



College 101

Raquel Garcia
Harper College District



COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

“Providing Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable.”

- Mission Statement

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the college access and financial aid agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs.

Overview

Here are some things we will talk about today.....

- Post-secondary options
 - Types of degrees and colleges
 - Apprenticeships
 - Military
- Determining your “best fit” college(s)
- Researching colleges

Types of Degrees

Type	Approx. time
Certificate	10-16 months
Associate's	2 years
Bachelor's	4 years
Master's	2 years (after a bachelor's)
Professional	3-6 years (after a bachelor's)
Doctorate	5-7 years (after a bachelor's)

Types of Colleges

Type	Degrees	Examples
Public universities	Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, Doctorate	Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
Private colleges and universities	Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, Doctorate	Bradley University
Community colleges	Certificate, Associate's	Harper College College of DuPage
Trade/Vocational schools	Certificate	Universal Technical Institute

Average Tuition and Fees in IL

Institution	Cost
Trade/Vocational School	\$3,000-\$15,000
Community College	\$4,798
Public 4-year university	\$16,539
Private 4-year college	\$41,423

To find out the specific tuition & fees, visit the college's website

Things to Consider When Deciding on a Major

- Your interests
- Debt you are willing to assume
- Average salary
- Job prospects



Certificate Programs

- Community Colleges
 - Certificate programs:
 - Certified Nurse Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding, Welding, etc.
 - Assoc. Applied Science programs:
 - Radiology, Nursing, Emergency Medical Technicians
- Vocational, trade, technical, and career colleges
 - Cosmetology
 - Mortician
 - Automotive



Apprenticeships

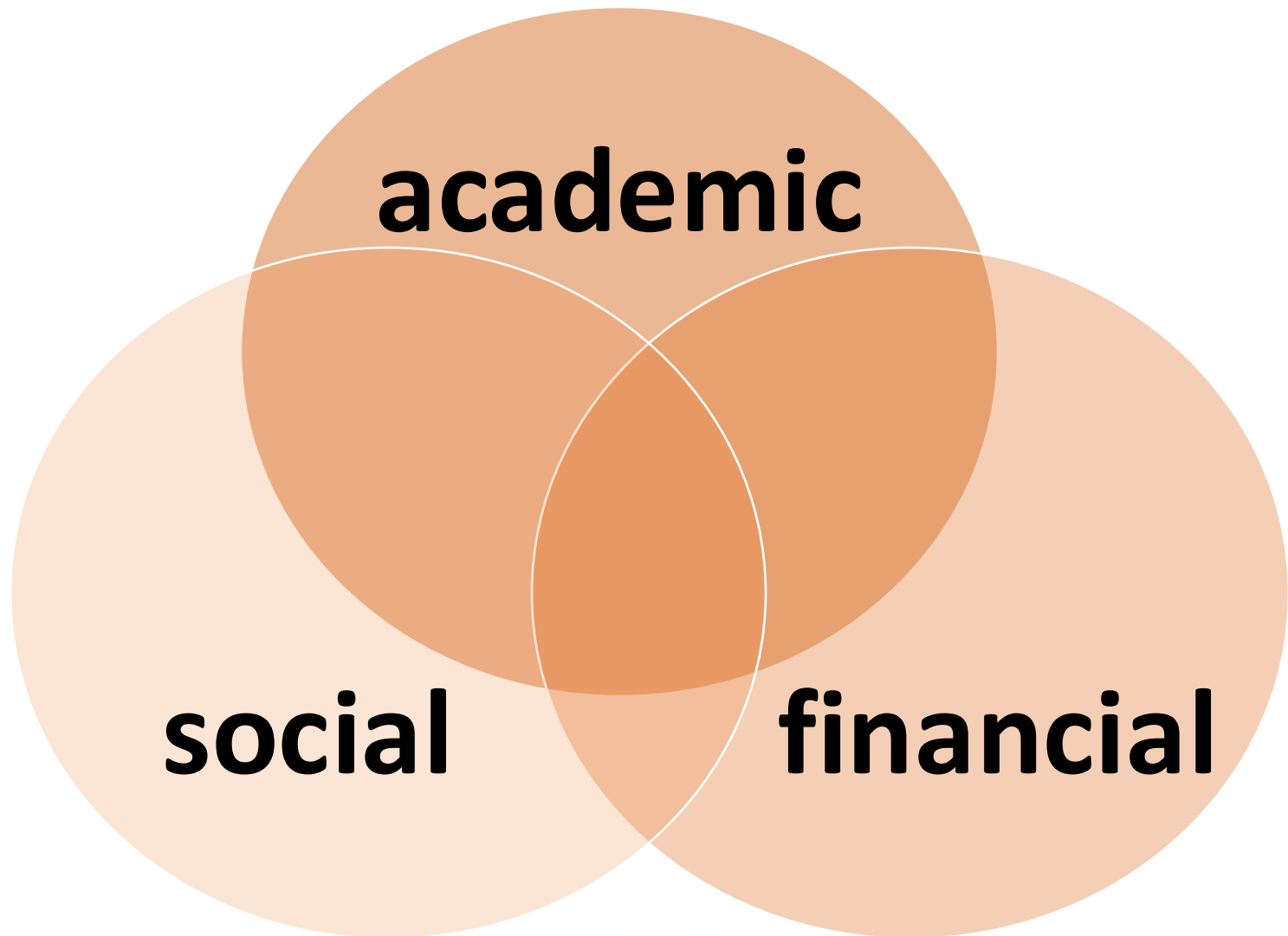
- Run by an employer or union
- Teach skills for a specific trade
 - Combines on-the-job training and classroom instruction
- Apprentice usually pays only for tools/supplies
- Apprentice agrees to work for a minimum time after completing apprenticeship



Military

- Initial commitment is typically 4 years active duty and 2 years inactive
- Branches include
 - Army
 - Navy
 - Air Force
 - Marine Corps
 - Coast Guard
 - National Guard
- Long-term career vs. continued training/education
- Military offers tuition assistance but options after are GI Bill, Illinois Veteran's Grant or National Guard Grant

Determining Your “Best Fit” College



Academic: The basics

- Available majors
- Internship opportunities
- Career/graduate school placement rates
- Graduation and retention rates



Use College Board BigFuture to find all this information

Academic: Admissions

SAFETY

your academic record is stronger than most students
it's basically assured that you'll be admitted

MATCH

your academic record is similar to most students
you have a very good chance of getting admitted

REACH

most students have a better academic record than you
you have a chance of getting admitted

You may want to consider applying to at least two of each, for a total of six.

Social

- Religious affiliation
- Extracurricular activities
- Athletics
- Theater/musical performances
- Multicultural organizations
- Greek life
- Support services
- Average class size
- Campus size
- Commute vs. On-campus vs. Off-campus
- Location



Financial



- Sticker price vs. Net price
- Types of financial aid available
 - Gift (scholarships, grants)
 - Self-help (loans, work study)
- Out-of-pocket cost

College Visits: Be Proactive

- Get a sense of the on-campus experience
- Ask intelligent, prepared questions
- Schedule a one-on-one appointment with an admissions representative
- Talk to students who attend that school
- Consider an overnight stay
- Attend a class



Your Support Network

Involve others in your decision-making process

- High School Counselor
- Friends and Relatives
- Community Organizations
- Teachers / Mentors
- ISAC/ISACorps



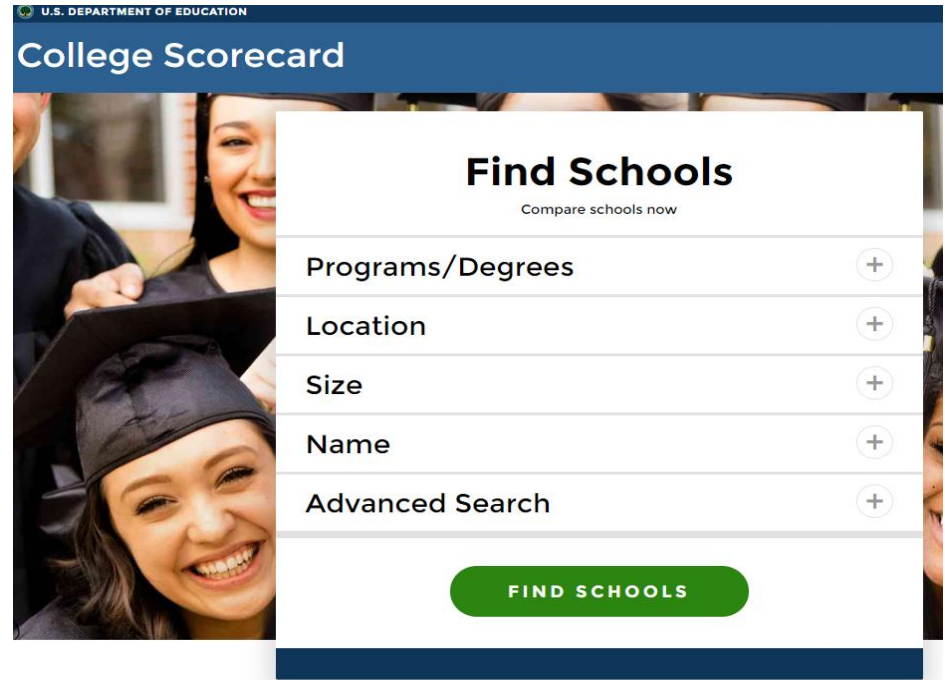
Ask questions!

Researching Colleges

- College Scorecard
- Appily
- College Board
- Niche

Search for colleges by...

- Programs or Majors
- Location
- Enrollment size



Don't rule out any schools based on cost!

Review

- Types of colleges and degrees
- Identify your interests and goals
- Determine “best fit” college(s) based on academic, social, and financial factors
- Find your support network
- Ask Questions!



D211 ISAC Representatives

Raquel Garcia

Raquel.Garcia@Illinois.gov

(224) 457-6521

(Palatine High School, Spanish Speaker Support)

Lauren Powers

Lauren.Powers@illinois.gov

(312) 550-2632

(Conant, Hoffman Estates, Fremd & Schaumburg)

Attending a Community College: Harper College

Sarah Meyer

Admissions Specialist

Harper College

ms15692@harpercollege.edu

Community College Myths

- **Community college classes are easy**
 - Community colleges are fully accredited
 - Coursework holds the same standards as four-years
- **Community colleges credits won't transfer**
 - Many colleges have transfer-agreements
 - Associate degrees are designed to transfer
- **Community colleges have no student life**
 - Athletics, clubs, honors, study abroad, jobs
 - Plenty of student support resources
- **Community college is “high school 2.0.”**
 - New people, rigorous academics, student involvement
 - You get what you put in



Community College Characteristics

- **Open Access**
 - All students are accepted
 - Makes college more accessible
- **Diverse Student Population**
 - Students from all walks of life
 - Pursuing many individual goals
- **Commitment to Instruction**
 - Professors focus is teaching
 - Allows for more individualized support
- **Community Partnerships**
 - Develop programs based on local demand
 - Partnerships with schools, businesses, etc.



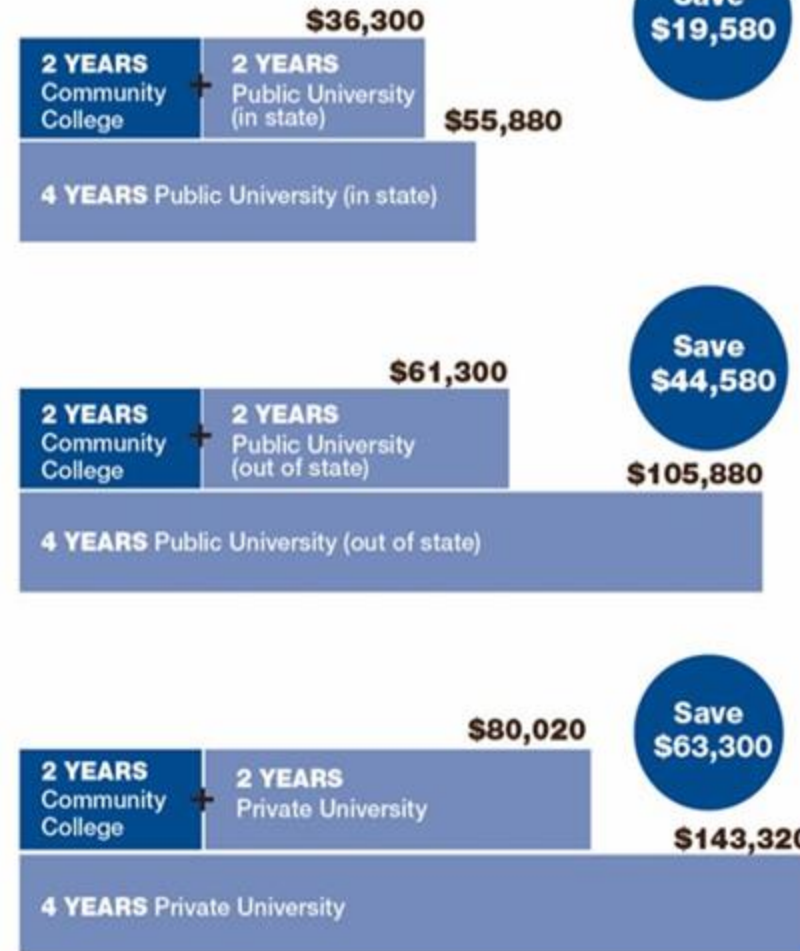
Educational Opportunities

- **Career Ready Degrees**
 - Prepare students to enter workforce
 - Partnerships with local businesses/organizations
- **Apprenticeships**
 - Career focused pathways
 - Company pays for educational expenses
- **Transfer Degrees**
 - Complete general education classes
 - Transfer to a four-year of choice
- **University Partnerships**
 - The University Center
 - Guaranteed admission pathways



Cost Savings

- **Quality Education, Lower Cost**
 - Affordable option
 - Quality instruction
- **Save Money to Continue Your Education**
 - Lower cost helps students save
 - Use savings to continue education
- **Financial Assistance**
 - Federal Aid
 - Harper Promise
 - Scholarships



Campus Climate

- **Smaller Class Sizes**
 - More opportunity for support
 - Individualized attention
- **Flexibility**
 - Courses offered anytime
 - In-person, remote, hybrid
- **Close to Home**
 - Ease the transition to college
 - Maintain connections, work opportunities
- **Student Engagement Opportunities**
 - Clubs, cultural centers, organizations, athletics
 - Student support resources and services



Upcoming Events

Harper Fiesta

- Monday, September 23rd
- 5:00pm-7:00pm
- On Campus



Annual Open House

- Wednesday, October 30th
- 5:00pm-7:30pm
- On Campus





Questions?

Thank You!

Sarah Meyer

Admissions Specialist

ms15692@harpercollege.edu