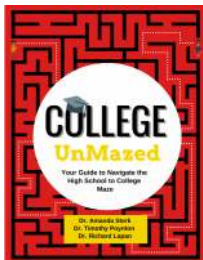
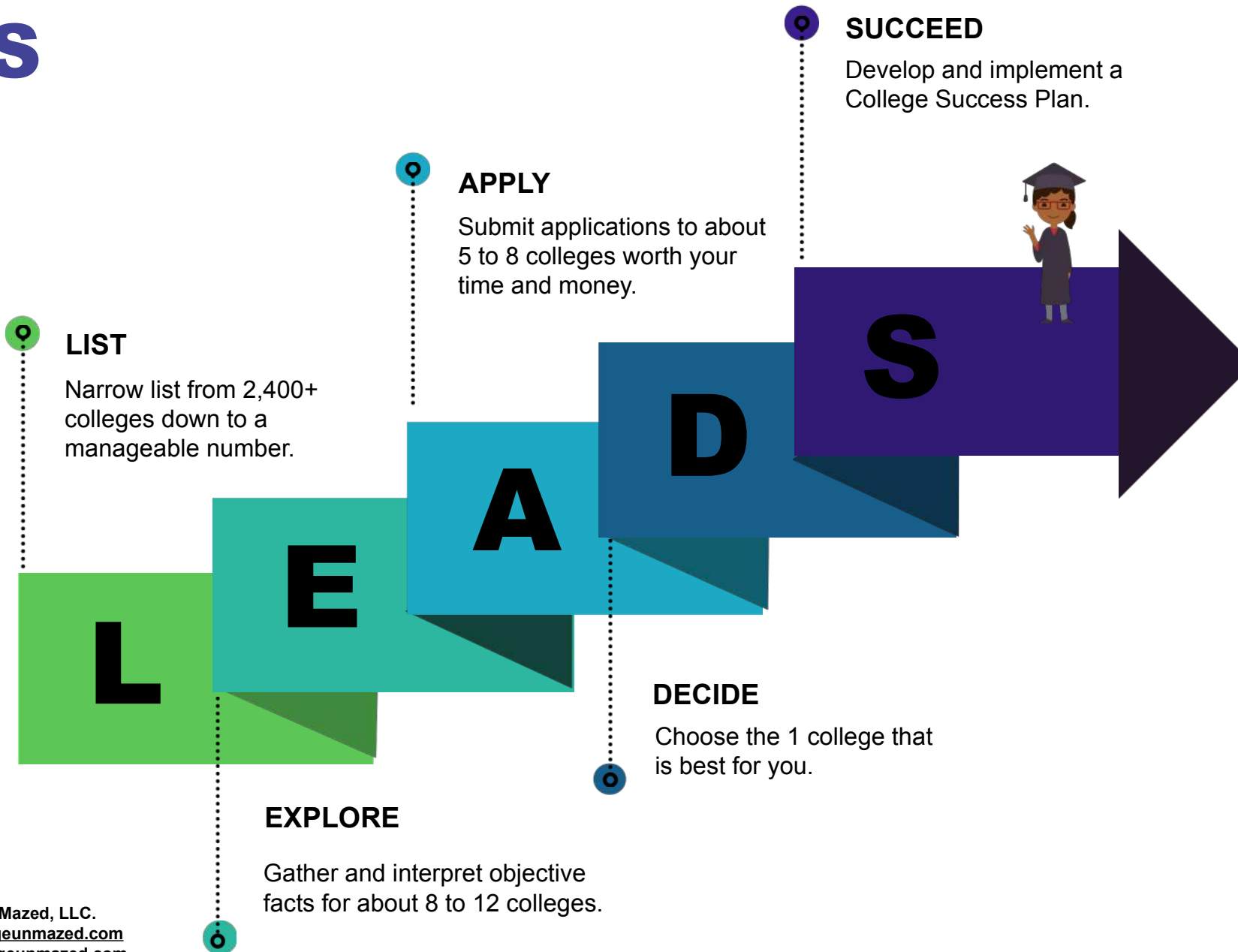
- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
- Business, Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information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



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LEADS



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

- Relationships
- Extracurricular
- Comfort/Climate

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

DOCUMENTS

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

APPLICATIONS

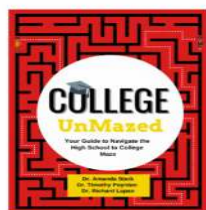
- Common App
- Coalition App
- Institutional

ALTERNATIVE ADMISSIONS

- Support Programs
- Online
- Alternative Programs
- Alternative Term

DEADLINES

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



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Students progression from high school through second year of postsecondary education

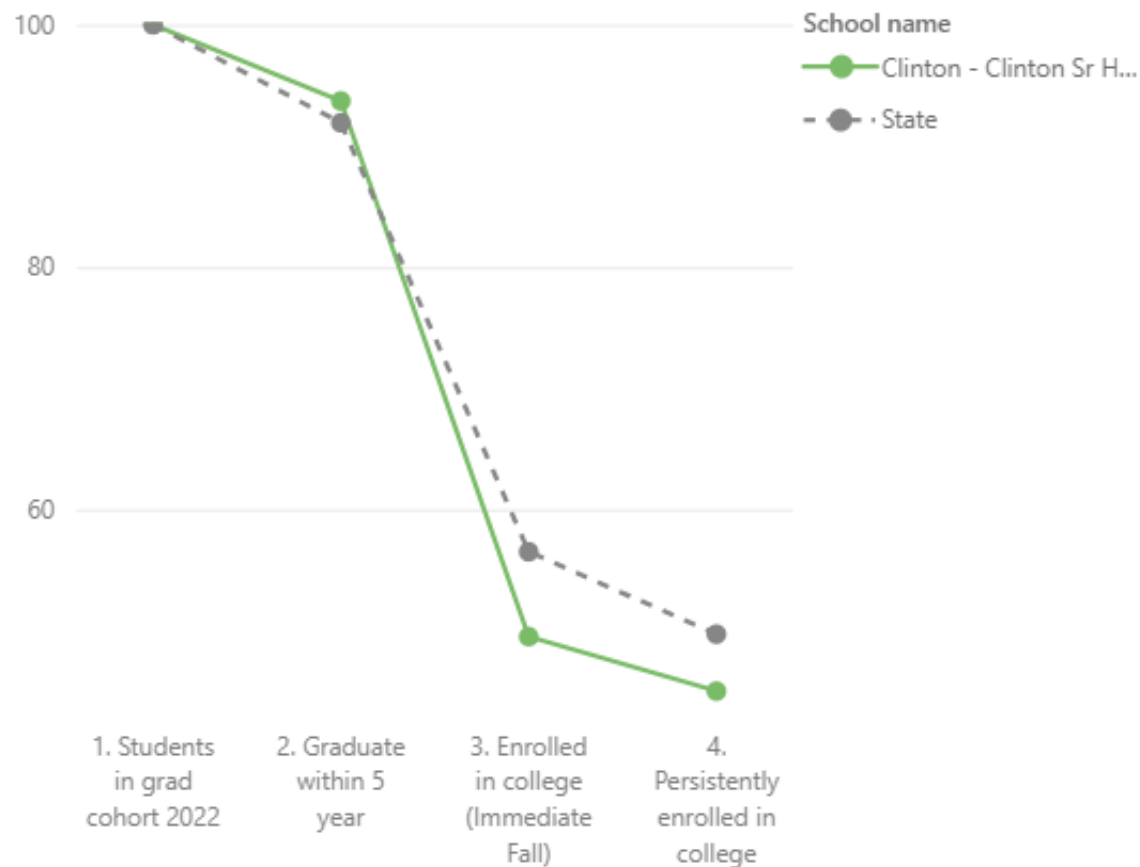
Suppression: Data is suppressed if fewer than 10 students for HS Performance category and fewer than 6 for others.

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



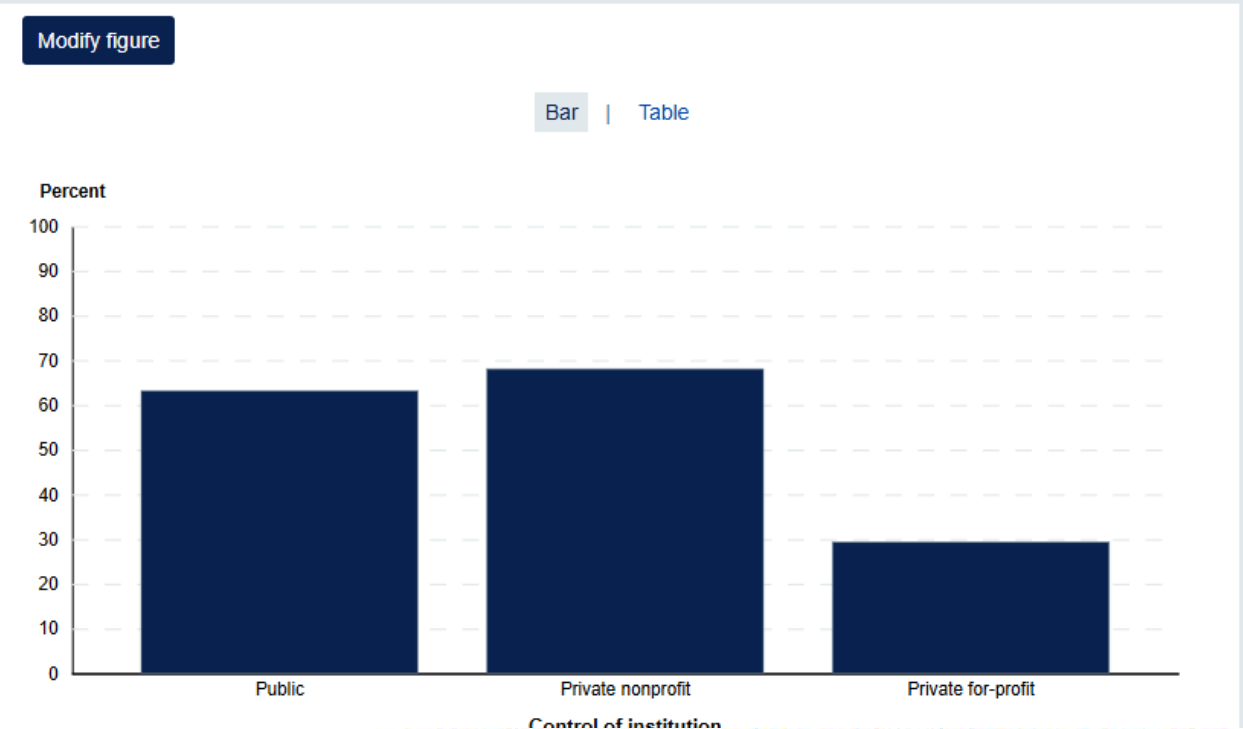
School name		1. Students in grad cohort 2022	2. Graduate within 5 year	3. Enrolled in college (Immediate Fall)	4. Persistently enrolled in college
State	Stud included	73,901	67,914	41,721	36,696
	# of students				
	%/Avg	100.0	91.9	56.5	49.7
Clinton - Clinton Sr High	Stud included	111	104	55	50
	# of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

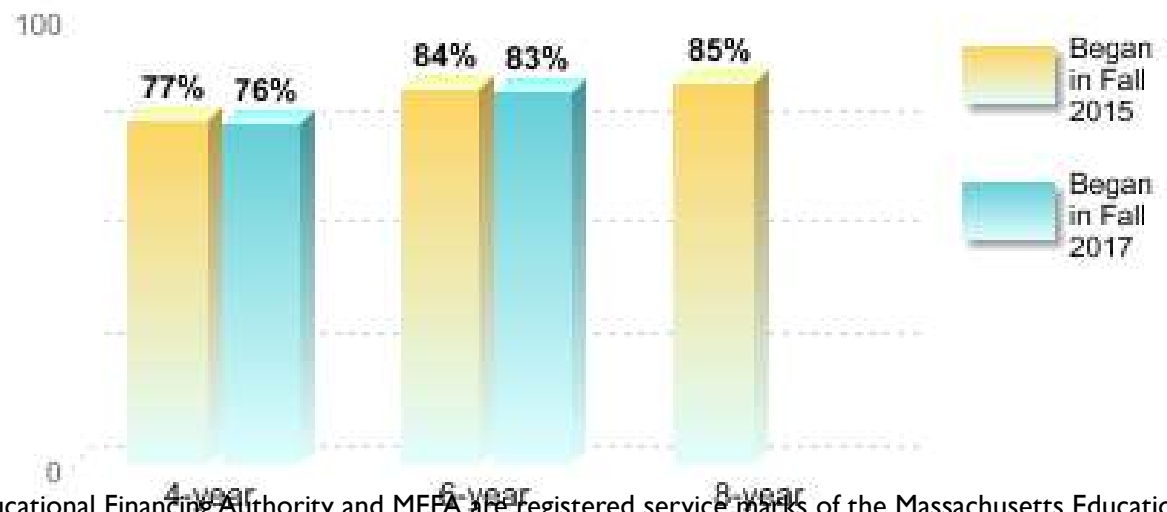


Figure 1.2

1 Agency

You have direction in life and are actively preparing yourself to pursue something meaningful and important to you and are ready to take advantage of expected and unexpected opportunities.

2 Positive Beliefs

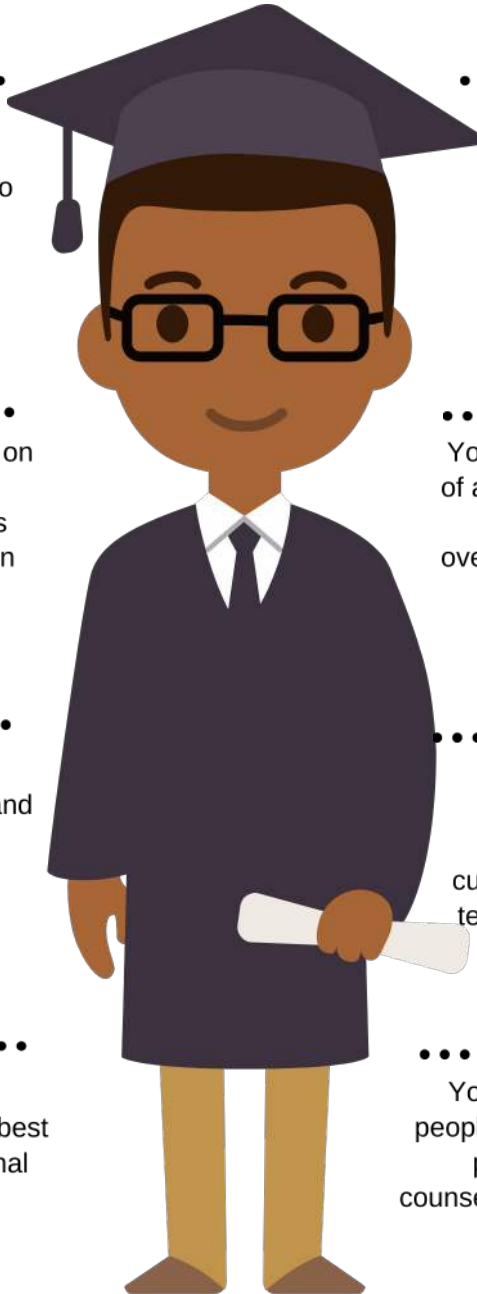
You have the self-confidence to seize on new opportunities, persevere through adversity, and believe that your talents and capabilities grow through your own efforts.

3 Effective Goals

You have developed educational and career goals that guide your choices and actions for your success today and in the future. Your goals are SMART – specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely.

4 Knowing Yourself

You understand how your interests, personality, skills, and work values fit best with different postsecondary educational and Career Pathways.



Becoming a Successful Student

5

You demonstrate the ability to take control over both the academic skills and learning strategies needed for lifelong learning success.

Character for Workplace Success

6

You get along with others, work as part of a team, are flexible, dependable, can follow rules, be a leader, and not be overcome by emotions such as anxiety, anger, and depression.

College Knowledge

7

You have learned critical information about colleges, e.g., cost, financing, scholarships; how to apply; college cultures; choosing a college major; and terminology like demonstrated interest and early action decisions.

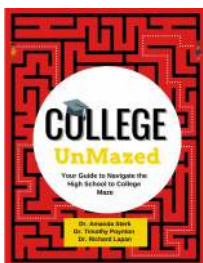
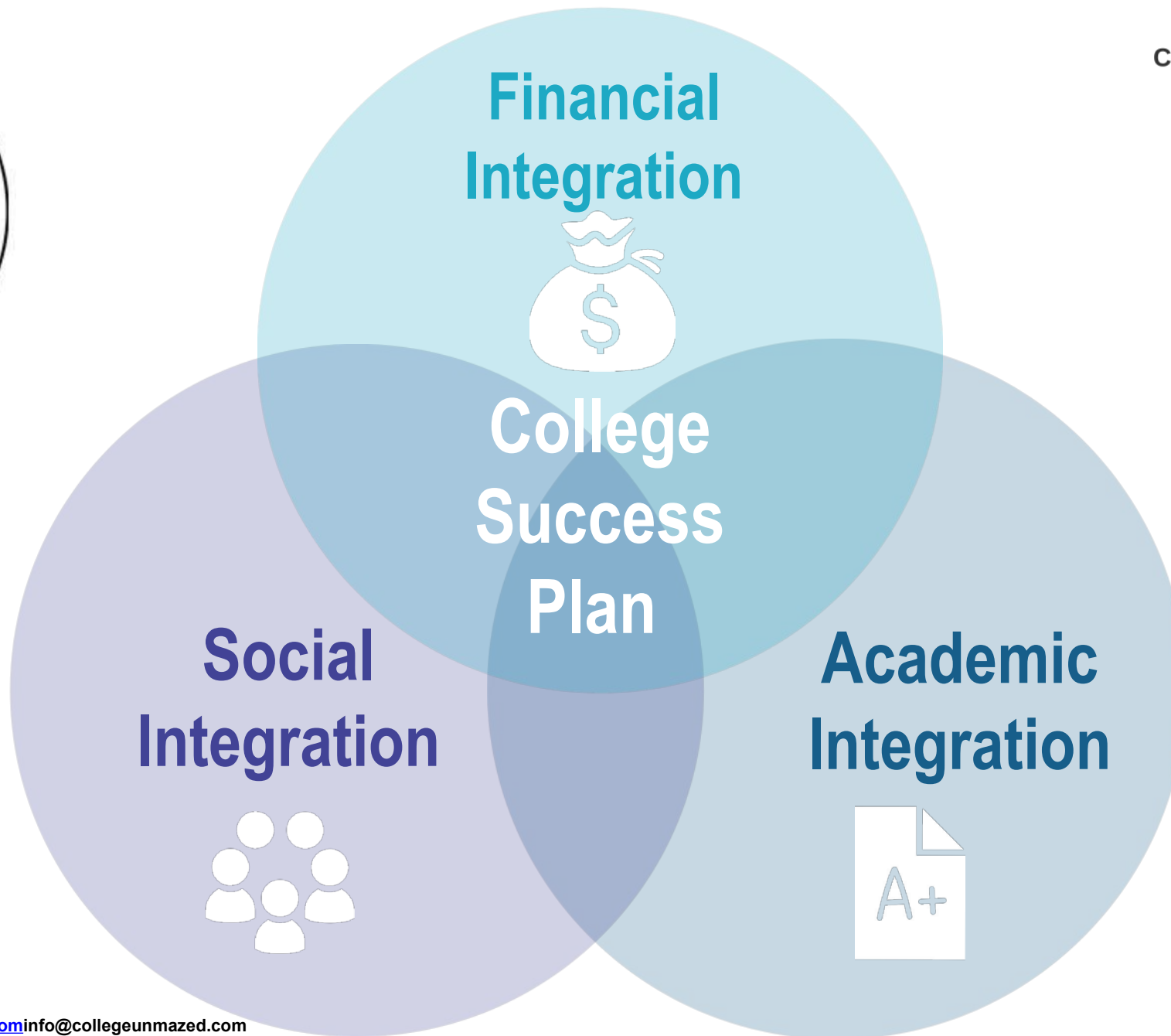
College Support Network

8

You have a well-established network of people (parents, family, relatives, siblings, peers, mentors, teachers, and school counselors) who will actively support you in your college-going journey.

8 College & Career Readiness Strengths



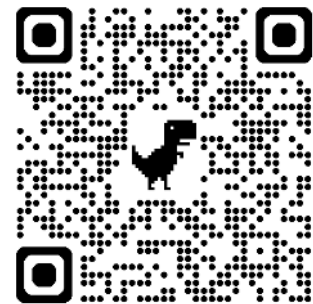


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Financial Integration



- 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 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



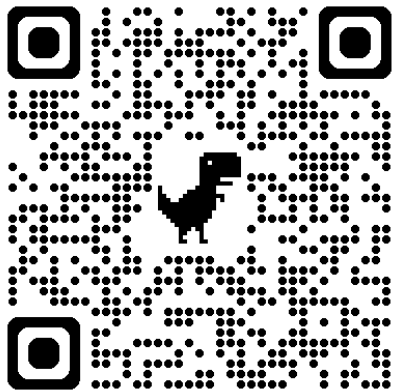
- While orientation provides a lot of helpful information, it is a lot at once
 - Try to attend the earliest orientation possible to have the most options for classes
- If a major is in mind, find out what requirements are and how to gain entry if needed (e.g., gateway classes)
- Learn how to navigate 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

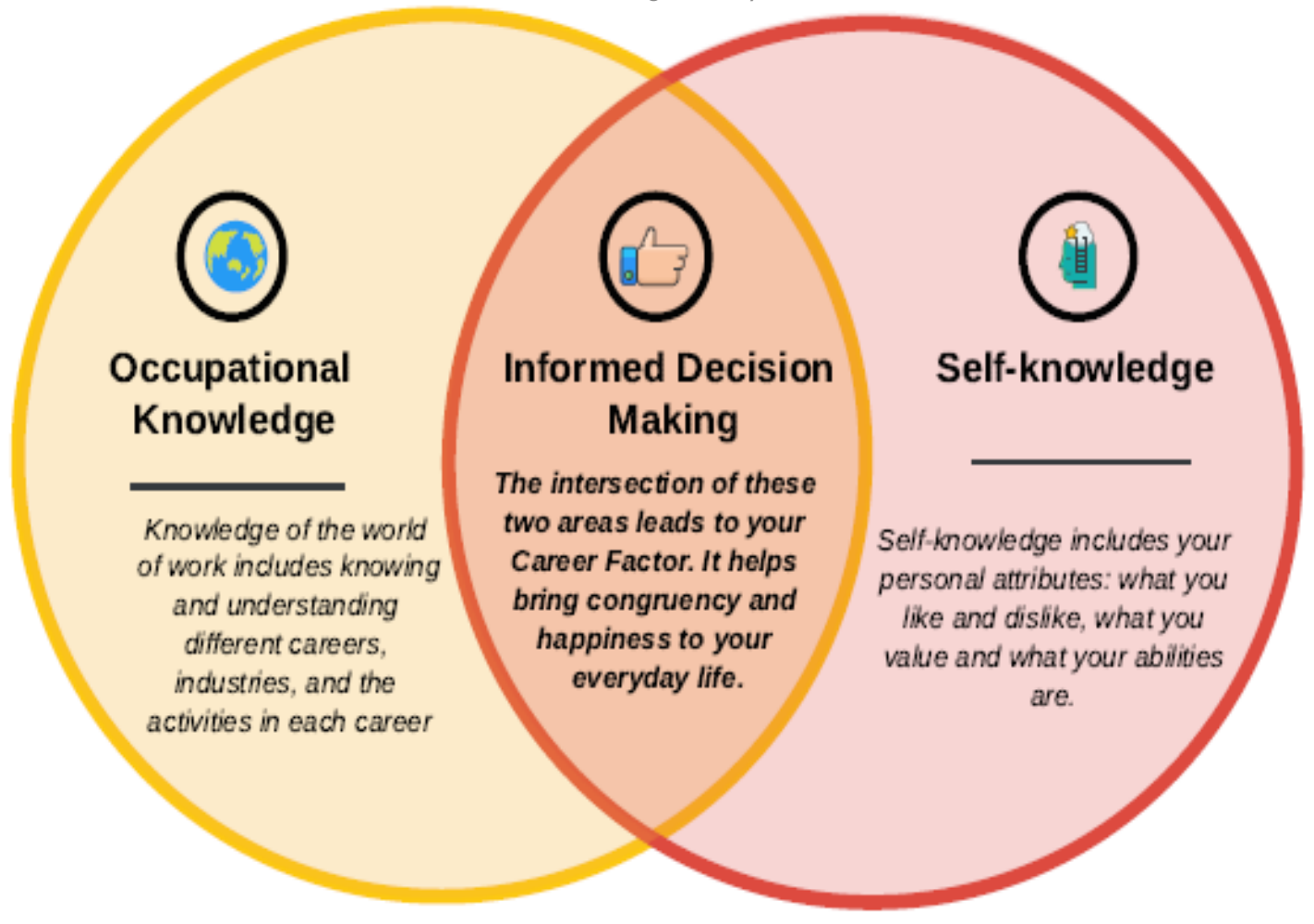


- Applying for transfer credit as needed
 - Dual enrollment/early college/AP (etc) – check college policies and either bring needed information to orientation or get things started beforehand
 - Think about whether or not ‘duplicating’ credit is worthwhile
- For students with 504 or IEP – find out how 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

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- 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

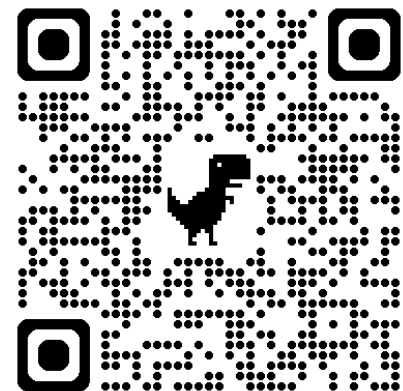
Summer	School Year
Advisor: Major in Psychology and Minor in Cognitive Science; develop a 4-year plan of study	Advisor: Meet with an academic advisor to continue the discussion of major and minor; review and revise 4-year plan of study
Courses: Enroll in fall semester classes	Courses: Enroll in spring 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



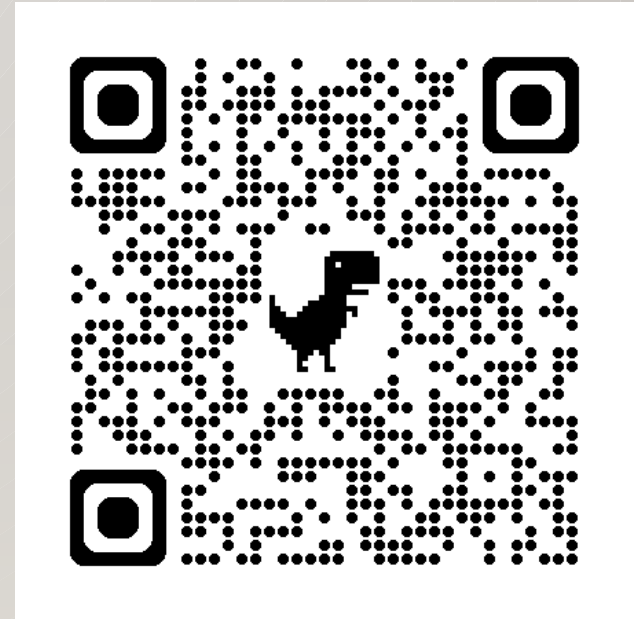
SOCIAL PLAN

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

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



You
Factor



Career
Factor



Academic
Factor



Money
Factor

Developing
a List



Exploring
Colleges



Applying
to
Colleges



Deciding
on a
College

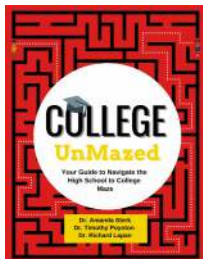


Succeeding
in
College



Questions?

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Upcoming Webinars



Using Your U.Plan Funds
Tues, May 19th @ 12:00 p.m.



Comparing College Loan Options
Thurs, June 4th @ 12:00 p.m.



Comparing College Loan Options
Tues, July 14th @ 6:30 p.m.

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mefa](https://linkedin.com/company/mefa)
-  [youtube.com/
MEFAcounselor](https://youtube.com/MEFAcounselor)
-  mefa.org/mefa-podcast

Thank You!

Questions?



**(800) 449-MEFA
(6332)**



collegeplanning@mefa.org