My College Student Profile

Self-Reflection and Goal Setting

This "My College Student Profile" document is an essential tool for self-reflection and goal setting as you embark on your college search. By thoughtfully answering these questions, you will gain clarity on your academic interests, personal preferences, and career aspirations, enabling you to identify colleges that are the best fit for your unique needs and goals. Use this document as a guide to express what truly matters to you in your higher education journey.

A. Academic Interests and Strengths

1. **Core Passions:** What subjects, books, or topics do I genuinely **love reading about** or talking about in my free time?
2. **Learning Style:** Do I learn better through **hands-on projects, group discussion, or independent reading and lecture**?
3. **Academic Challenge:** Do I thrive in a high-pressure, competitive academic environment, or do I prefer a **supportive, collaborative** learning atmosphere?
4. **Major Flexibility:** If I'm undecided on a major, do I need a college with a **strong liberal arts core** that allows me to explore, or should I look for a school with strong programs across multiple fields I'm interested in?
5. **Desired Degree:** What is the specific degree I am aiming for (Associate's, Bachelor's, a specific certification), and how quickly do I want to achieve it?

B. Personal Preferences and Campus Life

6. **Size & Scale:** Do I feel more comfortable in a **small, intimate campus** where I know many people, or a **large, bustling university** with thousands of students? Small class vs. large lectures?
7. **Location & Vibe:** Do I prefer an **urban campus** with city life and public transportation, a **suburban campus** near a major city, or a **rural/small town** setting with a focus on campus community?
8. **Distance from Home:** How far away from my family and current support system am I willing (or able) to go?
9. **Social Life:** How important is a vibrant **Greek life (Fraternities/Sororities)**, NCAA sports, or an active **arts and cultural scene** to my college experience?
10. **Climate & Environment:** Am I prepared to live in a place with **four distinct seasons, year-round warm weather,** or a specific climate?
11. **HBCU Culture:** What does the phrase "HBCU Experience" mean to me, and what specific elements of that heritage and culture (like strong traditions, historic excellence, or Black scholarship) are most important?

C. Career Aspirations and Financial Goals

12. **Future Career:** What kind of **career do I envision** for myself after graduation?
13. **Future Goals:** How will attending a particular college help me achieve my **long-term career and personal goals**?
14. **Post-Graduation:** In the first five years after graduation, where do I realistically **see myself living and working**? (This helps inform location choice.)
15. **Skill Development:** What **specific skills** (technical, leadership, communication) do I need to develop in college to be successful in my chosen career?
16. **Financial Comfort:** How much student loan debt am I **comfortable taking on** (or aiming to avoid) to achieve my degree? What is the maximum I can realistically spend on college?
17. **Support System:** Do I require a college with extensive **on-campus job opportunities** or a location with a strong presence of companies in my intended industry for networking?