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As a sixteen or seventeen year old, choosing the right school for you seems like a daunting task. There are big and small schools, private and public, and schools that offer certain majors. When I was applying to schools, I determined that I wanted to go to a school in a warm climate on a residential campus. I did not dig deep into the data to help determine the perfect school for me. Hopefully, this assignment will help a student out there determine some aspects of college I did not consider.

In part one, we ran the overall acceptance rate at private and public schools. I addressed this question by adding all the acceptances from private schools and all the acceptances from public schools and dividing them by their number of applications. I got around 66% for private schools and 68% for public schools. I do not think that this result has many implications as there is a vast variety in the acceptance rates at individual schools.

In part two we looked at schools with over 10,000 applications and sorted them by their graduation rate. First I filtered to return only those schools, and then grabbed the graduation rate paired with it and sorted by that number. The top of the list contains the most prestigious schools in the country, as most people do not leave once going there or dropping out, because the school is of such high quality. It is assumed that their acceptance rate is lower. As you go down the list, you see schools of lower quality, but large in size state schools as they accommodate that many students.

For the final task, we looked at schools with a greater than 70% graduation rate and grabbed the top ten by students that end up enrolling there. Often, these schools are the first choice by a student or their “target” application school so they get in and attend. Since it is the top ten by enrollment, they are state schools as they can accommodate the size. These are successful state schools as they graduate a large number of students.

Overall, I enjoyed this assignment and looking at college data. Was disappointed not to see William and Mary in any of our results!