

Welcome to TimesPeople
Get Started



TimesPeople Lets You Share and Di

10:24 AM

Recommend

- [My Account](#)
 - [Manage My Account](#)
 - [My Alerts](#)
 - [Create Alert](#)
 - [Manage Alerts](#)
- Welcome, [kristen.keener](#)
- [Log Out](#)
- [Help](#)

- [Home Page](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Most Popular](#)
- [Times Topics](#)

Search All NYTimes.com

Go

The New York Times

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Education

- [World](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [N.Y. / Region](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Style](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Autos](#)

- [Politics](#)
- [Education](#)

The Choice

Demystifying College Admissions and Aid



July 28, 2009, 11:25 am

Tip Sheet: On the Wisdom and Merits of Exploring ‘Less Visible’ Colleges

By [Marty O’Connell](#)



Ms. O’Connell is executive director of [Colleges That Change Lives](#), a non-profit organization founded on “the goal of each student finding a college that develops a lifelong love of learning and provides the foundation for a successful and fulfilling life beyond college.”

“You’re applying WHERE?”

Academically talented high school students around the country tell me this is often the reaction they receive when sharing their thoughtfully chosen, but not “highly visible” colleges list with friends and family. We exist in a name-brand obsessed culture which creates stress-inducing media headlines every year, all year — including during the summer, when high school seniors are winnowing their prospective colleges list. Articles and blogs highlight only the attention-grabbing process of a very narrow band of highly visible colleges, and are translated by most students into “I’ll never get in anywhere!”

To counteract the notion that “a college can’t be any good if I’ve never heard of it” — another familiar student opinion — I challenge students to think about the people in their lives who are happy and successful and find out where, or if, they went to college. Doing this same exercise using “famous” people, they discover that most often the name and visibility of a college choice has much less to do with success in life than do the experience and opportunities students take advantage of during their college years.

Employers and graduate schools look for outstanding skills and experience, not college pedigree. In an attempt to flip the application process for students, I pose this question to them: “Would you want college admission deans to ignore your application, and the chance to learn all about your background and talents, only because they have never heard of your high school?”

Looking beyond name recognition when searching for colleges, students leave themselves open to more

possibilities for colleges that will be a great fit for them.

If you had to choose a friend, spouse or partner for life, would you use a publication ranking him or her by income, IQ scores, and reputation — as reported by others who have never met the person? As a culture, we love consulting search engines, consumer guidebooks, and ranking lists for shortcut methods to choosing electronics and cars; the college search requires a more thoughtful, personal and time consuming approach.

The process can't be reduced to rankings with numerical values when it truly requires starting with who the individual student is and why he or she is going to college – not to mention personal needs, desires, learning styles, and interests.

This self inventory is the start for finding colleges that “fit” for an individual, instead of beginning with the assumption that only the “Top Twenty” on the [U.S. News and World Report](#) or other rankings lists have any value. These ranking guides sell big, but their purported value in the college search process can certainly be diminished if students, parents and counselors learn to go after fit, rather than name brand.

One of the biggest flaws in starting the college search process by using ranking lists is that the lists tout entering-class statistics, rather than focusing on what happens during the four years those students are enrolled. The late Loren Pope, author of [“Looking Beyond the Ivy League”](#) and [“Colleges That Change Lives,”](#) said that choosing colleges based on the entering statistics of the freshmen class, is like choosing a hospital based on the health of those in the ER — ultimately, it's the treatment that really matters.

In the case of colleges, what matters is what happens between the first year and graduation, not on the desks of the admission office. Researching colleges based on student outcomes highlights many schools that outperform the Ivies and Name Brands, even if they don't have the benefit of name recognition.

The research from the [Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium](#) on the Undergraduate Origins of Ph.Ds finds colleges like [Beloit](#), [Denison](#), [Earlham](#), [Goucher](#), [Hampshire](#), [Kalamazoo](#), [Lawrence](#), [Marlboro](#), [Reed](#), [St. John's](#), [Wabash](#) and [Wooster](#) listed in the top ten, in various categories, of producers of future Ph.Ds — often ahead of more highly recognized colleges and universities.

Students need to examine their reasons for going, before making a list of colleges to apply for admission. Why, really, are you going? What are your abilities and strengths? What are your weaknesses? What do you want out of life, or in life—something tangible or intangible? Are you socially self-sufficient or do you need warm, familial support? What kind of learning community do you want to be part of? And so on. Exploring these questions with family, friends and high school counselors — the people who best know the student — can help in choosing colleges that match their learning style and goals.

[NSSE, The National Survey of Student Engagement](#), is a wonderful resource for gathering information about college outcomes and provides a list of the right questions to ask during the college search.

The simple truth is that the majority of the colleges and universities in this country admit more students than they deny. The college search process should be an enjoyable and memorable experience, not an exercise to be dreaded. Students willing to investigate beyond the very narrow band of highly visible colleges will find many options that lead to a great fit and a worthwhile college experience — one that

will instill a lifelong passion for learning and prepare students to meet the challenges and changes they will face during their lifetime.

To respond to Ms. O'Connell's essay, please use [the comment box below](#).

Periodically in its "Tip Sheet" feature, *The Choice* will post short items by admissions officers, guidance counselors and others to help applicants and their families better understand aspects of the admissions process.

- [E-mail This](#)
- [Print](#)
- Share Close
 - [Linkedin](#)
 - [Digg](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Mixx](#)
 - [My Space](#)
 - [Yahoo! Buzz](#)
 - [Permalink](#)
 -
- [Sign in to Recommend](#)

[Attention Counselors](#), [For Juniors](#), [For Parents](#), [For Seniors](#), [Tip Sheet](#), [Beloit College](#), [College of Wooster](#), [Colleges That Change Lives](#), [denison university](#), [Earlham College](#), [Goucher College](#), [Hampshire College](#), [kalamazoo college](#), [lawrence university](#), [Loren Pope](#), [Marlboro College](#), [Marty O'Connell](#), [Reed College](#), [St.John's College](#), [U.S. News and World Report](#), [Wabash College](#)

- *Previous post* [From Education Life: Efforts to Help First-Generation Freshmen](#)
-

17 Comments

1. 1. July 28, 2009 12:33 pm [Link](#)

I think there has to be a realistic middle ground between the idea that name and reputation are completely irrelevant and picking colleges just because they rank X spot on the US News and World Report's list.

Name does matter to at least a certain degree. The honest truth is that a Harvard degree is probably going to look better to a graduate school or employer than a lesser known college. At the same time name is not going to make the barely passing student at X university look better than an A student at a lesser known college.

While I disagree with the degree to which the author puts aside name recognition. (Full disclosure: I am a new student to an Ivy League school) I would also agree that fit is crucial. If there is a school that is rated higher or has more name recognition but means you are going to be miserable... What is the point? Additionally all ratings are extremely subjective. I have gone on

college tours of colleges extremely well known and high on the “Wow you go there?” scale that I could absolutely not stand and others that carry little recognition that I fell in love with at first sight.

College is a major investment that will affect you for the rest of your life. Like investing in a house, you aren't going to completely ignore the neighborhood reviews and statistics but if that is your sole criteria... you are in major trouble.

— *Mason Cole*

2. 2. July 28, 2009 12:35 pm [Link](#)

Any college that leaves the student debt free and earning an income is the very best choice amongst choices!

Robert
Washington, DC

— *Robert*

3. 3. July 28, 2009 12:37 pm [Link](#)

Another piece of advice for students worrying about whether (and how) college will be possible: Private schools may have higher tuition than state universities, but that tuition is often offset by much more generous financial aid and more personalized opportunities. Also, small liberal arts colleges frequently prioritize the kinds of relationships with students that help them graduate more quickly (and thus with less debt). So, consider private schools, and think small.

— *Professor*

4. 4. July 28, 2009 12:39 pm [Link](#)

I went to Kenyon College, a gloriously small but less-well known college in rural Ohio. Coming from a New England boarding school, the assumption was everyone would go to an Ivy or extremely well-known liberal arts college in the region, so my choice was well outside the norm. Yet I was the only one of my close friends NOT to transfer after my first year. They picked prestige over their own happiness, and subsequently regretted the decision. To this day I'm grateful whenever I have to explain what my college experience meant, rather than have someone immediately recognize the place and assume they know what it was like.

— *Jess*

5. 5. July 28, 2009 12:44 pm [Link](#)

Let's hear it for Wooster! For both my husband and I, it was a wonderful school—and we each have very different interests and strengths.

The East Coast is so snobbish about colleges—if it's more than 20 miles from the ocean, it's not even worth considering, apparently—that many kids miss schools that would be perfect for them, just from short-sightedness and close-mindedness.

— *Elisabeth*

6. 6. July 28, 2009 12:49 pm [Link](#)

The real problem is that those who do hiring in the outside world are highly influenced by the name brands. I've been in many work situations where HR was instructed to only pass onto us applications from "top" school graduates.

A very good friend of mine, with a Ph.D from a school we've heard of, but not a top ten, was turned down for an interview, by a company that he was referred to. The question was, if he's so good, why didn't he go to an Ivy? The answer is that his program offered the part time option that he needed, in order to support his family. This man is a star and he has the references, but not the school to prove it.

So, bottom line, we have to change the practices of Wall Street, Hollywood or wherever the recruiters come from, who insist on only visiting and hiring from the name brand schools.

— *Volunteer counselor*

7. 7. July 28, 2009 1:07 pm [Link](#)

I used to agree with the author of this blog post and spent a lot of time choosing between less recognizable schools and the Ivy League school I ultimately wound up attending. When it came time for determining what to do after graduation however, I realized just how valuable it was to be attending a recognizable school. Even with a poor economy, hundreds of recruiters still visited our campus—even if they were only recruiting from a small handful of schools. As the economy went up in smoke after graduation, I've watched numerous friends lose jobs only to find others quickly after. While I agree I may have had a comparable or even a better undergraduate education at a smaller, less recognizable school, I am grateful for the many doors opened to me post graduation by my brand name school.

— *Recent College Grad*

8. 8. July 28, 2009 1:20 pm [Link](#)

Thought this article was interesting.

— *Mom*

9. 9. July 28, 2009 1:41 pm [Link](#)

Ms. O'Connell makes a great counter-point directed at the student who may be gearing their search toward "name-brand" only. Being a seasoned admission professional with over 10 years at two smaller institutions, (early on) it had been a natural tendency to gear my recruitment toward "better known" secondary institutions where I could find the best and brightest and gather yet another "name brand" school to add to the list of where "my" students were coming from. It only took a season or two to figure out that there are gems from many different types of schools that make up that incoming class. Several of my best and brightest only began shining in college after they made their "college choice" their "home", in the mix of that first year or two. This recruiter has learned that it is the student, not necessarily the school they come from that improves the institution they attend. Ms. O'Connell makes a great point to students and wary parents. It is a two

way street. So, drive down the full length of that boulevard before deciding where to eat, sleep, play and learn...

— *Jake Doll*

10. 10. July 28, 2009 3:15 pm [Link](#)

Thank you, Ms. McConnell! I recommend such schools to students all the time. My particular favorite is Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. The Ph.D. production of its students is near the top based on size of school. It is academically rigorous but in an environment of cooperation and collaboration. No student destroying another to get on top, here!

— *J. Barton*

11. 11. July 28, 2009 5:44 pm [Link](#)

@ Jess (#4): I'm a member of the Kenyon class of 2013! My college choices came down to Wellesley and Kenyon—to Wellesley, most people would ooh and aah, recalling famous alumnae like Hillary Clinton, Madeline Albright, Diane Sawyer...the usual response to Kenyon was, "That's nice. Where is it?"

Students should also keep in mind that the public's perception of "prestige" is different...most people have barely heard of top-ranked liberal arts colleges like Amherst, Williams, and Swarthmore. Most are generally aware of the Ivy League, Big 10 schools, and their state universities.

The statement that you should NOT choose a school by prestige has been around for ages, yet it is tirelessly reiterated every year. It's still true, and plenty of students ignore it.

That said, there are benefits to choosing a school that's more recognizable. (One being that big-name schools like those in the Ivy League can afford to give more generous aid to those who are admitted.) Yes, if you do well, it will help you stand out, but that doesn't exclude those who do well at "less prestigious" schools.

I have a friend attending Hampshire College next year; she recognizes that either Hampshire's obscurity or its reputation as a hippie school could make it harder to her to get a job; but she looks forward to majoring in science there because, by Hampshire policy, she can be doing hands-on work and research right away, gaining more experience in the long run than someone at a research university.

And if one of those obscure schools has a well-known program within it, and you participate in that program, chances are people in your field of study will recognize the name. (This is true for Kenyon and its English department.)

— *Colleen*

12. 12. July 28, 2009 8:22 pm [Link](#)

I'd like to reiterate Colleen's friend's comment that majoring in science at a small school provides a valuable opportunity to be involved in hands-on labs and research right away - and be much

more involved in research, being able to have individual projects or work alongside a professor. Bigger schools can be a big draw because of the size of departments and diversity of research with graduate students, but anecdote tells me that undergrads who work in these labs are often relegated to lab tech-type work.

Whenever I get discouraged about my college choice (a no-name Ohio school probably even less known than Kenyon), I remember the four-person Calc class that made freshman year significantly less intimidating, the political science research I conducted despite my physical science major, the five or six professors I can ask for advice and letters of recommendation in addition to my official advisor, and the debt-free price tag, and it doesn't seem as bad that I don't have a brand name on my resume or a squadron of well-connected alumni helping me through the door.

One thing that is overlooked in the college process is definitely the long-term aspects of schools. In order to reap the benefits of a big name school, you have to get through the first few years unscathed - decent grades, supportive social network, etc. For many (but obviously not all) 18 year olds, a small [and possibly small-town] college makes all of this a lot easier and less intimidating, which pays off in the long run through a consistently high GPA, close relationships with professors, and so forth.

Finally, in addition to Swarthmore, Kenyon, Earlham, etc., who are almost the "branded" small liberal arts schools, don't forget about the small schools who hover below these - in Ohio, I'm thinking of Marietta, Otterbein, Heidelberg, Ohio Wesleyan, etc - often the difference in "ranking" or "prestige" compared to other small liberal arts schools is a function of marketing budget and admissions games, and the quality of education is just as good (and tuition, overall, is lower).

— *another Colleen*

13. 13. July 28, 2009 8:46 pm [Link](#)

Wow — why is it so trendy to bash the Ivy League? Is it because the vast majority of students will not attend one? If I hear one more time that only non-recognizable schools will "instill a lifelong passion for learning and prepare students to meet the challenges and changes they will face during their lifetime", I am going to cry.

My Ivy League education left me consumed with passion, having spent four years taught by some of the most brilliant minds in their fields and sharing the dorms and classrooms with incredibly smart and motivated students from all over the world. The resources available for student research are unique at these Universities. I am deliriously happy with my life 25 years later, in part because that liberal arts education taught me how to live a truly interdisciplinary life — exploring an intellectual life while enjoying my family, staying healthy and having the confidence to take on any challenge.

Please stop writing that true lifelong happiness is sacrificed when a student chooses a brand name school. It is just silly and undermines the credibility of the rest of your opinions.

— *Louise*

14. 14. July 28, 2009 8:55 pm [Link](#)

As a graduate of The College of Wooster I can honestly say that it changed my life. Upon entering the school I didn't think it was going to be the right school for me, but being a small but diverse school allowed me to find my niche socially and academically. As a result of the change Wooster made in me I am now in graduate school at Antioch New England pursuing a degree in Environmental Education. I would not have even considered the environmental field if not for the course content, personal relationships formed with professors, and required independent study.

Wooster and other low visabilty schools not only change lives but create a population of independent thinkers, often more concerned with bettering themselves and society than with graduating with a high paying, high status job.

— *Natalie*

15. 15. July 28, 2009 10:20 pm [Link](#)

I have nothing to add other than to say, "Well said, Marty!" (Full disclosure, I am an unabashed and enthusiastic supporter of [and—fuller disclosure—admissions official with] Lawrence University, one of the colleges included in Mr. Pope's book, *Colleges That Change Lives*.)

— *Ken*

16. 16. July 28, 2009 10:21 pm [Link](#)

Colleen is right. Well-established programs at good small schools are known to individuals in those particular fields. Too many of the commenters above seem to focus only on overall name appeal (mostly Eastern) in more generic hiring or admission situations. Earlham Biology is one of these respected programs. It's a generally fine Quaker liberal arts college with good programs which include Japanese studies and Global Peace Studies. Sciences are strong. Kenyon's English program is downright famous and strong— John Crowe Ransom, Robert Lowell, E.L. Doctorow, et cetera.

— *Graham*

17. 17. July 28, 2009 11:29 pm [Link](#)

I have worked for 12 different CEOs, COOs, or Presidents of Fortune 500 firms. None of these or the head of human resources was ever concerned with US News & World Report's undergraduate ranking. All we ever cared about was the student's ability to learn & think. Did they have good basic skills in communication and teamwork?

The only fields that I know where employers are concerned about the "brand" of the undergraduate degree are consulting and law. Yet senior partners in these fields will tell you this is for marketing purposes. They still look for the best talent money can buy. In the interest of full disclosure I worked for one of those top consulting firms fresh out of college. I was one of a handful of people not from an Ivy, but from Boston University.

Currently my firm, College Solutions, helps students find the right college, maximize their experience in college and graduates find their first career. I strongly recommend the "Colleges that change lives" and similar schools. These students are every bit as successful as their "brand name" peers if not more so. They learn to think much more broadly and are more engaged with smaller classes. Save the big research university or Ivy for graduate school. If name makes a difference it is graduate school not undergraduate. Businesses hire people who can solve problems and add value.

— Larry Dannenberg CEO College Solutions

Add your comments...

Your Name Required

Your E-mail Required, will not be published

Your Comment

Comments are moderated and generally will be posted if they are on-topic and not abusive. For more information, please see our [Comments FAQ](#).

Ads by Google what's this?

2009 College Guide
Signup Today & Receive a Bonus Guide to Grants and Financial Aid
[FreeEducationGuide.com](#)

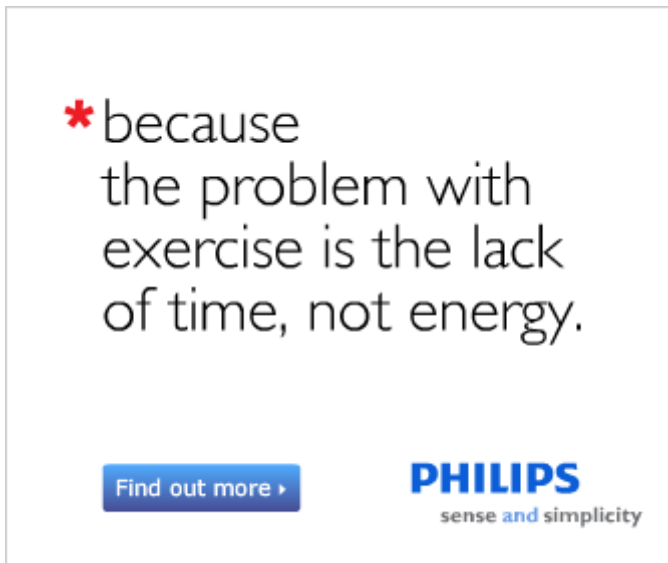
2009 Stimulus & Education
New Stimulus Plan Provides Aid for Students. Find Online Schools Here.
[www.DirectoryOfOnlineSchools.com](#)

Apply for Scholarships
College scholarships and grants totalling \$12,000. Enter today!
[www.ScholarshipWinnings.com](#)

Search This Blog

- *Previous Post:* [From Education Life: Efforts to Help First-Generation Freshmen](#)
-

[Advertise on NYTimes.com](#)



*because
the problem with
exercise is the lack
of time, not energy.

Find out more >

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

Welcome to The Choice

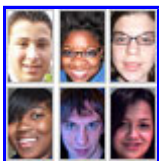


Making a college list, filing applications, and marshaling the resources to afford an education can be intimidating. But it need not be. Join Jacques Steinberg, New York Times education writer and author of [“The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College,”](#) as he and his colleagues examine all facets of the college admissions process. You can reach Mr. Steinberg by sending e-mail to thechoice@nytimes.com.

- [Introductory Post, March 26 »](#)
- [Guidelines for comments](#) and [a related post on City Room](#)

[The Envelope, Please](#)

[Six Applicants Speak](#)



In a series of posts, seniors from high schools around the country are blogging about their college selection process.

- Meet the Students:
[Corey Rockower](#) | [Faithlynn Morris](#) | [Nicholas Geiser](#) | [Tyler K. Calder](#) | [Beth Zak-Cohen](#) | [Jordan Mackey](#)

Guidance Office

[Answers to Questions About Summer College Trips](#)



Bruce G. Hammond, a co-author of several books in the Fiske series and an independent college counselor, replies to reader-submitted questions.

- [All Guidance Office Posts »](#)

Times Topics: [Find News by College or University](#)

Select a School

[Education Resources »](#)

[General](#) | [News](#) | [Policy Groups](#) | [Special Education](#) | [Associations](#) | [Education Unions](#) | [Philanthropies](#) | [Teaching](#) | [College Admissions](#) | [College Rankings](#) | [Financial Aid and Loans](#) | [Study Abroad](#) | [College Sports](#) | [Higher Education Studies](#) | [New York City](#) | [Documents](#)

Comments of the Moment

[“The East Coast is so snobbish about colleges -- if it's more than 20 miles from the ocean, it's not even worth considering, apparently -- that many kids miss schools that would be perfect for them, just from short-sightedness and close-mindedness.”](#)

— [Elisabeth](#)

[Tip Sheet: On the Wisdom and Merits of Exploring 'Less Visible' Colleges](#)

[“The real problem is that those who do hiring in the outside world are highly influenced by the name brands. I've been in many work situations where HR was instructed to only pass onto us applications from "top" school graduates.”](#)

— [Volunteer counselor](#)

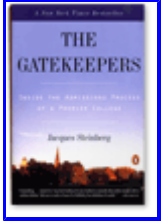
[Tip Sheet: On the Wisdom and Merits of Exploring 'Less Visible' Colleges](#)

[“I used to agree with the author of this blog post and spent a lot of time choosing between less recognizable schools and the Ivy League school I ultimately wound up attending. When it came time for determining what to do after graduation however, I realized just how valuable it was to be attending a recognizable school.”](#)

— [Recent College Grad](#)

Tip Sheet: On the Wisdom and Merits of Exploring 'Less Visible' Colleges

By the Blogger



[The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College](#)

By Jacques Steinberg

Given an unprecedented opportunity to observe the admissions process at Wesleyan University, Mr. Steinberg accompanied an admissions officer for nearly a year as he recruited the nation's most promising students. "The Gatekeepers" follows a diverse group competing for places in elite colleges.



Your Money

[Student Loans](#)



A guide from the Business section for students and their parents on how to plan for tuition bills, including resources from The Times and around the Web.

- [Go to Student Loan Guide »](#)

Times Topics

[College Admissions](#)



Current and past articles on college admissions from The Times, and links to key materials on other sites.

- [Go to Topics Page »](#)

Recent Posts

July 28

[\(17\)](#)

[Tip Sheet: On the Wisdom and Merits of Exploring 'Less Visible' Colleges](#)

Ms. O'Connell is executive director of Colleges That Change Lives, a non-profit organization founded on "the goal of each student finding a college that develops a lifelong love of learning and provides the foundation for a successful and fulfilling life beyond college." "You're applying WHERE?" Academically talented high school students around the country tell me this [...]

July 24

[\(2\)](#)

[From Education Life: Efforts to Help First-Generation Freshmen](#)

A novel attempt by the University of Cincinnati to improve graduation rates of low-income, first-generation freshmen.

July 23

[\(2\)](#)

[From Education Life: Digging Below The Surface of 'SAT-Optional'](#)

A Times explores whether colleges that do not require the SAT for admission employ it in determining merit aid.

July 21

[State Colleges and Investments](#)

The Economix blog again writes about higher education, this time looking at resources and state colleges.

July 21

[\(16\)](#)

[Book Report: "Acceptance" by David L. Marcus](#)

A new book focuses on the work of a veteran high school guidance counselor.

Latest Times Articles on College Admissions

[College Advice, Free](#)

To the Editor:.

[How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Linguistics](#)

My college admissions essay said it all if only I had stopped and listened to myself at the time.

[The Other Side of 'Test Optional'](#)

Dropping the score requirement can make a college look good.

- [More Headlines »](#)

Education Life

[Saving for College](#)



Ways to save, cradle to college; behind closed doors in a financial aid office; and the scramble for work-study jobs.

- [Go to Education Life »](#)
- [Interactive Graphic: College Cost Calculator](#)

Archive

Select Month

Politics E-Mail



Keep up with the latest news from Washington with the daily Politics e-mail newsletter. [See Sample](#)

kristen.keener@goucher.edu

[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)



Legalizing marijuana & addiction

[ALSO IN OPINION »](#)

[Puzzles for the lunar landing anniversary](#)

[The doctor is within](#)

nytimes.com

OPINION

Feeds

- [The Choice RSS](#)

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

Stimulus Financial Aid

Take Advantage of Stimulus Bill Aid for Education. Find a School Here!
FinancialAid.Search-Schools.com

Stimulus Aid for College

Stimulus Bill Aids Working College Students. Get your Degree Online.
www.Online-Education.net/FindDegree

Get College Information

Flexible Hours, Distance Learning Wide Range Of Degree Programs
Phoenix.edu

[Home](#)

- [World](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [N.Y. / Region](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Style](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Back to Top](#)

[Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company](#)

- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Search](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [First Look](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Work for Us](#)
- [Media Kit](#)

- [Site Map](#)