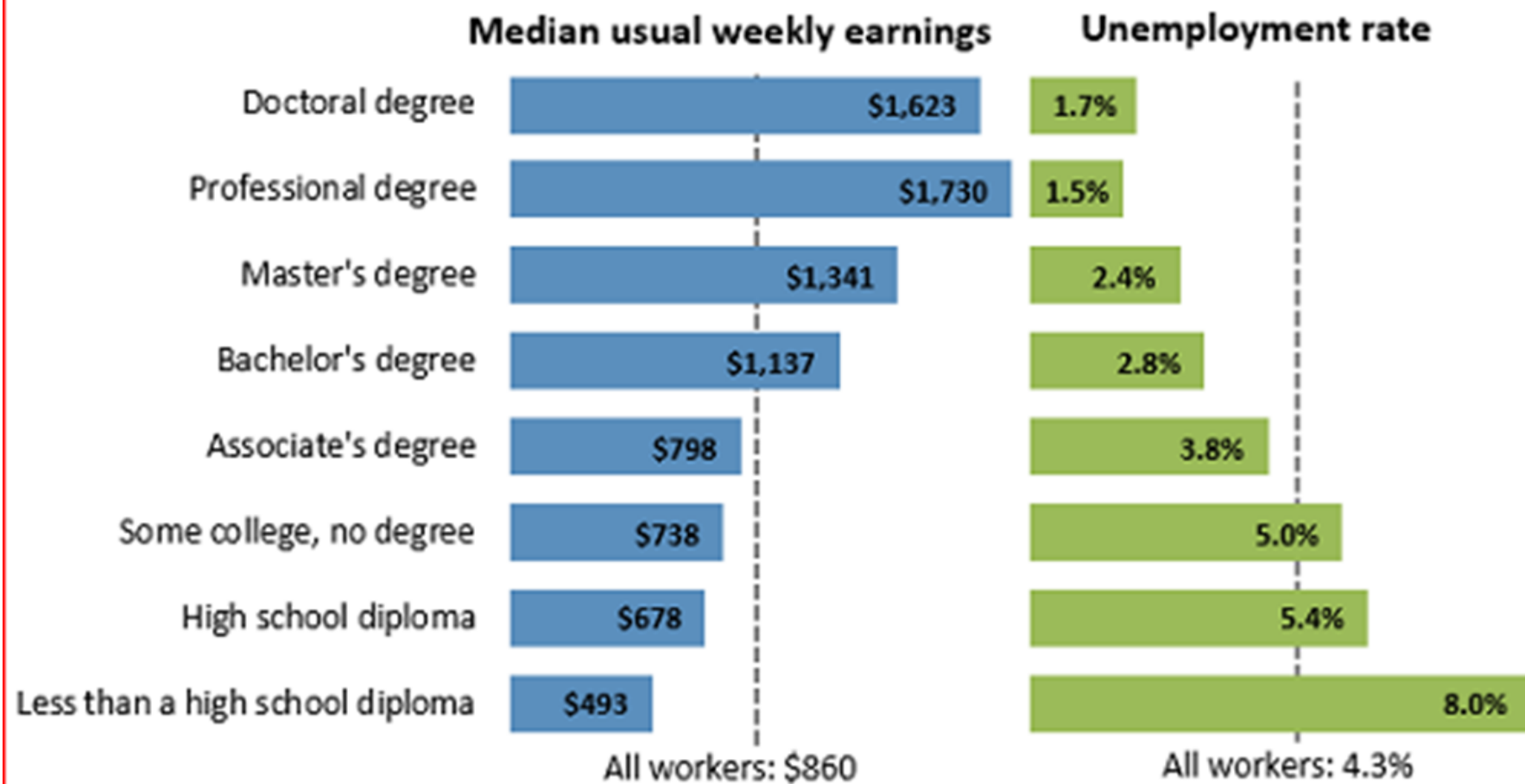


A photograph of a road with a yellow center line leading to a bright light at the end of a tunnel. The road is flanked by dense green foliage. The light at the end of the tunnel is very bright and creates a lens flare effect. The overall scene is dark, with the light at the end of the tunnel providing the main source of illumination.

# Career Pathways

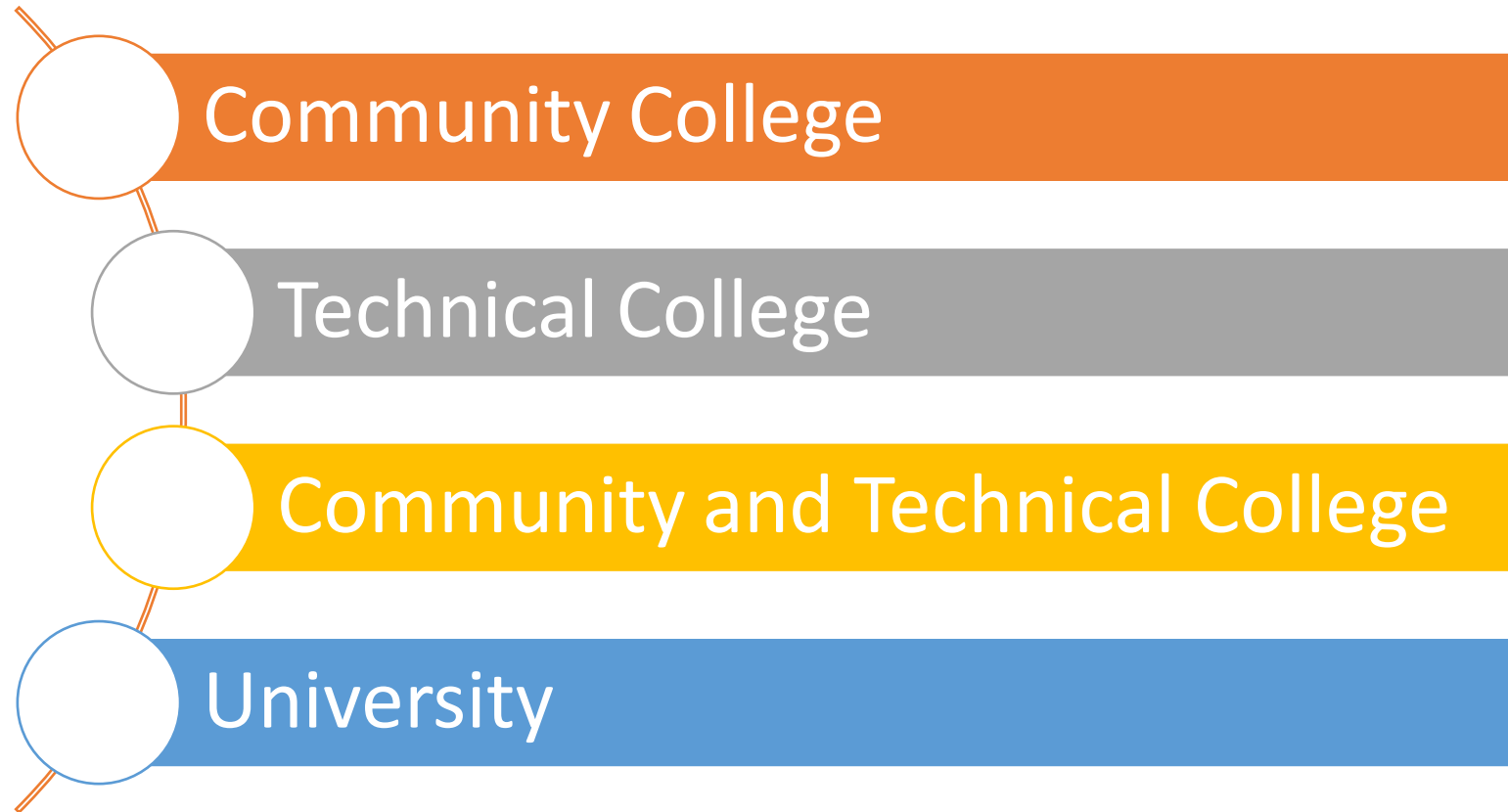
## Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

# Types of Colleges



**Type of Degree and/or Transfer Plans  
Determine Your Starting Point**



# Community Colleges

- 2-year programs
- Associate Degrees (AS, AA)
- Start Bachelor's degree
- General Education courses
  
- **Examples:**
- Camden County Community College
- Rowan College of South Jersey
- Rowan College of Burlington County
- Atlantic Cape Community College



# Technical Colleges

- 1-2 year programs
- Diplomas, Certificates and Associate Degrees (AAS)
- Specific knowledge and skills leading to specific career
  - Construction Electrician
  - IT Management
- **Examples:**
  - DeVry University
  - Lincoln tech
  - Gloucester County Institute of Technology



**Combined  
Community &  
Technical Colleges**

- Both technical and community college courses and programs
- Start Bachelor's degree
- or-
- Learn skills for specific career



# University

- Graduate and undergraduate programs
- Courses and programs leading to:
  - Bachelor's degree
  - Master's degree
  - Other advanced degrees
- **Examples:**
  - Rowan University
  - Richard Stockton University
  - Rutgers University
  - NJIT
  - Howard University (HBCU)
  - Morgan State University (HBCU)
  - Spellman College (HBCU)

Postsecondary  
Credentials

College Diploma

2- or 4-year Degree

Certificate

Licensure

Apprenticeship

Military Programs



# Types of Degrees

## Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

- 2-year program
- Technical College
- May enter career after grad
- General and technical courses
- Ex: 3D Animation, Welding

## Associate of Arts (AA)

- 2-year program
- Combined & Community Colleges
- Transfer to Bachelor's
- General and liberal arts courses
- Ex: Psychology

## Associate of Science (AS)

- 2-year program
- Community College
- Transfer to Bachelor's General and sciences courses
- Ex: Engineering, Biology

# Types of Degrees

## Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

- 4-year program
- College or University
- Pre-requisite for graduate degree
- Career-specific and technical majors
- Ex: Nursing, IT, Media Studies

## Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

- 4-year program
- College or University
- Pre-requisite for graduate degree
- Liberal arts majors
- Ex: English, Sociology, History

## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Less than 1 year
- University
- Must have Bachelor's
- Specific academic or career courses
- Ex: Design for E-Learning

# Types of Degrees

## Master's Degree (M.A. or M.S)

- 2-year graduate program
- University
- Research project/Thesis paper to graduate
- MA is social sciences
- MS in sciences or technical fields

## Doctorate Degree (Ph.D.)

- 2-4 year graduate program
- University
- Dissertation to graduate
- Earn title of Doctor

## Professional Degree (J.D., M.D., D.D.S)

- 1-3 year graduate program
- University
- Required degree for medical doctor, dentist, veterinarian, lawyer

# Rowan University

Rowan University – Main campus

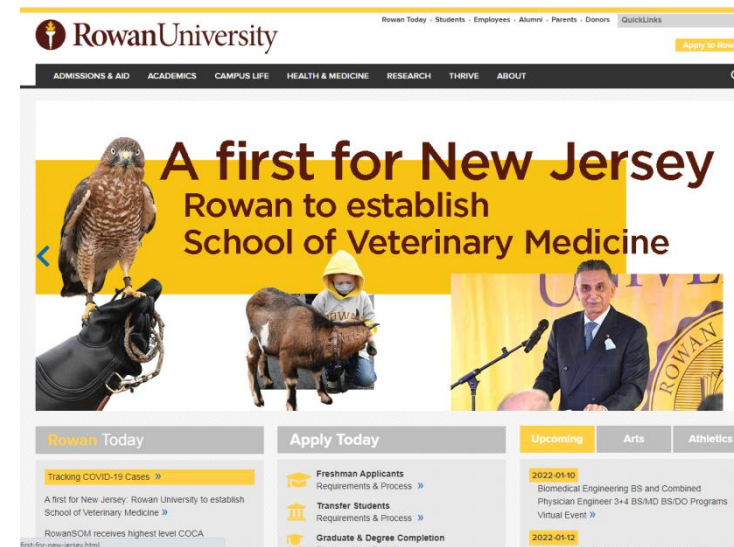
Rowan College of South Jersey

Rowan College at Burlington County

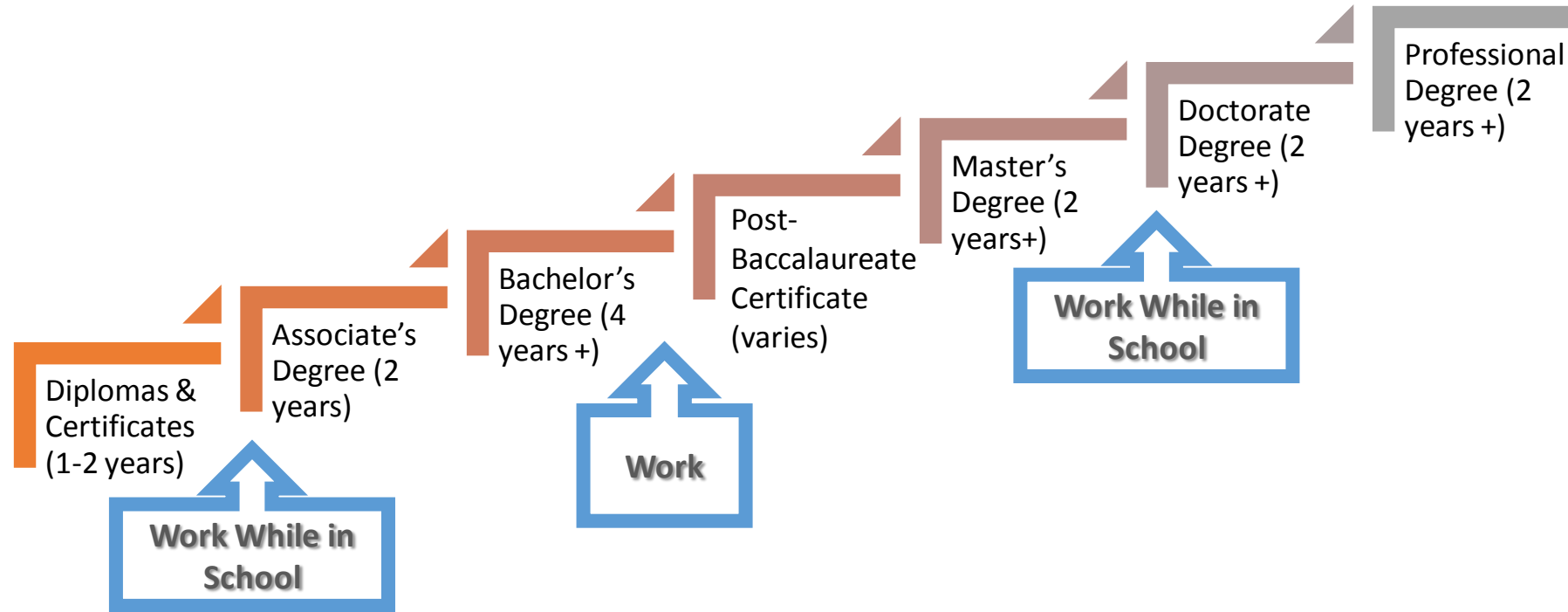
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Rowan University School of Osteopathic  
Medicine

- 80 bachelor's programs
- 60 master's programs
- 5 doctoral programs
- 2 professional programs



# Stackable Credentials

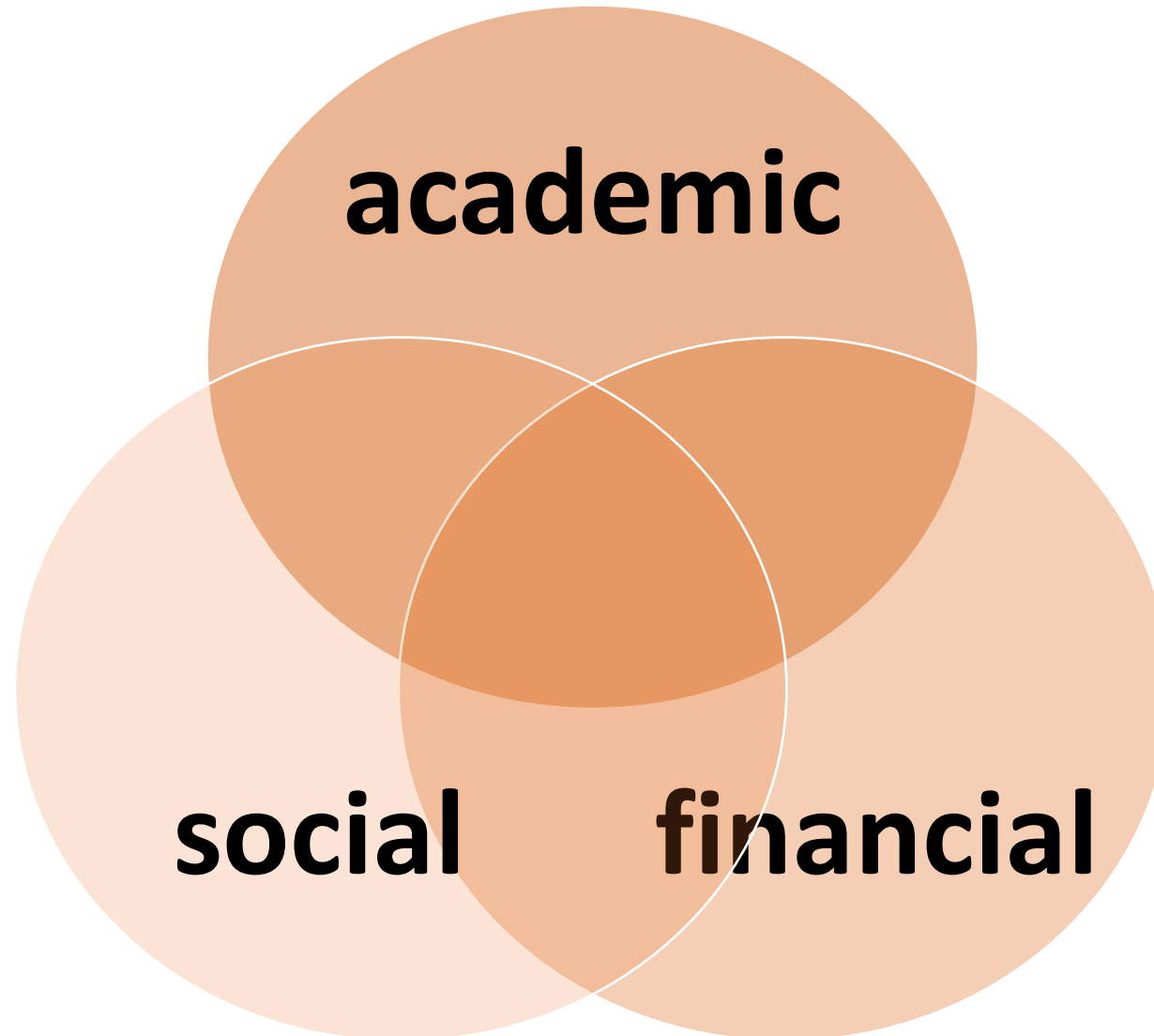


Series of ascending degrees and formal training that allow someone to work in a chosen field as they progress to higher skilled occupations.

# Transfer

- **25%** of community college student transfer to a 4-year college within 5 years
- **37.2%** of U.S. college students transfer at least once within 6 years
- **62%** of students who transferred from community college to 4-year college earn a bachelor's degree

# Determining Your “Best Fit” College



# Academic: The basics

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



# Academic: Admissions

## SAFETY

*your academic record is stronger than most students  
it's basically guaranteed you'll get in*

## MATCH

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

## REACH

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

Plan on applying to at least two of each, for a total of six.

# College Match Tool

<https://isacportal.isac.org/en/collegematch>

# Social

- Religious affiliation
- Extracurricular activities
- Athletics
- Theater/musical performances
- Greek life
- 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)

# Picking a College is A Lot Like Dating

- Do you want to be with this college for possibly the next 4 years?
- Does the college match your wants?
- Does the college better prepare you for your future?
- Do you and the college have the same values?
- Does the college just look good online?
- Are you going to this college just because your friends want you to?

# How to Find Colleges

- [Studentportal.isac.org](http://Studentportal.isac.org)
- ISAC's College Match tool
- College Scorecard
- Ask teachers, counselors, and other adults
- Choose 3-4 schools you've never heard of to research.
- Don't rule out any schools based on cost.
- And remember, aim to apply to at least 2 safety, 2 match, and 2 reach schools



# College Visits

- It is going to be your home for the next 4 years.
- *Every* school looks good on a brochure or website.
- Get a sense of the on-campus experience.



# College Visits: Be Proactive

- 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



Ask questions!

# College Scorecard

Search for a college by name...

Choose from the following options to begin searching for colleges of interest to you by:

College Location | Type of College | My Area of Interest | Popular Criteria

Degree & Major		Occupation		Zip Code
	Size	Awards Offered	State	About the Scorecard
Campus Setting		Region		Distance Education

Search for colleges by...

- Programs or Majors
- Location
- Enrollment size

[whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card](https://whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card)