

4-Year Colleges/Universities

Finding the Best College for You

Joel Ontiveros

College Counselor

Former Admissions Officer

**COLLEGE
WISE**



Why is College Research important?

- You'll have a less stressful college application process.
- You'll have a better chance of being admitted.
- You'll receive more financial aid.



College Admissions State of the Nation



- Colleges accepting <20% of applicants
- Colleges accepting 30-40% of applicants
- Colleges accepting at least half of applicants

First things first...

What are you looking for?

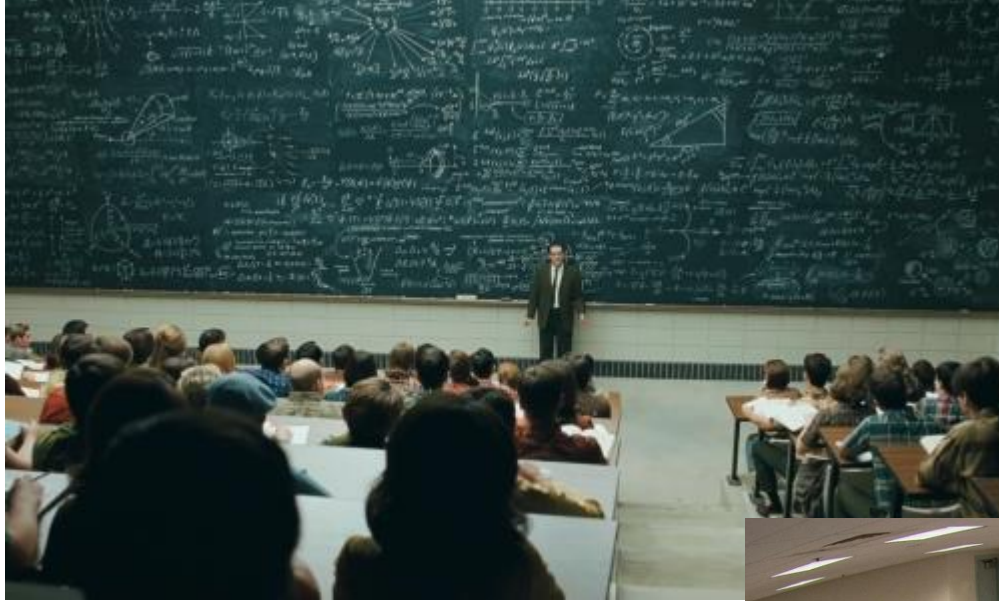
What are your non-negotiables?

What are the deal-breakers?

Are there any limitations?



Campus/Class Size



Strategy 1: Evaluate yourself

For big schools

- Will you show up to class?
- Will you ask for help if you need it?
- How will you show that you have initiative?

For small schools

- Is personal attention something that you want and will take advantage of?



Location/distance from home



Strategy 2: Compare your current environment with the one you want in college.

- Do you want to go to college in a place that's different or similar to where you currently live?
- Do you want to be with students who are like you or different from you?
- Do you want a traditional college campus or a concrete jungle?



Major / Degree Offerings



Strategy 3: Major Choice

- What would you like to learn more about?
- Do you have an idea of a career/field you'd like to pursue?
 - What about applying undecided or undeclared?
- ***Bonus strategy:*** Visit the websites of your schools and read about the major/curriculum you're considering.



Financial Aid / Cost



Strategy 4: If you want more financial aid, apply to the schools most likely to accept you.

- Financial aid isn't all cold, hard numbers.
- Merit scholarships at out of state and private schools.
- ***Bonus strategy***: Don't necessarily eliminate a college based on 'sticker price' alone.

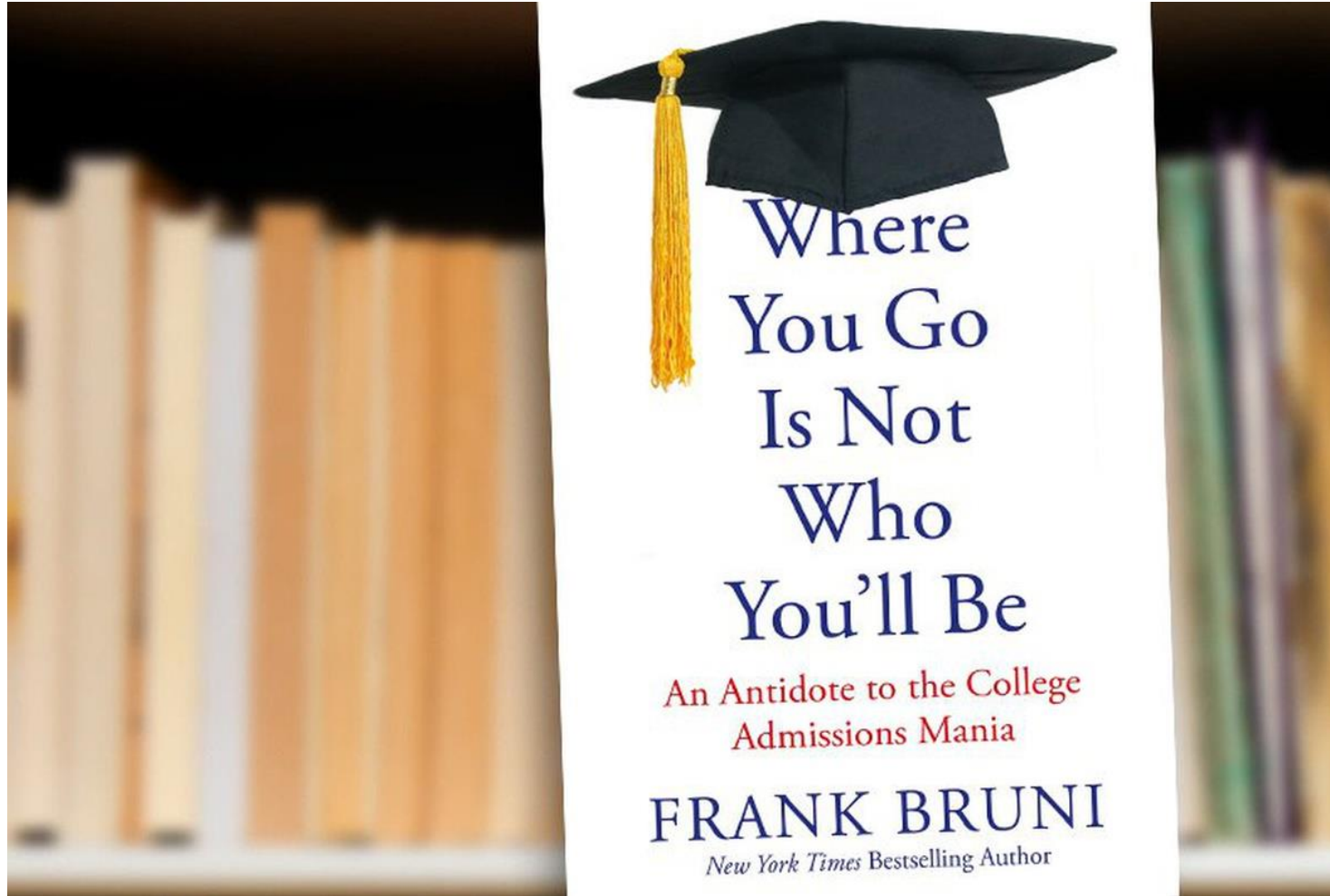


Western Undergraduate Exchange

- Out of state colleges at discounted tuition
- WUE (WOO-E that is free money!)
- U Utah, Colorado State, Boise State, and more!

<http://wue.wiche.edu/>

Prestige / Rankings



Strategy 5: Remember that what you do in college is more important than where you do it.

- If you want to stand out today, you need to have a remarkable college career wherever you go.
- What if you genuinely believe that a prestigious college is right for you?
- **Bonus strategy:** Get past the rankings and think about why it's the right school for you.

A deeper dive...

What's happening at the university?

- Review student newspaper online!

What kind of classes would I be taking?

- Looking over and reviewing curriculum

How do students prepare for a career?

- Career Services, study abroad opportunities, internship offerings



How Can You Use Social Media?

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[Vlogs](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Tik Tok](#)



Tools to start your search

Bigfuture.com

The Princeton
Review's Best
Colleges book

Visiting Colleges

Regional
Admission Visits



YOUUniversityTV.com

School's website

Youvisit.com

Google image,
maps, search

Questions?

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A series of colorful geometric shapes (triangles, squares, and a semi-circle) in purple, yellow, white, red, teal, and orange, arranged in a stepped pattern along the bottom left edge of the slide.

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