Final Capstone Project Proposal

University and college costs across the United States have skyrocketed in the past few decades. Today’s demographic of students continually burdened by debt from college loans is higher than it’s ever been. *I would like to use the dataset provided by Scoreboard to see if there are colleges that are valuable for students who come, specifically, from low- income households,* instilling the idea that the prospect of college is not impossible to anyone. Maybe there is a more or less common model between these sorts of schools that could be used as a metric to which we compare other higher institutions.

The first questions are these: which schools provide most assistance in providing assistance for higher education, through grants and various factors, to lower income students? Are there certain types of schools who are more generous? To help explain this, I will do data analysis on factors like percentage of school population receiving some sort of grant, religious affiliation of school (if there is one), net price comparisons and much more.

Next, I want to observe graduation rates and median salaries out of college after a few years, and whether it surpasses median income without a college degree, which is around $25,000. Since college is supposedly supposed to allow students with the prospect of obtaining jobs with higher salaries, it is necessary to quantify whether a degree from a certain institution is really helpful. Another factor to consider is repayment rates and to see whether students from certain colleges are paying off loans at a more efficient rate.

Once this is done, I will see whether some schools meet both criteria that assist students in attending college and prepare them for post grad. Granted, this is a rough draft so as I do more analysis, many more variables and factors could come into play, and the steps will be more elaborate. Again, my goal in this analysis is to find schools that are affordable and pave the way for success after college, specifically for those who often times can’t afford college.

A fair assumption I can make is that it would be unfair to compare community colleges to larger universities, so I will treat them as different entities. If these are some large universities that provide a more comprehensive aid than community colleges, it could make the university even more “valuable”.