Memo

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| To: | Randy Singh |
| From: | Julia Kovrigin Student |
| Date: | October 16, 2018 |
| Re: | College Search & Research Topics |

The purpose of this memo is to demonstrate what factors should be taken into consideration when selecting a college. I focused on the factors of location and field of study, as the factors that are the most important to me.

**Choosing a college**

When choosing a college there is a lot to take into consideration. After reading numerous articles focused on the “Dos and Don’ts” of selecting an institution, I have narrowed down my criteria to the four factors most often sited in the article I read; Location, Major, Students and Size.

Location is very important to consider because potential students will be spending the next few years of their life at this location. Weather is an important sub-factor to consider that ties in with location, do you like the cold, hot or changing seasons? How far away is this from your home? Would you prefer an urban(city) are or more secluded (small town) setting? Major is another factor that plays a big role. When you know what you want to study, it is important to do the necessary research to identify programs, and schools that are prevalent in that field. This will ensure that the school has the necessary resources and tools to provide the best education in that major. The student body is very important to consider, your peers are going to be the ones that will aid in learning. These will be your future lab partners, friends and possible roommates. The final thing to consider is the size of the school. This is important to note because of the student to faculty ratio, which will impact the class size. Do you want to have a close relationship with your professor, and see familiar faces when walking around campus?

**Top Colleges**

After conducting my research, I chose two schools that I would like to transfer to. The major determining factors that I took into consideration were major and location. The major was a very important factor, I wanted to choose a school that had a very good computer science program. The location was just as important to me, since I’m an older student (35) who is married and has family responsibilities. The commuting distance would be limited, to not create additional stress on my family life while attending school.

When analyzing my research, I compared the cost of tuition and discovered that attending Anne Arundel Community College for the first two years and transferring to a four-year college results in significant savings. The two schools I have chosen from my research are the University of Maryland College Park (UMD) and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). The savings as a transfer student to UMD would save $39,000 and $41,000 if attending UMBC. These are significant savings that any aspiring student needs to take advantage of.

Figure 1- Data from College Board

**Research Topic**

My last assignment in class got me wondering how the internet has changed the way we learn. That is why I would like to research this topic further. I would like to find out, what are the positive affects and if there are any negative ones. Also, how will it continue to affect the way we learn. Will the future have no books or physical classes? These are the questions I look forward to getting answers to in my research paper.

This exercise was instrumental in helping me find the proper approach as I search for future colleges. I am now able to focus on what is important and realistic for me, when selecting a four-year college. I also realized that I made the right decision by attending AACC, the amount of money saved will ensure a better financial start as I commence my new career in Computer Science.

**References**

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