

PASTEL

# COLLEGE BOUND

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## FEATURES

### DESIGN CHOICES

Our currently implemented design for College Bound has a more traditional website layout. For this design, the user is able to access any page, regardless of what page the user is currently on, due to the menu implemented near the top of the page. We broke down all the information we wanted to feature on our website into five categories, which function as the five headings at the top of the navigation menu, in addition to the home page button. After we created five categories, each category was given subcategories that relate to the overall category. In this way, all the information is broken down into digestible pieces, making it easy to locate what the user needs. The user can navigate through the navigation bar or even the graphical icons which represent each category. In addition, they can find anything they need by using the search bar in the footer. We also added a section to feature articles on the homepage, which makes this website design more relevant, visual, and informative compared to the other two designs. This prototype implementation combines two of our most effective previous designs, providing the user with options with respect to navigation and finding information.

### NAVIGATION BAR

This feature allows the user to navigate the website. The first tab, College Bound, links to the homepage which has the article carousel. All the other tabs pertain to the different categories of the website pages. These tabs all have drop down menus, which can be accessed by clicking on the down arrows. Each option in the drop down will link to a new page. Within the pages, there is also a general information page that provides an overview of the category at hand. The navigation bar is visible at all times, meaning all the pages are accessible at any time.

### ARTICLE CAROUSEL

This feature, located on the homepage, provides users with relevant news about universities and campus life. The user can click on the arrows to cycle through the articles, as well as click on the circles at the bottom to navigate to different articles. The carousel is also set to cycle through the article previews automatically, to showcase the different viewable articles without having to do so manually. Clicking anywhere on the article preview will link the user to its subsequent article page.

### ICONS

This feature, located under the carousel, allows users to have a visual representation of navigation. Each icon represents the main topics of the page, and routes the user to the about page of each section.

## PAGES / ARTICLES

This feature, accessed by clicking tabs and/or the article previews, provides in depth information of the relative topic. The article and page components have the same layout: a header, a title, and a text body that details that topic.

## FOOTER

This feature, located on the bottom of the page provides information relative to the website's creation. The about page details the mission statement and team behind College Bound. The art credit links to the stock artist GoodStudio, where we got all the photos for our website. Lastly, there is a link to our GitHub page where all of the code for the website is located. The footer also has a search bar that will allow the user to access materials based on keywords.

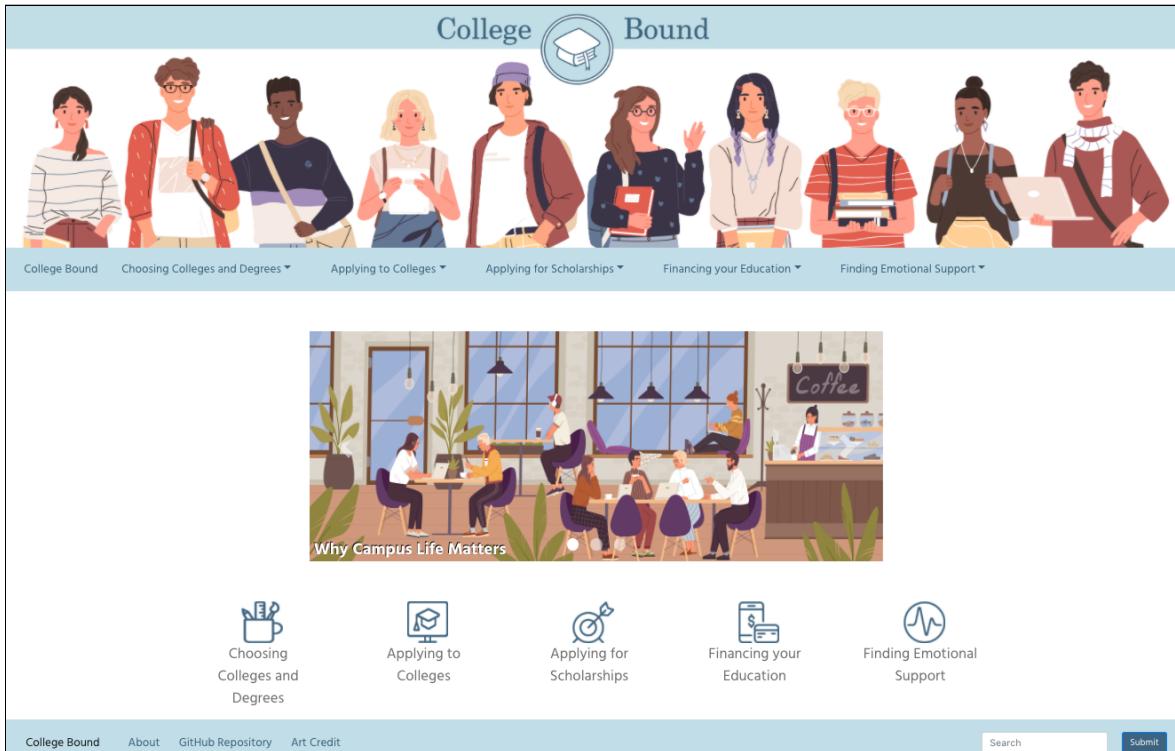
## WALKTHROUGH

For this design, we have one homepage with a changing article section, and implemented subpages for each of the five categories of information. Each page has a navigation menu that is always visible at the top, broken up by category. When you click on a specific category, it expands to show all the subpages associated with said category. To get back to the home page, a user can click on the College Bound branding in the navigation bar. Once the user is on the homepage, they are able to click through a cycle of topical articles on relevant topics by using the arrow buttons on the right and left side of the article container. By clicking on the article title or image, the user can reach the published article. In addition, below the article carousel on the homepage, we have graphical icons to represent the categories. This provides another means of accessing information in the case that the navigation bar is overwhelming to the user. This provides a quick way of getting to the overview subpage for each category. In addition, below every page, a footer is available. The footer provides links to an about page for the website, a link to the artist, and a link to the github repository. On the right-hand side of the footer is a search bar. In the case that the user is unsure of where to start their search for information, they can provide keywords and the most appropriate page will be directed to them. Overall, this design allows the user to access absolutely any subpage from any other page, and still has information broken down by category. In addition, it provides a quick and simple graphical means of navigation, and a search bar for all user needs.

## SCREENSHOTS

### Homepage Images

Homepage Article Carousel 1 Screenshot



Homepage Article Carousel 2 Screenshot



## Homepage Article Carousel 3 Screenshot

The screenshot shows the homepage of "College Bound". At the top, there is a banner featuring nine diverse young people. Above the banner is the text "College Bound" and a graduation cap icon. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges", "Applying for Scholarships", "Financing your Education", and "Finding Emotional Support".

The main content area features a large, stylized illustration of a person's head with swirling brain activity and floating thought bubbles. Below this illustration is the title "Mental Health Awareness in the Age of COVID and Zoom".

Below the main content are five categories with icons:

- Choosing Colleges and Degrees (mug icon)
- Applying to Colleges (graduation cap icon)
- Applying for Scholarships (target icon)
- Financing your Education (cash icon)
- Finding Emotional Support (heart rate monitor icon)

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links: "College Bound", "About", "GitHub Repository", "Art Credit", "Search" (with a search bar), and "Submit".

## ARTICLE IMAGES

### Article 1 Screenshot

The screenshot shows a website header titled "College Bound" with a graduation cap icon. Below the header is a horizontal navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features a large illustration of ten diverse college students in a common room or cafe setting, working on laptops and studying together. Below the illustration, the title "Why Campus Life Matters" is displayed, followed by two paragraphs of placeholder text.

**Why Campus Life Matters**

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### Article 2 Screenshot

The screenshot shows a website header titled "College Bound" with a graduation cap icon. Below the header is a horizontal navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features a large illustration of students wearing face masks, with several red COVID-19 virus particles floating around them. Below the illustration, the title "How Colleges are Handling Covid" is displayed, followed by two paragraphs of placeholder text.

**How Colleges are Handling Covid**

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### Article 3 Screenshot

The screenshot shows a web page titled "College Bound" with a circular icon of a graduation cap. Below the title is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. A large, stylized illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a red top, holding her head in distress, is overlaid on the page. She has a thought bubble above her head containing abstract blue shapes. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "Mental Health Awareness in the Age of COVID and Zoom" with two paragraphs of placeholder text.

**College Bound**

College Bound Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

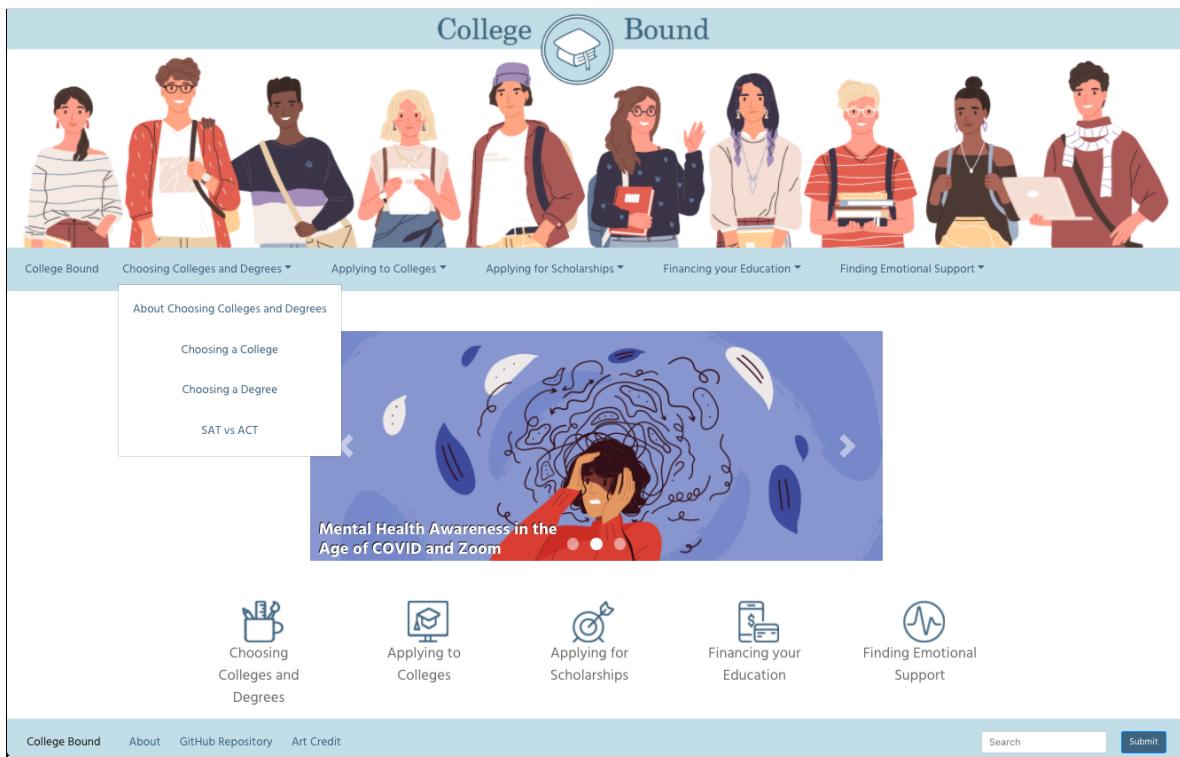
**Mental Health Awareness in the Age of COVID and Zoom**

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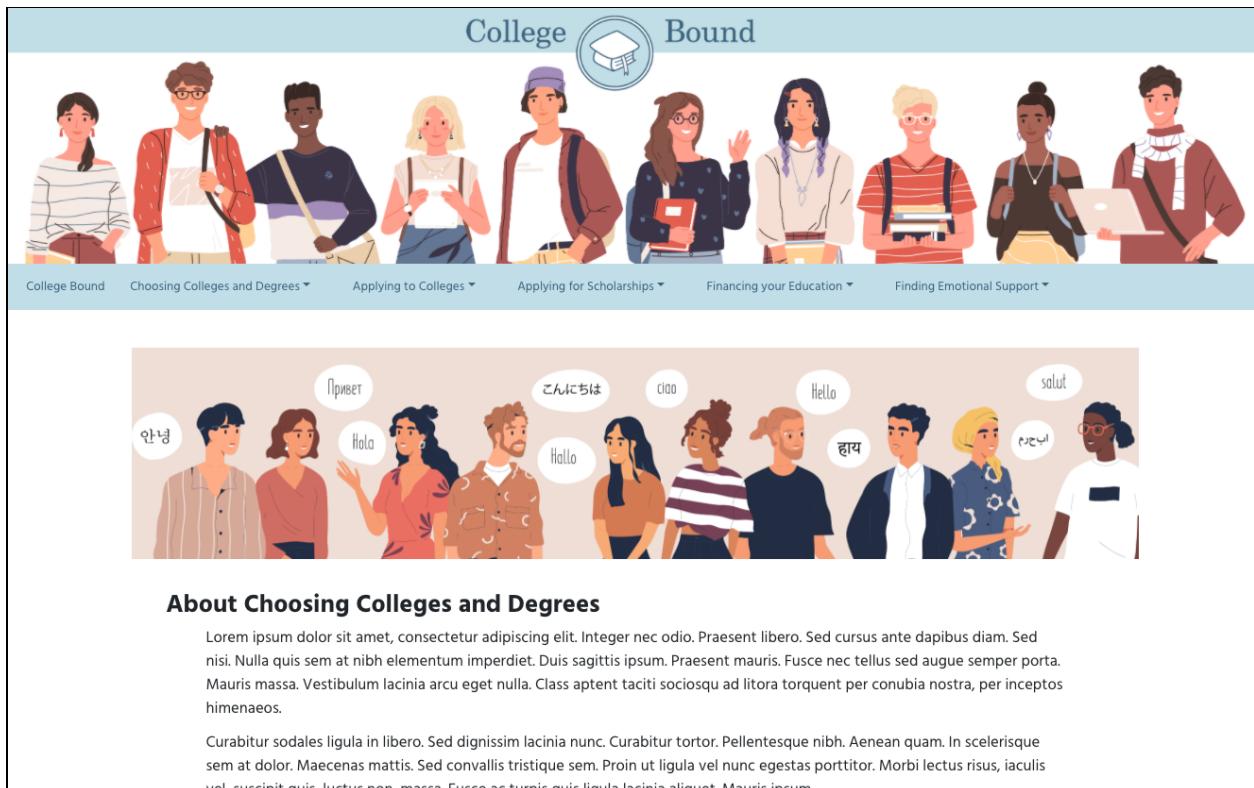
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## CHOOSING COLLEGES AND DEGREES IMAGES

Navigation Bar Drop Down Screenshot



About Choosing Colleges and Degrees Page Screenshot



## Choosing a College Page Screenshot

**College Bound**

College Bound Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

### Choosing a College

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## Choosing a Degree Page Screenshot

**College Bound**

College Bound Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

### Choosing a Degree

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## SAT vs ACT Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows a website header with the title "College Bound" and a graduation cap icon. Below the header is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. A navigation bar follows, with the first item being "College Bound". Below the navigation bar is a large image showing four people at desks, each with a laptop or paper. The section title "SAT vs ACT" is present, followed by two paragraphs of placeholder text.

**College Bound** Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

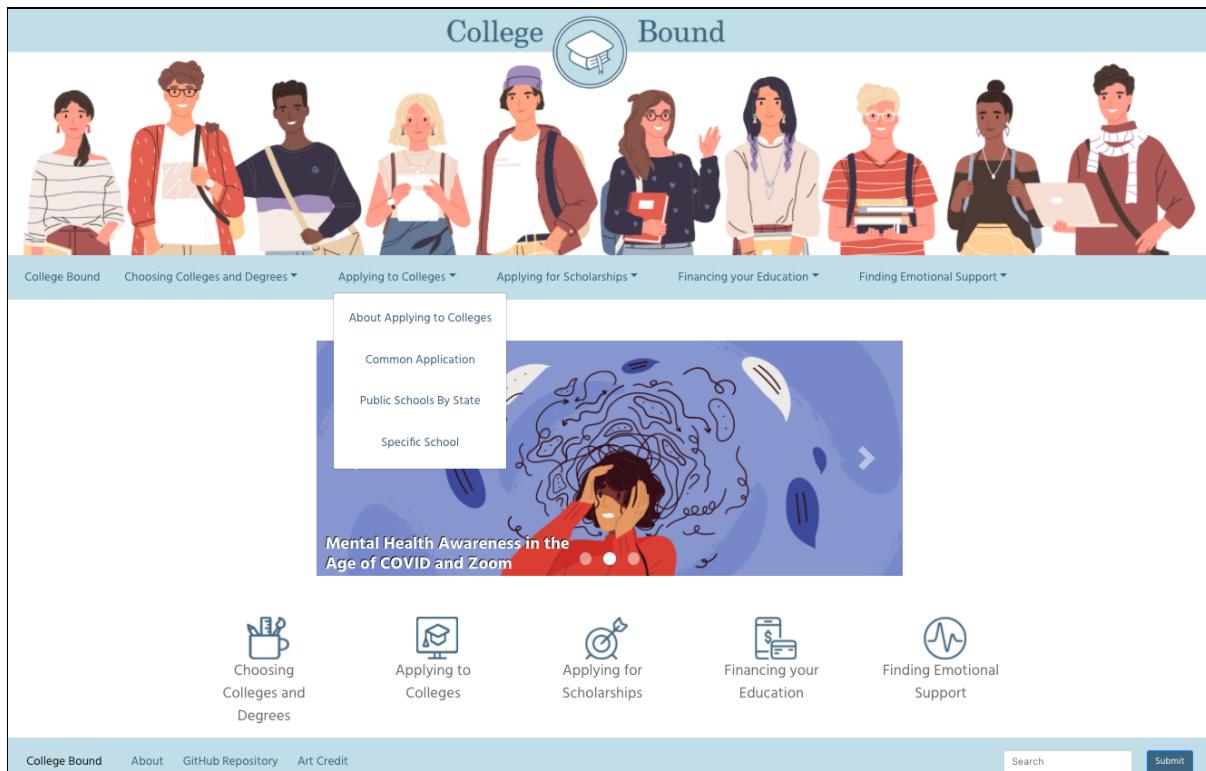
**SAT vs ACT**

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## APPLYING TO COLLEGES IMAGES

Navigation Bar Drop Down Screenshot



About Applying to Colleges Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'About Applying to Colleges' page. The top navigation bar is identical to the main site. Below it is a large illustration of a group of diverse students standing together. The main content area features a large image of two students sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop together. Below this image is a section titled 'Applying to Colleges' with a short paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) and a longer paragraph below it. The footer is identical to the navigation bar.

## Common Application Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows a web page for "College Bound". At the top is a banner featuring ten diverse student illustrations. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features a large, stylized illustration of two people fitting blue puzzle pieces together against a dark background with floating geometric shapes. Below this is a section titled "The Common Application" with a paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) and another paragraph below it.

**The Common Application**

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## Public Schools by State Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows a web page for "College Bound". At the top is a banner featuring ten diverse student illustrations. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features a large, colorful abstract illustration with various geometric shapes (circles, triangles, squares) in yellow, blue, and orange, with several student figures interacting with the shapes. Below this is a section titled "Public Schools By State" with a paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) and another paragraph below it.

**Public Schools By State**

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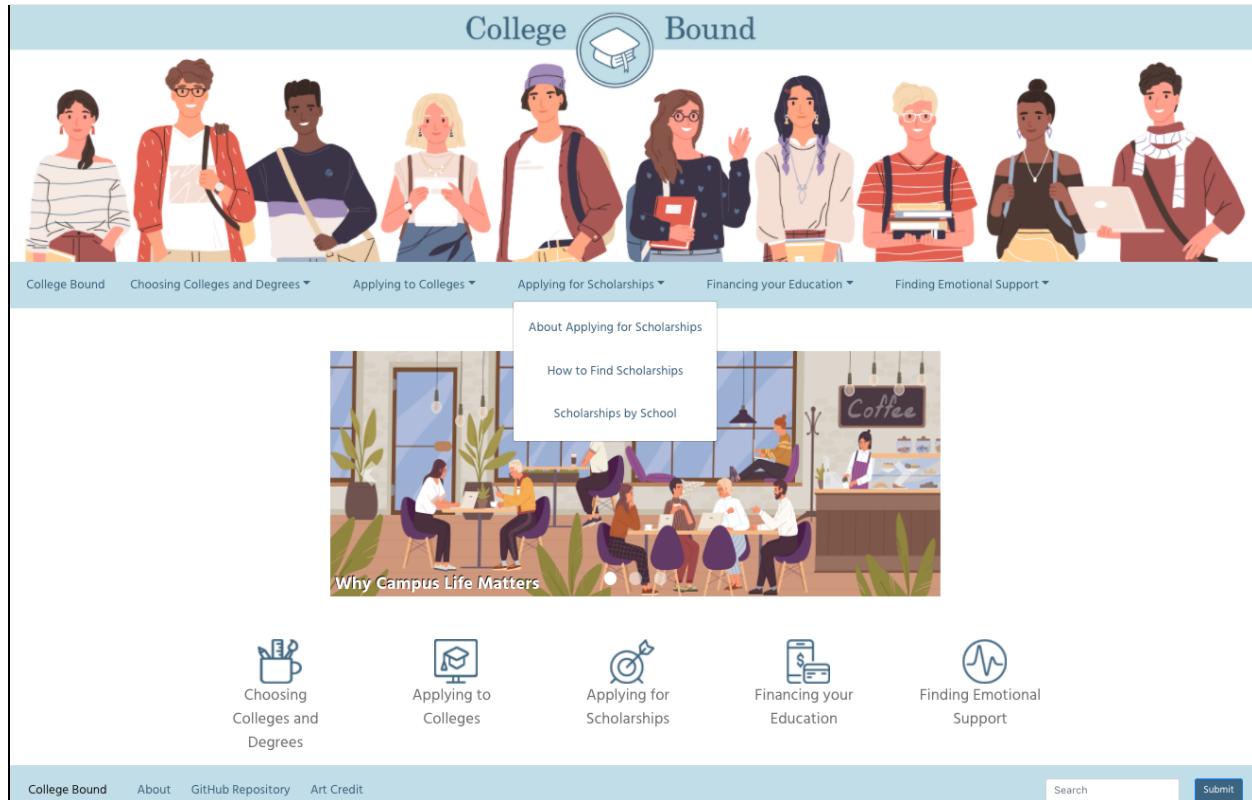
*Specific Schools* Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows a web page titled "College Bound" with a circular logo featuring a graduation cap. Below the title is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. A navigation bar below them includes links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features two side-by-side illustrations: one of a building with students looking out from the windows, and another of a person standing on a balcony with a dog. The section title "Specific Schools" is bolded, followed by two blocks of placeholder text.

**Specific Schools**

## APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IMAGES

Navigation Bar Drop Down Screenshot



About Applying for Scholarships Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'About Applying for Scholarships' page. The top navigation bar is identical to the main site, with 'College Bound' and a graduation cap icon. Below the bar is a large illustration of students in a coffee shop setting. The main content area features a large heading 'Applying For Scholarships' in bold black text. Below the heading is a paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) and another paragraph at the bottom. The footer of the page includes links for 'College Bound', 'Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾', 'Applying to Colleges ▾', 'Applying for Scholarships ▾', 'Financing your Education ▾', and 'Finding Emotional Support ▾'.

## How to Find Scholarships Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'How to Find Scholarships' page of the College Bound website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site's logo 'College Bound' and a graduation cap icon. Below the logo is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. The navigation bar includes links: 'College Bound', 'Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾', 'Applying to Colleges ▾', 'Applying for Scholarships ▾', 'Financing your Education ▾', and 'Finding Emotional Support ▾'. The main content area features a large, colorful illustration of students working at desks in a library or study area, surrounded by large green plants. Below the illustration, the section title 'How to Find Scholarships' is displayed in bold. A block of placeholder text follows:

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## Scholarships By School Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'Scholarships By School' page of the College Bound website. The layout is identical to the 'How to Find Scholarships' page, featuring the same navigation bar, student illustrations, and large central illustration of students studying. The section title 'Scholarships By School' is present, along with the same block of placeholder text:

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## FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION IMAGES

Navigation Bar Drop Down Screenshot

The screenshot shows the College Bound website's navigation bar. The main title "College Bound" is at the top, followed by a circular icon with a graduation cap. Below the bar is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. The navigation menu includes links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". A dropdown menu for "Financing your Education" is open, listing: "About Financing your Education", "Loans", "FAFSA", and "Private vs Public Loans". Below the menu is a large blue illustration of a person with hands on their head, surrounded by thought bubbles and the text "Mental Health Awareness in the Age of COVID and Zoom". At the bottom of the page are five category icons with labels: "Choosing Colleges and Degrees" (mug), "Applying to Colleges" (graduation cap), "Applying for Scholarships" (target), "Financing your Education" (money bag), and "Finding Emotional Support" (heartbeat). The footer contains links: "College Bound", "About", "GitHub Repository", "Art Credit", "Search", and "Submit".

*About Financing Your Education* Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the "About Financing Your Education" page. The top navigation bar is identical to the one above. Below it is a large blue illustration featuring several people climbing stacks of coins and money. The page title "Financing Your Education" is in bold at the top. Below the title is a paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) and another paragraph at the bottom.

**Financing Your Education**

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## Loans Page Screenshot

**College Bound**

Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

**Loans**

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## FAFSA Page Screenshot

**College Bound**

Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾ Applying to Colleges ▾ Applying for Scholarships ▾ Financing your Education ▾ Finding Emotional Support ▾

**FAFSA**

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*Private vs Public Loans* Page Screenshot

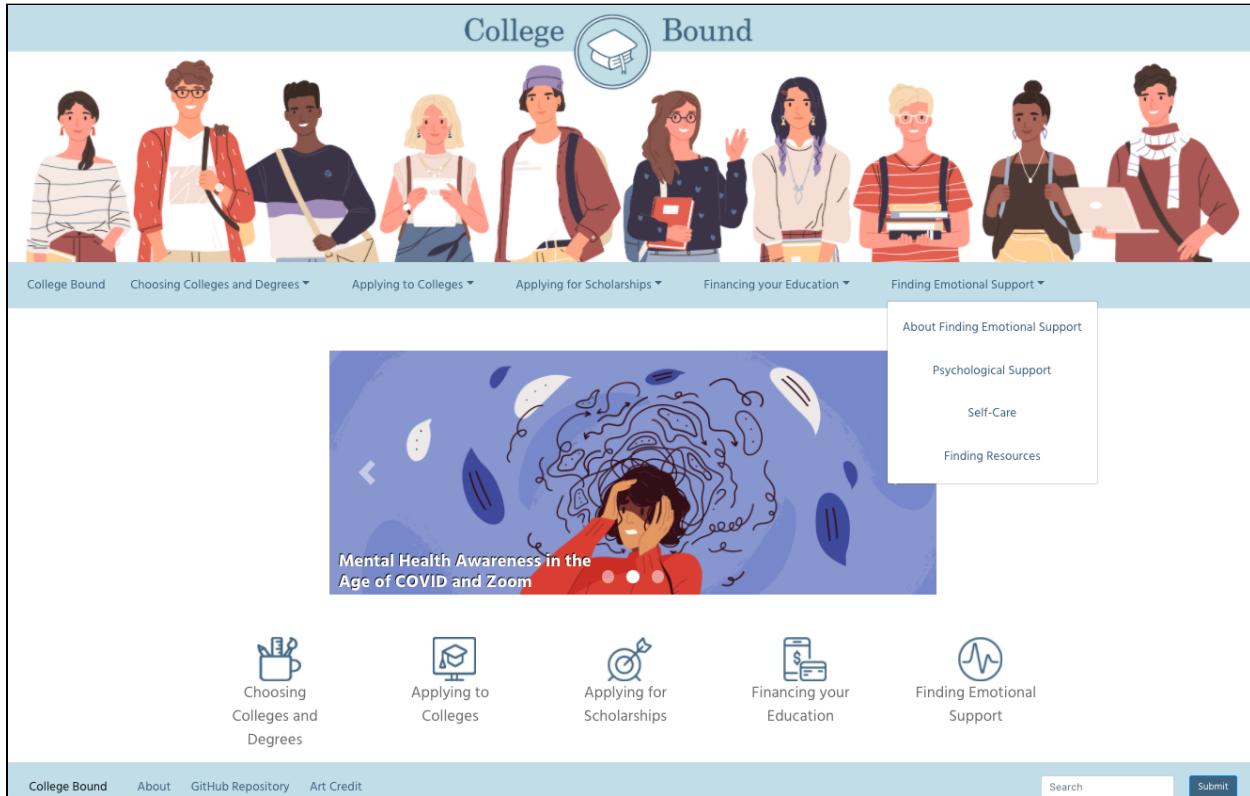
The screenshot shows a website header with the title "College Bound" and a graduation cap icon. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾", "Applying to Colleges ▾", "Applying for Scholarships ▾", "Financing your Education ▾", and "Finding Emotional Support ▾". The main content area features a large illustration of a classical building with columns on the left and a woman's profile on the right. Below the illustration, the section title "Private vs Public Loans" is displayed in bold. Two paragraphs of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum) follow.

**Private vs Public Loans**

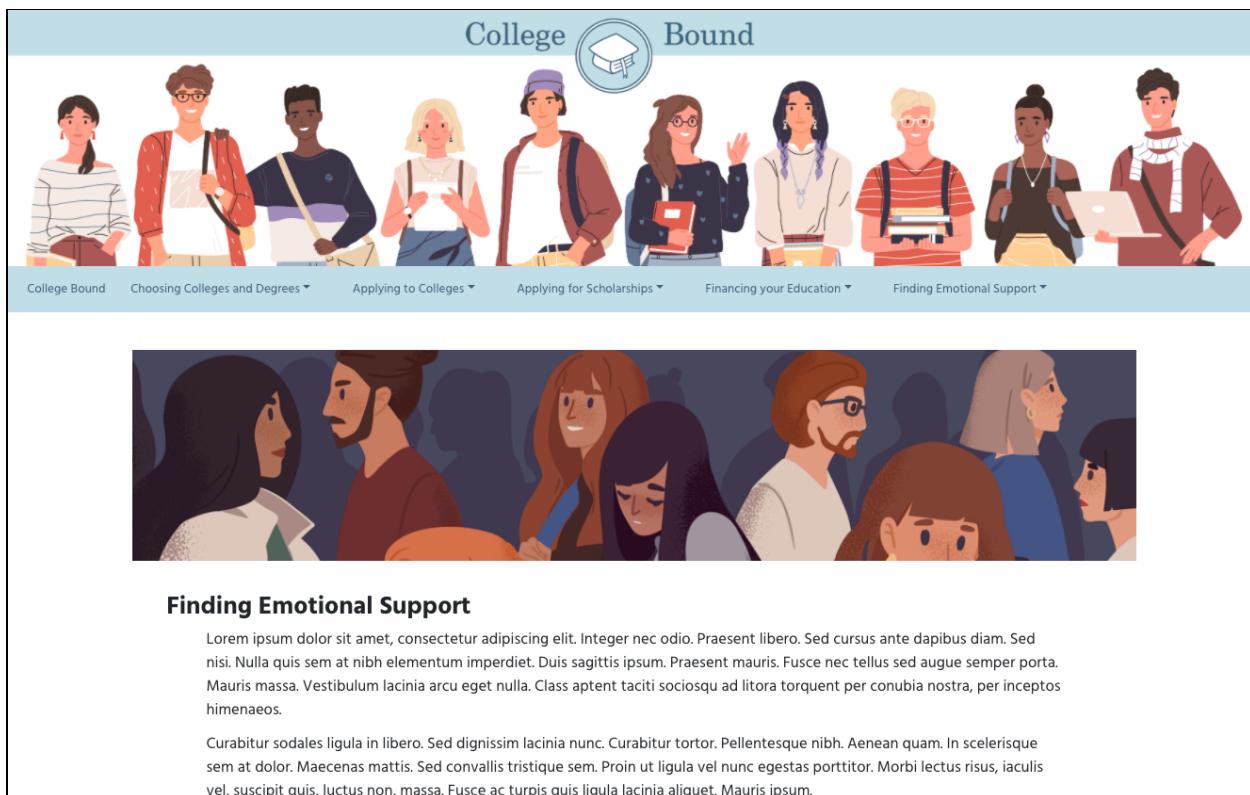
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## FINDING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IMAGES

Navigation Bar Drop Down Screenshot



*Finding Emotional Support Page Screenshot*



## Psychological Support Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'Psychological Support' page of the 'College Bound' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site's logo and links to various sections: 'College Bound', 'Choosing Colleges and Degrees', 'Applying to Colleges', 'Applying for Scholarships', 'Financing your Education', and 'Finding Emotional Support'. Below the navigation bar is a decorative illustration featuring a collage of school-related items like books, a graduation cap, and a pencil, with the text 'YOU ARE LOVED' prominently displayed. The main content area contains a section titled 'Psychological Support' followed by two paragraphs of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum).

## Self Care Page Screenshot

The screenshot shows the 'Self Care' page of the 'College Bound' website. The layout is identical to the Psychological Support page, with the same navigation bar and decorative collage at the top. The main content area contains a section titled 'Self Care' followed by two paragraphs of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum).

## Finding Resources Page Screenshots

The screenshot shows the 'College Bound' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a blue header containing the text 'College Bound' and a graduation cap icon. Below the header is a row of ten diverse student illustrations. Underneath this is a secondary navigation bar with links: 'College Bound', 'Choosing Colleges and Degrees ▾', 'Applying to Colleges ▾', 'Applying for Scholarships ▾', 'Financing your Education ▾', and 'Finding Emotional Support ▾'. The main content area features a large, colorful illustration of students performing various yoga poses outdoors in a park-like setting. Below the illustration, the section title 'Finding Resources' is displayed in bold black font. A block of placeholder text follows:

**Finding Resources**

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## FOOTER IMAGES

### Footer Screenshot



### About Page Screenshot

A screenshot of the College Bound website's "About" page. The top navigation bar includes the site's name "College Bound" with a graduation cap icon, and links for "College Bound", "Choosing Colleges and Degrees", "Applying to Colleges", "Applying for Scholarships", "Financing your Education", and "Finding Emotional Support". Below the navigation is a grid of circular avatars representing diverse individuals. The main content area contains a section titled "About" with a paragraph describing the project's purpose and team members. The paragraph reads:

College Bound is a web application that aims to bridge the educational gap between first-generation college students and higher education. Despite recent improvements in accessibility in higher education, there is still more that needs to be done. This application provides plentiful information in order to make the college and financial aid application simpler.

This project was created by four members of LMU Computer Science class of 2022: Ameya Mellacheruvu, Keziah Rezaey, Elise Sawan, and Salem Tesfu. This group, known as PASTEL, is well aware of the educational inequalities that come with being first-generation students through first hand experience. They hope that their website can provide solace to prospective and current university students across the nation.

## EVALUATION PLAN

1. What sort of benchmark tasks would you have users perform to help evaluate the system?
  - Have users successfully navigate to the articles
    - Selecting an image from the carousel, clicking on it and then be directed to the article page
    - After selecting an article, navigate back to the homepage by clicking on the words “College Bound” in the banner
  - Have users successfully navigate to pages using the icons
    - Selecting an icon under the carousel and be redirected to the matching page
    - After selecting a page, navigate back to the homepage by clicking on the words “College Bound” in the banner
  - Have users successfully navigate to pages using the navbar/banner
    - Click on a tab (which can be accessed by clicking on the down arrows). Select an option in the drop down menu
    - After selecting a page, navigate back to the homepage by clicking on the words “College Bound” in the banner
2. What kind(s) of subjective questionnaires would you use to have a user critique the system?
  - Questionnaire for User Interface Satisfaction (QUIS) short version
  - System Usability Scale (SUS)
3. What kind(s) of interview questions would you use before a user tries your system? After?
  - Questions Before
    - What way of page navigation for a web application do you think is best?
    - What way of organizing information on a page do you think is best?
    - How do you want to feel when using a web page devoted to finding you information?
    - What elements do you think make a successful website?
  - Questions After
    - Did you feel that the organization of information helped you find what you need?
    - How easy was it to navigate through each page?
    - How easy was it to navigate back to the homepage?
    - How would you rate the overall ease of use of the app?
    - How did the visuals contribute to your user experience?
    - How did you feel while navigating through the app?
    - What elements do you think contributed to the best user experience?
4. What are other evaluation techniques? Why is it appropriate or not appropriate to use these?
  - Between-Subjects Evaluation Design

- In between-subject evaluation, each user tests one specific condition, instead of each user testing every condition. For our design and situation, this would not be appropriate to use. This would not be appropriate as more users are needed than using within-subject evaluation and as our website is not deployed, it will be harder to get a large group of users who are not familiar with computer science to test our site.
- Within-Subjects Evaluation Design
  - In within-subject evaluation, each user tests each specific condition, instead of testing only one. For our design and situation, this would be appropriate to use. As our website is not deployed, it will be easier to get a small group of users who are not familiar with computer science to test the site, rather than a large group. Additionally, each task on our site is similar to every other task, making it easy for a user to test each condition.

## 5. Usability Specifications

- Learnability
  - Measure how long it will take for them to search for and find their needed information
  - Measure how long it will take for them to navigate to their needed information through the navigation bar
- Errors
  - How many searches does it take for a user to search for and find their needed information
  - How many incorrect clicks on average does it take for a user to navigate to their needed information through the navigation bar
- Efficiency
  - How long does it take for user to navigate to a page that explains their needed information
  - How long does it take for user to search for a page that explains their needed information