

**Private Colleges --  
Excellent choices; choose  
excellence**

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# Differences between Public and Private Institutions

## ■ Funding:

- Publics are funded by the State –the majority of their funding comes from the taxpayer via Federal and state funds
- Privates get only a small fraction of their funding from government (perhaps 20%)

## ■ Governance:

- Privates are self-governing - they set their own mission and policies – policy is not set by legislative edict

## ■ Size

- Publics tend to be large—on avg. 10,000 students
- Privates avg. about 1000 students

# Differences between Public and Private Institutions

- **Purpose:**

- **Public Schools are designed to educate the state's population, the masses, private schools tend to have their own mission and personalities.**

- ***Why does this matter?***

- By choosing to attend a school with a particular mission, you are deciding to join a specific community.**

- The people around you help determine your values, beliefs, ideals, your friendship group, possibly your careers, and possibly whom you will marry.**

# The Strength of the US Education system is the diversity of colleges

- **USA education is the envy of the rest of the world because we offer choices.**
- **That diversity is most apparent within the private college sector.**
- **Look up [www.AICCU.org](http://www.AICCU.org) on the web**
  - **Offers a quick reference chart of all CA independents**
  - **Brief profiles of each**
- **There are over 60 private schools in California alone**

# Variety of Private schools

- Consider size:
- USC is one of the 3 largest Private Universities in USA
- Deep Springs College is perhaps the smallest, enrolling 13 men each year for 2 years.
  - And sends graduates to some of the most reputable colleges in the country. (Ivy league, for example..)

# They are nearby!

- If you live in southern California, you are especially fortunate to have within a short distance and driving time, almost all of these various types of colleges
- you can visit for yourself to determine which ones suit you
- There are 6 Main TYPES of private colleges

# 1. Major Research Universities

- **Examples: USC, Stanford, Caltech**
- **Teach undergrads & grad students (Offer PhD, MBA, Law degree, etc. as well as undergraduate degrees)**
- **Are known for outstanding research facilities and programs.**
- **What matters to faculty? Publish or perish!**
- **A wide variety of majors offered**
  - **Some very specialized programs also exist.**

## 2. Comprehensive Universities

- **Examples: Loyola Marymount Univ, U San Diego, U of Pacific**
- **Mostly focus on undergraduate education but offer some substantial graduate programs**
- **Usually found in urban settings**
- **Medium sized (2000 – 5000)**
- **Research reputation may not be as high as the first group, but still matters**
- **Comprehensive curricula includes strong pre-professional programs**



# 3. Highly Endowed Liberal Arts Colleges

- **Examples: Claremont Colleges, Occidental, Mills**
- **There are more top-caliber Liberal Arts colleges in the LA area than in any other metro area in USA!!**
  - **But there are good ones all over the country.**
- **They focus on undergraduates *ONLY*.**
- **Classes are small (probably fewer than 25 per class).**
- **Residential – you would live on campus, likely in a dormitory.**
- **Small student-faculty ratios.**
- **Highly personalized instruction with lots of mentoring.**
- **Expect to graduate in 4 years, not longer.**

### 3. Highly Endowed Liberal Arts Colleges, continued

- High caliber academic programs. Nationally recognized.
- Prepare students especially well for further study.
- Despite the size, have excellent facilities (good endowments!).
- Great access to extra-curricular activities, leadership opportunities
- You get to know more people at a small college than you would at a large school. May sound odd, but think about the frequency of interactions...

## 4. Church-Related Liberal Arts Colleges

- **Examples: Cal Lutheran, Westmont, Azusa Pacific**
- **Mostly undergrad, but a few grad programs in specialized fields**
  - More masters than PhD, usually
- **Small classes with personalized attention**
- **Offer strong commitment to community & peer support**
- **Enjoy good regional reputations**
- **Easy access to activities & leadership**
- **Students tend to share a similar value system and may be from similar backgrounds**

## 5. Institutions for Full-time wage earners

- **Examples: National University, West Coast Univ. , Golden Gate U**
- **Classes offered on weekends and evenings**
- **Older students (avg. 32 years) who earn & learn**
- **They offer innovative programs that emphasize acquisition of *practical skills (to help you get a better job...)***
  - **Examples: Accounting, computing, other career-oriented programs**

## 6. Specialized Schools

- **Examples: California College of Optometry, Otis College of Art, Fashion Institute of Design Merchandising**
- **Offer professional training in specialized areas**
- **Students & faculty interact in a close-knit environment**

# Some generalizations about Small Private colleges

- They tend to be intimate and nurturing environments
- Their focus is on the individual student, not educating the masses
- Lots of mentoring by the faculty
- Advising plays a key role in selecting courses and a career path
- Students tend to be highly involved
  - With smaller student population, it is easier to get involved in activities like Student Gov't, athletics, arts performance
  - More leadership opportunities per capita at smaller schools

# Some generalizations about Small Private colleges

- They don't segregate out students into groups in order to deal with massive numbers so students from different backgrounds get the same high quality education
- *Overall: small colleges tend to react very quickly to the needs of the individual*
  - This breeds confidence and empowerment in students
- *All this translates into good outcomes*

# Numerous studies show high levels of satisfaction

- When comparing the experiences of undergraduates at various institutions, many studies reveal that students at private colleges, and especially so the smaller ones, tend to be
- much more satisfied with the quality of teaching and more happy with their interaction with faculty
  - than are their public-educated counterparts.



# Studies show high levels of satisfaction

- A Recent national study on graduation rates of 4-year institutions compared similar types of colleges (similar in sizes and quality of the curriculum) and found within 6 years:
  - *57.3 % of Students at Public 4-yr schools received BA or BS*
  - *73% of students at private 4-yr schools received BA/BS degree*
- Whereas most colleges report graduation rates within 5 or 6 years, at small private colleges it is uncommon for students to take longer than 4 years to graduate.

# Where do the degrees come from?

- Private colleges and universities enroll only 20% of the students in higher education in the US. **BUT**
- They grant...
  - 33% of the Bachelor's degrees
  - 42% of all Master's Degrees
  - 59% of all first professional degrees in fields like Law, Medicine, Engineering, & Business

# DIVERSITY:

- It's widely held that private colleges are havens for rich white kids
- Yet, the economic and racial diversity is fairly similar at both public 4-year schools and at privates.
- In fact, in this state, families of students attending Public 4-year schools actually have higher per-capita incomes than do their counterparts at private schools.

# SELECTION:

- Private schools are focused on the individual and finding a match between the student and the institution.
- The selection processes and requirements will vary, so you should investigate requirements for each college individually.....BUT
- Private schools usually use a holistic appraisal of the student, not a formula
  - At the highly selective colleges, like HMC, we'll actually read your essays, your recommendations, see your entire transcripts (not just a GPA) and look into the types of activities you've taken on
- You are not a number

# COST:

- Privates tend to be expensive, mostly because we don't receive our funding primarily from the state.
- Through Financial Aid, it is not uncommon for private colleges to subsidize the student so well that the private college costs less than the public 4-year.
- If the private school student graduates in 4 years and then takes a decent job, this can be less expensive than attending a large lower cost school and taking 5-6 years to graduate.
- Remember the difference in satisfaction discussed earlier?
- Think of college as an investment in your life

# Preparing you for advanced study: graduate school

A Study commissioned by the Great Lakes Colleges Association showed that private colleges, especially small private colleges have BY FAR the highest proportion of graduates who proceed to earn PhDs

- The survey investigated 1500 institutions nation-wide, then ranked the top 50 institutions with respect to the % of graduates who earn PhDs

# Great Lakes Colleges Study

- Of the top 50
- 47 were small, private, residential colleges
- 4 were in CA, with HMC, Pomona & Caltech in the top 12
- 2 UCs made the top 50 list!!!
- But probably not the UCs you'd expect: UCI & UCSD (not Berkeley or UCLA)
- Why? I suggest one reason is that the reputation at these smaller UCs is built more on teaching than on research...

# To recap

- Private colleges vary greatly in size, purpose, function, cost, diversity, educational style, and location.
- They respond well to the individual
- They tend to provide greater satisfaction and this trends toward higher graduation rates, relative to public schools, according to many studies.
- Tend to do better in preparing you for advanced degrees.



# Private Colleges

The choice is yours