

# College Searching 101

How do I find colleges that might be right for me?

# The College Search

- Finding colleges to apply to always starts with self-reflection:
  - Do I have a specific major or academic interest I want to study?
  - Do I have a specific location I want to live in?
  - Do I have a certain size of college I am looking for?
  - Do I want to attend a 2 year college or a 4 year college, or both?
  - Is the cost or college or amount of financial aid most important to me?
  
- Once you've done some self-reflection, the answers to those questions can guide your search.

# Search Systems

- College Board- Big Future Program
  - Find Colleges
  - College search guide
  - College Search
- CIS
  - Find an Education Tab
  - Compare Oregon Schools
  - Compare US Schools
  - US Schools

# When Financial Aid is most important...

- Investigate schools that cover tuition and fees for Pell Grant eligible students
  - [UO](#)
  - [PSU](#)
- Consider applying to colleges with “need-blind” admissions policies
  - <https://www.cappex.com/articles/match-fit/need-blind-admission-colleges>
- Consider applying to school that meet full financial need
  - <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2018-09-18/18-schools-that-meet-full-financial-need-with-no-loans>
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships!
  - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college?fromPage=home>
  - There will be a future presentation on this, we recommend all students attend to learn more!

# What if I don't feel like I know where to start?

- If you don't have a specific major you are thinking of, or some other criteria to narrow down the list of colleges, sometimes it is really hard to know where to start.
- We recommend attending some of the College Admissions Counselor visits in the College and Career Center to hear from different colleges about their schools.
- Once you hear about a school you like, look them up on CIS or College Board and that will help you find other colleges like them.
- We will also have drop in times with Mrs. O'Quinn in the College and Career Center to help you start your search!