College Fit Game

**Time:** 30 – 45 minutes

The purpose of this activity is for students to practice selecting “good fit” colleges based on a variety of academic, social, financial and other needs. Using role play, students will select one of seven colleges that will be a good “fit” for them based on several attributes and explain their reasons for choosing that particular college. Students will reflect on how this experience may help their own college search and selection process.

**STEP ONE: Introduce the activity**

**Discussion questions**
- What does “college fit” mean to you?
- What are characteristics of colleges that might make it a good “fit” for a student?
  - Some characteristics might be size, location, majors, diversity or the net price cost of attendance (tuition, housing, books, transportation and other costs minus financial aid)

Introduce the fictitious colleges that students will be selecting between by reading their profiles that are posted around the room. Remind students that there are 4,000+ colleges in the country and these are just a handful of archetypal examples. Therefore, there is no perfect fit – there will always be several options that will allow students to be happy and successful.

Encourage students to “read between the lines” and describe what they can ascertain from a particular college based on the information provided (e.g. the type of degrees offered based on the name, whether a school is public or private). Encourage students to think about what type of student might be a good fit at each college.

**STEP TWO: Play the game**

**Give the following instructions to students:**

This is a role play game. You will receive several attributes (e.g. You played soccer all four years of high school) that will describe your role and using those attributes, you will make decisions about which college would be a good fit. There will be four rounds and you will draw one or two attributes each round which may change the college you choose. Some attributes are deliberately vague so you should interpret as you see fit.

**Round 1:** Choose 2 ACADEMIC student attributes (select 2 pieces of paper from a container). These may be information about how you learn best, what your interests are in and out of school or your academic preparation. Review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. Remind students that their academic interests and hobbies may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities.

---

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

- College profiles (p. 4-10) printed and hung around the room
- Student attributes (p. 11-15) For up to 10 players, print and cut 1 set; for 11-20 players, print 2 sets, etc.
- 4 containers for student attributes (bags, boxes, etc.)
Round 2: Choose 1 SOCIAL student attribute. These may be your extracurricular activities at school, in the community or in your free time. Using both the academic attributes and the social attribute, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. Remind students that their extracurricular interests may be fulfilled through their major and/or student clubs and activities.

Round 3: Choose 1 FINANCIAL student attribute. These may relate to your family situation, scholarship potential, or how prepared you are to pay for college. Using the academic, social and financial attributes, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your reasons with the group. Remind students to consider the net price of colleges and the amount of need met (the percentage of a student’s financial need that the college will provide with financial aid).

Round 4: Choose 1 OTHER student attribute. These are family or personal circumstances that might influence your decision. Using all of the attributes selected, review the colleges and stand next to the one that you think would be the best fit based on the information. Be prepared to share your final choice with the group. Remind students to prioritize the circumstance relative to the other attributes. Encourage students to think about what additional information would be helpful for them to answer this question.

STEP THREE: Reflect & discuss

• What were you thinking about when you made your decisions?
• How did it change with additional attributes and information? Did you end up selecting different schools each round based on new information?
• Were there other colleges that could have been a good fit?
• What other information would have been useful to make the decision in the game? What other information would be useful in real life?
  • Remind students that “popular” majors don’t mean those are the only ones available. Also, at some schools, certain classes or activities might only be for students majoring in a particular subject (e.g. art or dance) whereas other colleges encourage or even require all students to participate in a wide variety of classes.
  • Encourage students to consider graduation rates, full-time v. part-time students, the percentage of students who take out loans and their default rate, the type of degrees offered and academic requirements (GPA, specific classes) to get in.
• Connect this to your own experience – think about what academic, social, financial or other special circumstances are a priority for you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Body</th>
<th>Popular Majors and Programs</th>
<th>Popular Events and Activities</th>
<th>Cost and Financial Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meadowlark Community College</strong></td>
<td>Culinary arts, Health professions, Manufacturing, Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Varsity athletics, Video Game Club, Annual Day of Service</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $17,000, Average aid award: $2,500, 43% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadowlark, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,600 Undergrads</td>
<td>53% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Little River Community College</strong></td>
<td>General studies, Mechanic &amp; Repairs, Business, Cosmetology</td>
<td>Theater and dance, Outdoor Club, Quarterly career fair</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $16,000, Average aid award: $1,500, 80% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburbia, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,500 Undergrads</td>
<td>46% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big State University</strong></td>
<td>Engineering, Pre-Med/Pre-Vet, Business, Psychology</td>
<td>ROTC, Division I athletics, Community service, Spring musical</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $26,000, Average aid award: $11,500, 67% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College City, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23,000 Undergrads</td>
<td>33% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmville State University</strong></td>
<td>Business, Education, Visual &amp; Performing Arts, Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Intramural sports, Student newspaper, Study abroad, Battle of the Bands</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $23,000, Average aid award: $10,000, 55% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmville, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 Undergrads</td>
<td>44% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suburbia Private College</strong></td>
<td>International Studies, English, Visual &amp; Performing Arts, Biology</td>
<td>Intramural sports, Student government, Study abroad, Luau</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $59,000, Average aid award: $42,000, 90% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburbia, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 Undergrads</td>
<td>21% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65% white</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metropolis Christian College</strong></td>
<td>Business, Education, Theology, Biology</td>
<td>Varsity athletics, Community service, Urban farm, Winter concert</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $33,000, Average aid award: $16,000, 59% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolis, ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Undergrads</td>
<td>53% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capitol City University</strong></td>
<td>History, Engineering, Biology, Social Work</td>
<td>Division I athletics, Greek life, Gospel choir, International Food Fair</td>
<td>Cost of attendance: $68,000, Average aid award: $44,000, 100% of need met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol City, Out-of-State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,500 Undergrads</td>
<td>14% Pell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49% White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41% Students of color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Meadowlark Community College**  
Meadowlark, North Dakota

Open admission • SAT/ACT not required

---

### STUDENT BODY

- **1,600** undergraduates
- **53%** of students receive PELL Grant

---

### COST & FINANCIAL AID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of attendance</th>
<th>Average aid awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$17,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**43% of need met**

*Most high school students will be eligible for a North Dakota grant.

### POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

- Culinary arts
- Health careers
- Manufacturing
- Criminal justice

### POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- Varsity athletics
- Video Game Club
- Annual Day of Service

---

**BND**  
Bank of North Dakota
Little River Community College
Suburbia, North Dakota

Open admission • SAT/ACT not required

STUDENT BODY

8,500 undergraduates
46% of students receive PELL Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID

Cost of attendance
$16,000

Average aid awarded
$1,500

80% of need met*

*Most high school students will be eligible for a North Dakota grant.

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

General Studies
Mechanic & Repairs
Business
Cosmetology

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Theater and dance
Outdoor Club
Quarterly career fair

Bank of North Dakota
Big State University
College City, North Dakota

78% of applicants admitted • SAT/ACT required

STUDENT BODY

23,000 undergraduates
33% of students receive PELL Grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COST &amp; FINANCIAL AID</th>
<th>POPULAR MAJORS &amp; PROGRAMS</th>
<th>POPULAR ACTIVITIES &amp; EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$26,000</td>
<td>Average aid awarded</td>
<td><strong>Engineering</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$11,500</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pre-Med/Pre-Vet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67% of need met</td>
<td><strong>Business</strong></td>
<td>ROTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Psychology</strong></td>
<td>Division I athletics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COST & FINANCIAL AID**
- Cost of attendance: $26,000
- Average aid awarded: $11,500
- 67% of need met

**POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS**
- Engineering
- Pre-Med/Pre-Vet
- Business
- Psychology

**POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**
- ROTC
- Division I athletics
- Community service
- Spring musical

Bank of North Dakota
Farmville State University
Farmville, North Dakota

88% of applicants admitted • SAT/ACT required

STUDENT BODY

5,000 undergraduates
44% of students receive PELL Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance
$23,000
Average aid awarded
$10,000
55% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
Business
Education
Visual & Performing Arts
Criminal Justice

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Intramural sports
Student newspaper
Study abroad
Battle of the Bands

Bank of North Dakota
Suburbia Private College
Suburbia, North Dakota

63% of applicants admitted • SAT/ACT optional

STUDENT BODY

2,000 undergraduates
21% of students receive PELL Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance: $59,000
Average aid awarded: $42,000
90% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
- International Studies
- English
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Biology

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
- Intramural sports
- Student government
- Study abroad
- Luau

BND
Bank of North Dakota
Metropolis Christian College
Metropolis, North Dakota

51% of applicants admitted • SAT/ACT required

STUDENT BODY

500 undergraduates
53% of students receive PELL Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID

Cost of attendance
$33,000

Average aid awarded
$16,000

59% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Business
Education
Theology
Biology

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Varsity athletics
Community service
Urban farm
Winter concert

Bank of North Dakota

White
Latino
Asian
Black
Native Am.
Native Hawaiian
Multiracial
Capitol City University
Capitol City, Out-of-state

11% of applicants admitted • SAT/ACT required

STUDENT BODY

6,500 undergraduates
14% of students receive PELL Grant

COST & FINANCIAL AID
Cost of attendance
$68,000

Average aid awarded
$44,000
100% of need met

POPULAR MAJORS & PROGRAMS
History
Engineering
Biology
Social Work

POPULAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS
Division I athletics
Greek life
Gospel choir
International Food Fair

White
48%
Latino
10%
Asian
9%
Black
3%
Native Am.
2%
Native Hawaiian
1%
Multiracial
1%

BND
Bank of North Dakota
You are interested in engineering.

You love drama and art.

You don’t know what you want to major in.

You want to be a teacher.

You are thinking about a career in the medical field.

You love working with your hands.

You are obsessed with animals.

You spend all your time reading and writing.

You love to cook for friends and family.

You want to be the boss.
<p>| ACADEMIC | You struggle with standardized tests. |
| ACADEMIC | You have top scores in math and science. |
| ACADEMIC | You got a ‘C’ in English junior year. |
| ACADEMIC | Your high school Spanish teacher is your favorite. |
| ACADEMIC | You got straight ‘A’s your sophomore year. |
| ACADEMIC | You’ve taken college courses in high school. |
| ACADEMIC | Your high school GPA is in the top 25% of your class. |
| ACADEMIC | You like working independently. |
| ACADEMIC | You learn best when participating in class discussions. |
| ACADEMIC | Your favorite class in high school is Physical Education (PE). |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL</th>
<th>You played soccer all four years of high school.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You won your events in the state swim meet for the last two years of high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You love watching the Travel Channel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You love singing in your church choir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You’re the president of your school’s drama club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You served on your high school’s Student Council for two years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You’re a camp counselor during the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You dedicate 10 hours a week to your community’s 4-H program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You play a lot of video games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
<td>You know all the best fashion blogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Your parents refuse to complete the FAFSA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Your grandparents have agreed to pay for your college education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You have a college savings account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You’ll need to work at least 10 hours a week during college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You haven’t thought about how to pay for college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You won a full scholarship at Farmville State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You don’t qualify for financial aid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>You have a twin who is also going to college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Your parent just lost his/her job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Your mom works at Metropolis Christian College, so you can get discounted tuition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You can’t wait to get out of Farmville.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You just found out you’re about to be a parent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>Your parents are not supportive of your decision to go to college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You are responsible for the care of your three younger siblings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>Your significant other will be living in Suburbia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>Your brother is in college at Capitol City University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>Your mother went to Suburbia Private College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You have always dreamed of going to Big State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You visited Meadowlark Community College and loved it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
<td>You are undocumented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bank of North Dakota