

Choosing a College

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Before We Begin...

Welcome!

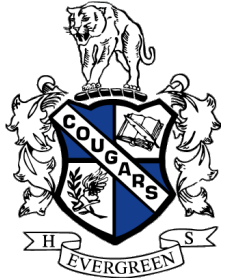
- Be comfortable: camera on or off is fine
- Please keep your sound muted during the presentation
- You can choose a language for the closed caption feature. Instructions are in the family agenda you got at the start of the program
- Feel free to drop questions into the chat as we go, and I'll leave time at the end for some discussion
- Please don't forget to fill out the program evaluation survey for the Lakewood High School counseling team!

Meet Your Counselor



Sarah Thorstenson (Thor-sten-son)

- Colorado territory: Jefferson County Public Schools
- States: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi
- Transfer applicants: Last Names M-Z
- Proud alumna of Evergreen High School (2008)
- CU Boulder (2012)
- University of Utah (2015)
- University of Denver (2023)





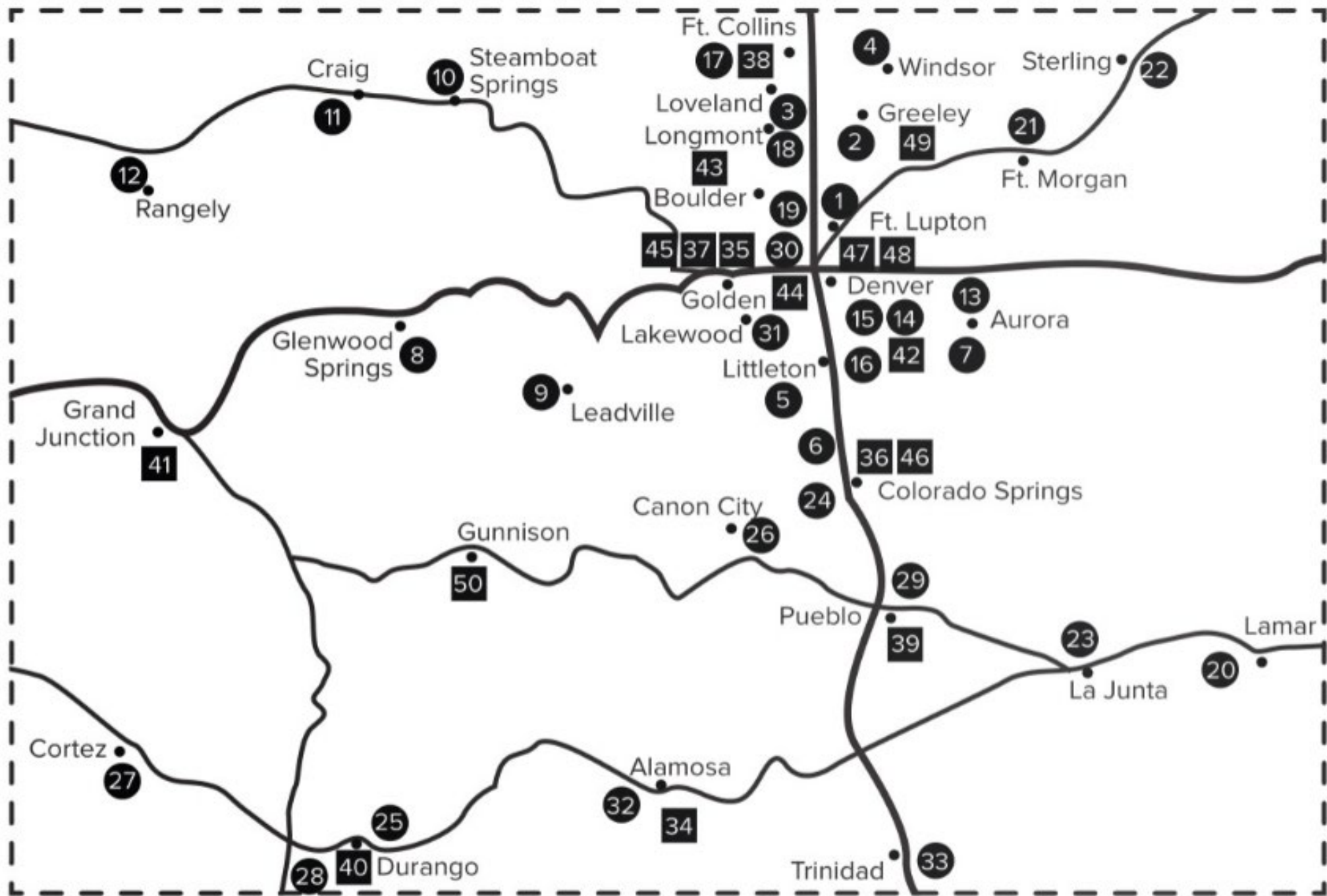
**Register as an
Attendee
Tonight!**

<https://slate.to/rFImVcXm>



A word cloud visualization of college-related stressors. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with varying font sizes and colors. The most prominent words are 'stress' (large, dark blue), 'overwhelming' (large, dark blue), 'applications' (large, dark red), and 'money' (large, grey). Other words include 'deadlines', 'grade', 'value', 'paperwork', 'intense', 'grades', 'work', 'part', 'tedious', 'fun', 'scholarships', 'stressful', 'average', 'time', 'job', 'fafsa', '\$\$\$\$', and 'work'.

deadlines grade value paperwork
applications intense
grades work stress \$\$\$\$
tedious overwhelming part
fun money fafsa
job scholarships stressful
time average



College Search Timeline

Junior Year

First Semester:

- Think broadly about colleges. Discuss your preliminary college choices with your HS counselor and your family.
- Attend any college planning and/or career programs and college day/night programs in your school or community.
- Begin gathering information about college costs and discuss family financial resources.
- Get information about scholarship and financial aid programs.

Second Semester:

- Plan to visit colleges during spring break or summer
- Look over colleges' websites

Senior Year

First Semester:

- Continue narrowing your list. Check application deadlines for your colleges of interest.
- Attend the college day/night program in your area and continue college visits. If you cannot visit a campus, connect with your admission counselor at that school.
- Complete your admissions applications and meet the deadlines.
- October: Colorado Free Application Days.
- Apply for financial aid.

Second Semester:

- Attend admitted student visits at colleges.
- Keep up the hard work you've done in high school!
- **May 1: National Decision Day.**

Three Step Process

1: Students decide where to apply

2: Colleges make admission decisions

3: Students choose where to enroll



01. You decide where to apply

There are over 3,000 four-year schools and 1,500 two-year schools...

Take your time - enjoy the process

Use your imagination and consider a range of schools

Research based on best match – academics, financial, personal

Apply to enough schools to provide options and good comparisons

It's **NOT** a question of **IF** you'll be accepted, it's a question of **WHEN** and **WHERE** you'll be accepted.

(National Accept Rate= 70.1%)



What is important to you?

- Rural or city location?
- Small, medium or large enrollment?
- Diversity?
- Great weather?
- Modern facilities/amenities?
- Reputable academics/majors?
- Professors or Graduate Assistants?
- Internship and job opportunities?
- Strong persistence and graduation rates?
- Extracurricular activities?
- Athletics?



Only a small number typically admit fewer than 15% of applicants:

*Air Force Academy, Brown, Cal Tech, Columbia, Harvard, MIT,
Naval Academy, Princeton, Stanford, West Point, Yale...*

Selective Admission

Some of the schools that admit 15% to 30%:

*Bates, Berkeley, Boston University, Carleton, Middlebury, Northeastern, UT
Austin, Wesleyan, Williams...*

MOST (90%) colleges and universities admit more than 50%:

*CU Boulder, Colorado State University, Denver, Mines, MSU Denver,
Puget Sound, San Diego, Santa Clara, Washington...*

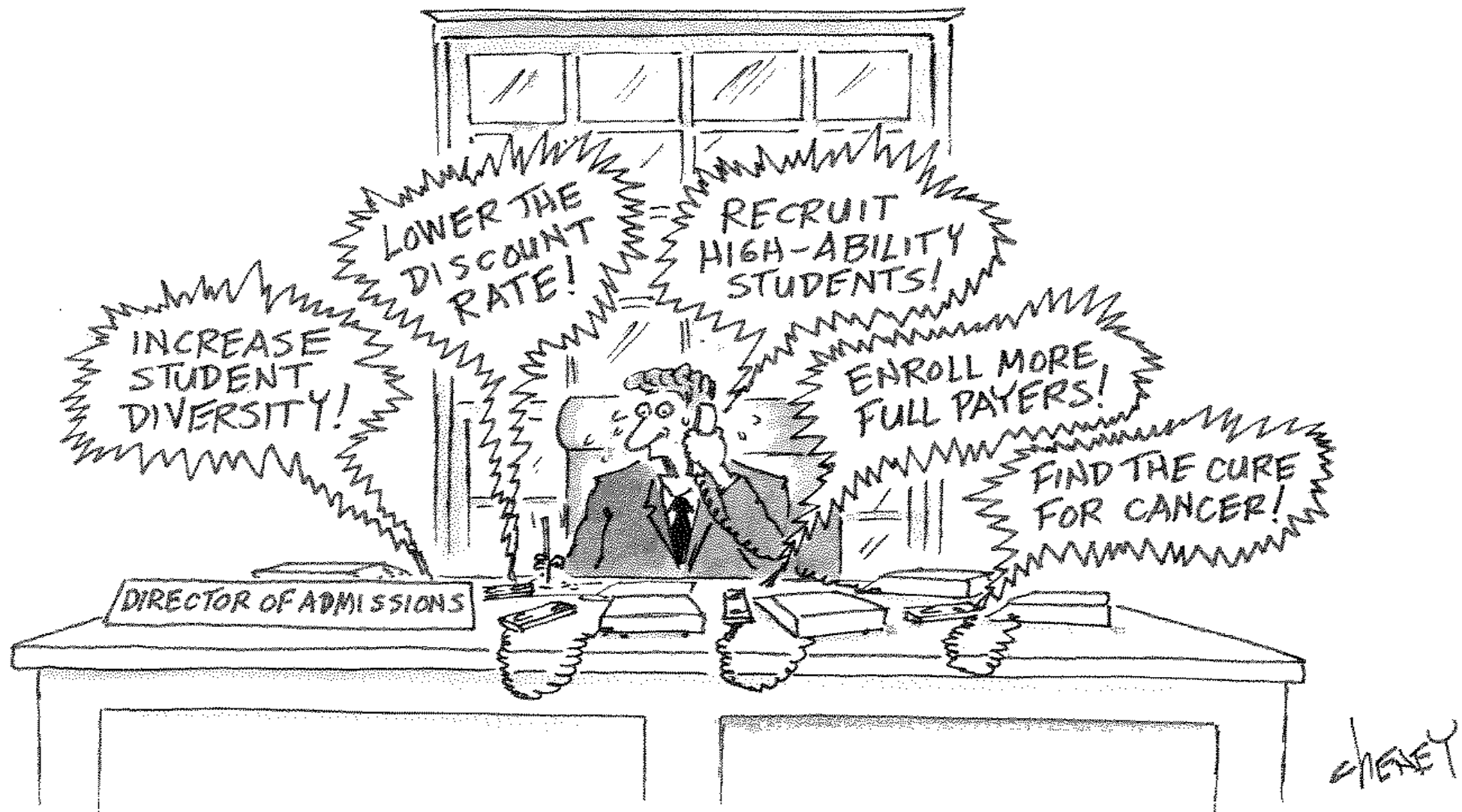
*Degree of selectivity can change from year-to-year



02. Colleges Make Admission Decisions

Enrollment goals:

- Meet or exceed **enrollment goal** *within* budget!
- **Academic profile**: grades and test scores
- **Diversity**: geographic, race and ethnicity, economic, academic major, gender, etc.
- **Motivated, honest and open** to new ideas
- **Talent** - music, art, theatre, athletics
- People who will contribute to campus and will become “**part of the place**”



"YES, PRESIDENT SMITHERS! WE'LL GET THAT DONE RIGHT AWAY!"



Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8



“The Great Debate”

How DU Makes Decisions

GPA

- Overall GPA (weighted when available)
- Academic courses
- Trends
- Close review of junior year
- # of As and Bs vs. Cs and Ds (“stub toe” vs. “offensive trend”)

Test Scores OPTIONAL!

- ACT or SAT
- Super Score (mix/match)
- SAT- Critical Reading and Math (No writing)

Supporting Documents/Information

- Strength of Curriculum (CP, Honors, AP, IB; # per term and year)
- Strength of High School
- Essay
- Recommendations- Counselor and Teacher
- Activities
- Need-aware
- Demonstrated interest



Decision Types

Admit

- Admitted to the university
- Check your letter to confirm direct vs. pre-major status if applicable
- Merit scholarship should be included in letter

Rolled to Regular Decision OR Waitlisted

- The university needs a little bit more information from you
- Factors to consider: their middle 50% data and where you fit there, have you visited campus? Connected with a counselor?
- Tip: reach out to your counselor, carefully read letter, submit updated information: letter to express interest, 7th semester grades, additional recommendations

Deny

- Reach out to the school – appeal options?
- Consider transferring in the future



Sample Decisions: “Isabella”

Rolled to Regular Decision – “Demonstrated Interest”

High School: Public school in Colorado

Applied Early Action (EA) November 1 deadline

- Major: Psychology
- 4.2 weighted GPA, 1270 SAT, 3 “Demanding” curriculum
- 0 virtual visits, 0 campus visits, didn’t attend a visit at her high school

December 13: notified to submit our Regular Decision Consideration form by January 15th

December 14: submitted that form – showed interest in DU

February 20: admitted to DU



Sample Decisions:

“Erica”

Deny

High School: Private boarding school in New England

Applied Early Action (EA) November 1 deadline

- Major: Business Information & Analytics
- 2.82 weighted GPA, Test Optional, 3 “Demanding” curriculum
- Discipline sophomore year, violated school’s policy on alcohol
 - Suspension

DU’s Middle 50% weighted GPA: 3.72 - 4.0



Sample Decisions:

“Jeff”

Deny

High School: Private Catholic school in Dana Point, CA

Applied Regular Decision (RD) January 15 Deadline

- Major: Undeclared Business
- 2.86 weighted GPA, 1220 SAT, 3 “Demanding” curriculum
- 16 semester Cs
 - 9 Cs were Junior Year
- 1 F Junior Year in Algebra 2/Trigonometry

DU’s Middle 50% weighted GPA: 3.72 - 4.0



Who is the institution admitting?



Fall 2022

Admitted Student Academic Profile

Middle 50%

SAT Composite	1250 – 1410*
SAT EBRW	630 – 710*
SAT Math	610 – 710*
ACT	28 – 33*
Weighted GPA	3.72 – 4.0

Transfer students: 3.30 cumulative GPA considered competitive for admission and merit consideration.

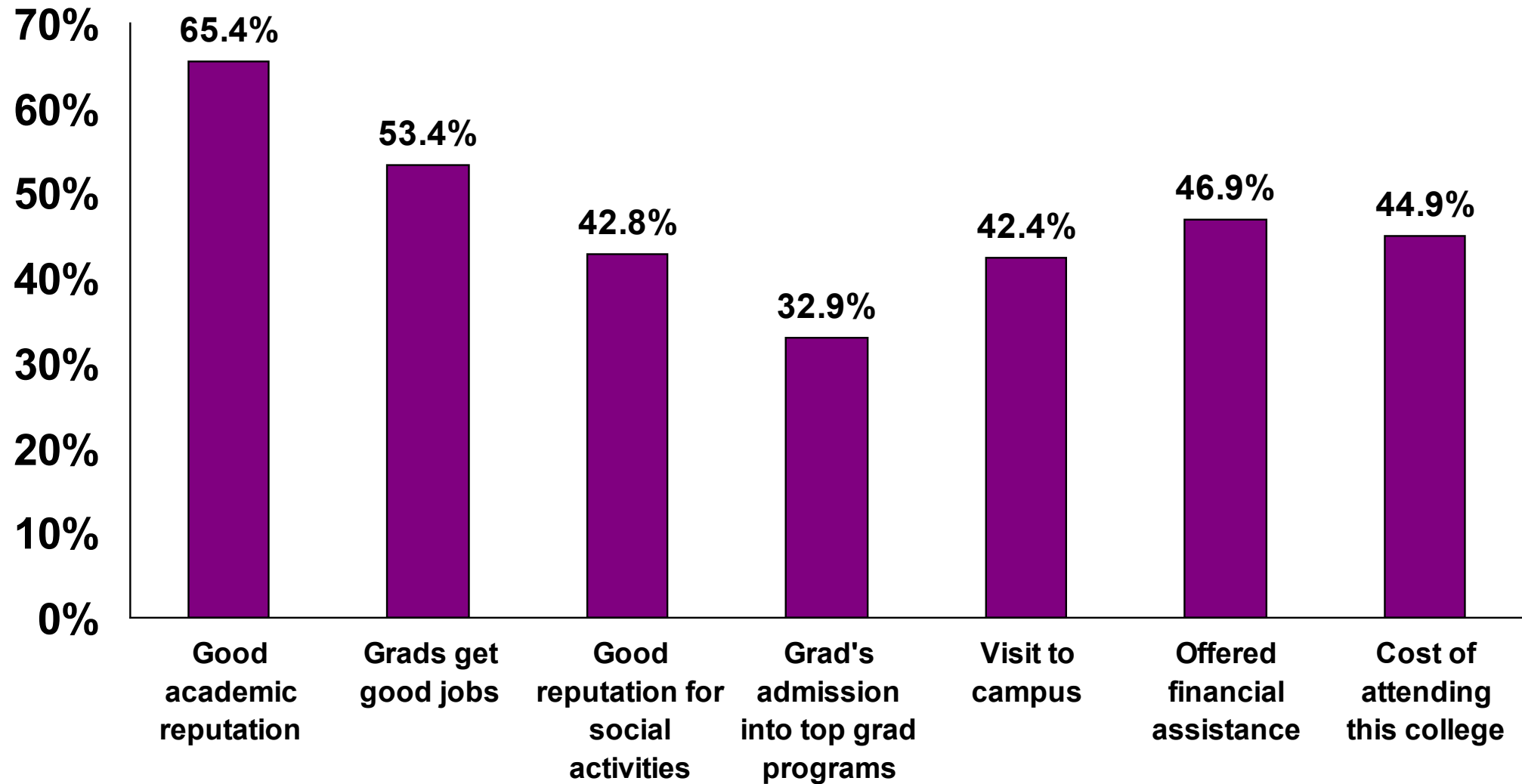
* DU is a test-optional institution



03. You Choose Where to Enroll

- Process of “elimination” rather than a process of “selection”
- Identify your criteria and eliminate schools that don’t meet your needs
- The perfect *school* does not exist!

Choose a place where you will grow academically and personally, and is affordable for your family.





When you are visiting a campus or researching it online, some things to consider:

Visiting Campus

- Size of the campus
- Variety of majors and programs offered
- Whether a campus offers your specific program of interest
- The diversity of the student body
- Class sizes and accessibility of professors
- The number and variety of student clubs, organizations, and sports opportunities
- Location and opportunities in the surrounding community
- Student support services
- Residence life
- Cost of attendance and financial aid opportunities



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UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

THANK YOU

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