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.AI CCU.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.
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.

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