

Homework: Comparing Your Options.  
Due: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (before class)

During your last year of high school, you were doing college comparisons and most likely came up with a list of schools that was your list of possible destinations. For this homework, create a set of scripts using sqlite3 and Python/Pandas to examine the school characteristics of at least five of your choices (including Lafayette College).

The scripts should pull data from the most recent IPEDS data set, and the data set of the academic year you were determining who you would apply to. You will be producing a written description of how your perceptions and decision process fared between first applying and where things are now. You will write on the following topics.

1. Explain your reasoning, at the time, why you selected each school.
2. Examine the IPEDS numbers to verify if your perceptions were correct.
3. Compare the two time periods, summarizing the data from both time periods and how these numbers compare. Tables of data simple statistical examinations would be appropriate for this comparison.
4. Answer the question: would you have made a different decision if you knew the initial numbers for your pool of potential schools and how would have your selection differed knowing how things have changed from then to now?

Some topics to examine are:

- categories of schools you applied to,
- admissions and enrollment information,
- completion rates, and
- financial aid.

Submission: This document should be 4-5 pages using 11pt times roman. It should have an overview, primary text, and conclusions.