

Types of Colleges

What Suits You Best?

What kind of college would you like to attend? Different types of colleges suit different types of people. Take a look at these descriptions to learn about the options available to you.

Universities and Liberal Arts Colleges (4 Year Schools)

Liberal arts colleges

- Offer a broad base of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences
- Most are private and focus mainly on undergraduate students
- Classes tend to be small and personal attention is available.

Universities

- Generally bigger than a college and offers more majors and research facilities
- Class sizes often a reflection of institutional size, and some classes may be taught by graduate students

Advantages to a 4-year college *degree*: most options available after graduation; ability to switch careers without having to “start over”; more opportunities for promotion; higher salaries

Advantages to *starting* at a 4-year college: “the college experience”; generally consistent quality of education and students; often easier to complete degree in 4 years than if start at community college

Primary Disadvantages: cost; more difficult classes

Community or Junior Colleges (2 Year Schools)

- Offer a degree after the completion of two years of full-time study
- Provide courses for transfer to a 4-year college or university
- Frequently offer technical programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the job market

Advantages: cost; can complete program in 2 years; generally easier courses; convenience; can be nice half-step academically and financially

Primary Disadvantages: usually takes longer to obtain degree; inconsistent quality of classes, professors, students, experiences

Specialized Colleges (Vocational, Technical, and Other Schools)

- Emphasize preparation for specific careers. Examples include Art, Music, Bible, Business, and Health science.

Advantages: can complete program in 2 years; generally easier courses; only have to take courses in area of interest

Primary Disadvantages: limited options available after graduation; more difficult to get promotions or change jobs