

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY



5 STEPS TO
MAKE YOUR COLLEGE
INVESTMENT COUNT

TRYING TO PICK A COLLEGE?



Don't stress.

These days, making the right college choice is more important than ever. For most families, college will be a significant financial investment. But it is an investment with an incredible, worthwhile payoff. People with four-year degrees make an average of over \$23,000 more a year than those with just a high school diploma!

A COLLEGE DEGREE AFFECTS:

- YOUR JOB
- YOUR SALARY
- YOUR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Simply choosing to go to college isn't enough. Choosing the right college is essential.

We work with thousands of high school students every year. Our advice is always the same: When considering your options, look for ways to maximize your college investment. After all, it's an investment in you and your future.

That's what this booklet is all about — **YOU**. We believe there is a bright future waiting for you, and these steps can help you get there. So what are you waiting for? **Let's get started!**

1



PLAN AHEAD

*The earlier you start,
the better off you'll be.*

- ➔ **GRADES MATTER.** Colleges compete for the best students, and they will use your high school transcript and GPA as factors when deciding whether to accept you. Plus, the better your grades, the more academic scholarships you'll qualify for.
- ➔ **DUAL ENROLLMENT = SAVINGS.** Each year there are more opportunities to earn college credit while in high school. In some cases, dual enrollment credits could allow you to graduate from college a semester or even a year early.
- ➔ **NARROW YOUR FOCUS.** Don't worry. You don't need to choose your major today. But thinking about what you like and what you're good at will help you find a school with the program that's best for you.



Want to get a head start on your college journey? Check out our Summer Learn and Dual Enrollment options where you can earn credits for college now!

mvnu.edu/summerlearn
mvnu.edu/dual-enrollment

\$21,000
top academic scholarship

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CONSIDER CAREERS THAT PAY

Some academic programs offer more options and long-term security than others.

- ➔ **STUDY THE JOB MARKET.** Be in high demand. Research which career fields are thriving and which may be fading away. For example, Engineering, Computer Science, and Health Care are all reliably growing industries.
- ➔ **AIM TO EARN.** Money certainly isn't everything, but it's important to have realistic expectations about your career's earning potential. It's a big factor in where and how you'll live after college. Salary info for almost every occupation can be found online.
- ➔ **MINOR IN BUSINESS.** A solid foundation in business will enhance your résumé and help you develop the people skills you need to be a high achiever in any field.



94% of our graduates are employed or in advanced studies within one year of graduation!

With a variety of programs, you are sure to ignite your passion at MVNU! Learn more at

mvnu.edu/academics

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CALCULATE ALL THE COSTS

The total cost is more than just tuition, room, and board.

- ➔ **LOOK FOR HIDDEN FEES.** Many schools increase costs for room and board and other areas through fees, in order to avoid openly raising tuition. Make sure you know what the real total cost will be.
- ➔ **PRIVATE CAN COST LESS THAN PUBLIC.** When comparing colleges, it is important to review the final cost to you after financial aid packages have been offered. Many times, private schools will offer more financial aid bringing your final bill well below the cost of a public institution. Also confirm if scholarships are good for four or five years.
- ➔ **THE FINANCIAL AID FACTOR.** Remember financial aid when determining cost. Keep this equation in mind for every college you consider: $\text{Tuition} + \text{Fees} - \text{Financial Aid} = \text{Actual Cost}$.

ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES

according to Money.com (2023)



Do the math:

calculator.mvnu.edu

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LOOK FOR ADDED VALUE

Practical skills, experience, and a solid support system are important for success.

- **RELATIONSHIPS MATTER.** A degree can take you far, but relationships open doors. College should provide mentors, positive friendships, and a network of professionals that will help you build lifelong success.
- **GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE.** The right school should offer internships, international programs, and community service opportunities. Start adding to your résumé at a college that helps you gain real-world experience.
- **GAIN A SOLID FOUNDATION.** Many mid-career professionals have changed jobs a handful of times. It's important to seek out both the right major and a school that will teach you the basic skills you need for success in a broad variety of jobs.

MVNU's liberal arts core gives you the broad foundation you need for success in a diverse, ever-changing job market.

With a **13:1** student-faculty ratio, you will create **STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS** with your professors and peers.



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FIND YOUR FIT

You're going to spend four years of your life in college. Make sure the environment fits you.

- **FIND A COMMUNITY.** Living with hundreds of people for four years can be both challenging and rewarding — and it will undoubtedly influence who you become. So find a community that is committed to helping you be your best.
- **MAKE FRIENDS FOR A LIFETIME.** College can be the place where deep relationships are formed, spouses are met, and lifelong friendships are made. Talk to current students to get a feel for the kind of people you will meet and interact with at a college.
- **LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION.** Where you go to college may impact where you build your career after graduation. Visit colleges in varying locations to help you determine where you fit best.



GET ACTIVE! 50+ clubs & organizations, sports, choirs, bands, theatre & drama groups, community events, and more!

mvnu.edu/life-at-mvnu



MVNU is just 60 minutes north of Columbus.

NOW WHAT?

College is a big investment, so make it count. But don't panic about it. Choose your school and go forward confidently. Ultimately, **YOU** will make your college experience awesome.

Start with us!

- Schedule a campus visit today.
 - Talk with our experts about how MVNU can help you maximize your college investment.
 - Meet with a faculty member in your desired major.
 - Not sure what you want to major in?
Meet with our Career Development Center.

Schedule
a campus
visit today!



mvnu.edu/visit

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