



## FIND THE FIT

### FACTORS OF FIT

When looking at colleges and deciding which to apply to there are several factors to consider. Remember the main goal is to find the college that is right for YOU. The focus is usually on which school is considered the “best”, but each person is unique thus everyone has a different “best” college waiting for them. You need to look at the factors listed below and decide what is most important to you. Remember, it isn’t just the college deciding if you are best for their school- you get to decide which schools are best for you!!

**ACADEMIC MATCH-** One of the most important factors is whether the school offers the type of education you want. Are you looking at a 2-yr. degree or a 4-yr. degree? On campus or hybrid (some on campus and some online) classes? Does it have the major you want to study? Are your GPA and test scores in the range of their typical incoming student?

#### AFFORDABILITY

Does the college accept financial aid and/or state aid? Are there several scholarships (that you could qualify for)? Check out their college cost estimator to see what your estimated out of pocket cost would be.

#### INSTITUTIONAL OFFERINGS

Does the school offer student benefits such as tutoring, career planning, libraries, computer labs etc. What are the class sizes, student teacher ratios, and graduation rates?

#### PERSONAL PREFERENCES

Do you like the locations (rural/city), the size (large, medium small), athletics, extracurricular clubs and other activities, is close enough/far enough away from home?



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### APPLY TO 4 COLLEGES

Why do we make you apply to four colleges?

That's easy! We want you to be able to have choices after you graduate. Often, we have found that a student may start the year off with one school they wanted to attend only to change their mind later. It could be that they didn't receive as much money as they thought they would, a family obligation arises, or they took a chance and got into their dream school!

Remember: When applying look and see if they have any discounts or certain times you can apply for free (some will let you apply for free if you do so online; check their social media accounts and webpage to see if they are running any promotions or have their own fee waiver form). If not, try to use the fee waiver form that Upward Bound gives you. Also, UB can pay the application fee for ONE MATCH school (talk to your adviser for more details).

#### 1 SAFETY SCHOOL

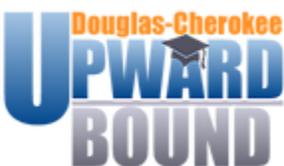
A safety school is one that you know you stand a good chance of getting accepted to, being able to pay for, close to home so you will be able to attend classes- even if something unexpected comes up. These are typically community colleges.

#### 2 MATCH SCHOOLS

A match school has acceptance standards that are like what you have (GPA, ACT/SAT etc.), are reasonable priced, and suit your personality, and factors of fit that are important to you.

#### 1 STRETCH SCHOOL

A stretch school is a school that is hard to get into, far away from home, and/or is expensive. Most students put expensive schools in this category, but often scholarships can make up for the \$\$ difference.



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### SCOOP SHEETS

#### What is a SCOOP SHEET?

A SCOOP sheet is a place where FTF Factors are readily shown on one piece of paper. It allows you to see if a school is an academic match, is affordable, and if it has some of the institutional offers and meets some of your personal preferences. It can be very handy when you are deciding which schools to apply to.

**ACADEMIC MATCH-** The SCOOP sheet has information about average ACT/SAT scores of their accepted students. Remember these are an average so there are some students who get accepted with lower and higher scores than what is listed.

#### AFFORDABILITY

The SCOOP sheet shows several financial factors: Posted Cost of Attendance and what the average out of pocket cost is for students based on their incomes: 0-30,000, 30,000-48,000 and 48,000-75,00

#### INSTITUTIONAL OFFERINGS

The SCOOP sheet shows you what the graduation rate of each school is. This number is based on how many of their first-time freshmen graduate on time. Usually schools with a higher graduation rate do a better job of offering services such as tutoring, classes about time management etc.

#### PERSONAL PREFERENCES

The SCOOP sheet allows you to see which state the school is located (in state students can qualify for state aid), if it is a public or private school, and how many students are enrolled (how large or small the school is).