

Student-centered definitions are provided for each card throughout a student's online card sort. The intended audience for the definitions below are counselors and/or parents and other adults working with students during their college search process.

Academics

Agriculture Sustainability	The study of how food moves from plant or animal life to the dinner table. Students will take courses on sustainability, nutrition or even animal behavior.
Animal Sciences	The study of animal life, from the cellular level to large herds. Classes focus on animal behavior, biology, and chemistry.
Architecture	The study of building, park, and landscape design. Architecture students are artistic but also enjoy science and technology.
Art	The study of art, expression, and creativity. Students may take courses focused on the creation of new works, or study the history and preservation of art.
Astronomy	The study of life's big questions, like the origin of the universe or whether life exists on other planets. Students must enjoy physics, chemistry, and math.
Biology	The study of plants, animals, and life as we know it. Many students choose biology to prepare for medical school or research.
Business	This major focuses on how people buy, sell, and make products and services. Students may take classes in accounting, marketing, sales, and entrepreneurship.
Chemistry	The study of physical substances and their interactions. A good fit for students who enjoy science labs or want to work in fields like 3D printing.
Communications, Journalism	Future television reporters or bloggers might consider this major. A good fit for students who enjoy current events, writing, and studying how people communicate.
Computer Science	Students will learn the languages behind creating advanced applications, encrypting, programming a robot, or tracking a package. Great for students with an interest in math, science, and technology.
Construction Management	A major focused on the management and coordination of people, schedules, and construction materials. Students learn to supervise projects such as building bridges, parks, or skyscrapers.
Criminal Justice	A major preparing students for all stages of the criminal justice system including the courts, corrections, law enforcement, and administration.
Culinary Arts	The study of cooking, kitchen management, and operations. A great fit for students who aspire to be the next Top Chef.

Dance	A dance major or minor is offered, or there are serious dance clubs or teams for students to join.
Drama, Theater	Students learn what it takes to produce and star in plays, musicals, or comedy shows. Students can segue into fields like law, sales, PR and corporate training.
Economics	The study of how money and resources are produced, traded, and used. A good choice for students who enjoy analyzing data or monitoring the financial markets.
Engineering	The study of solving real-world problems through designing and building. Students must enjoy math, science, and working on a team.
English	Reading, interpreting, and writing are all part of this area of study. Students can apply this to the real world, possibly in advertising or marketing.
Environmental Science	The study of how humans interact with our natural environment. Courses may focus on environmental policy, sustainable design, composting, recycling, or air pollution, among other topics.
Ethnic/Cultural Studies	Majors or minors focused on the history and culture of ethnic groups or particular segments of the population. Some examples include Women's Studies, Asian Studies, LGBTQ+ Studies, or Latin American Studies.
Fashion Design Merchandising	The study of clothing design and sales. Great for creative and artistic students who like interpreting, critiquing, and making clothing.
Film	The study of film and media, which could include a focus on writing, producing, directing, or the study of the history of film.
Fisheries and Wildlife	The study of fish and wildlife and their natural habitats. Students learn about conservation, preservation, and population growth management.
Geology	The study of the earth and its history. A great major for students fascinated by fossils, earthquakes, minerals, gems, or volcanoes.
Global Studies	The study of our increasingly interconnected global society. Students will take classes in politics, economics, climate change, or even arts and culture.
History	A good fit for students who enjoy learning about people, events, and cultures of the past. Requires lots of reading, writing, and interpreting.
Hospitality Management	The study of the travel business. Good for students who want to learn to run a hotel or restaurant, or work in the tourism industry.

International Relations	The study of political relations and diplomacy between countries. Good for students who follow current events around the world and plan to study abroad.
Liberal Arts	A well-rounded education is important. Great for students who want to take classes in a lot of different subject areas and study how things interconnect.
Mathematics	A great match for students who love studying theories and formulas and seek to understand the world through math concepts.
Music	College offers ample opportunities for students to pursue music, such as music majors or minors, marching band, orchestra, or other student performance groups.
Neuroscience	Neuroscience is the study of memory, stress, and behaviors. Students take classes in psychology, biology, and chemistry.
Nursing	A great match for caring students who want to help patients suffering from illness or injury. Students take classes in biology, chemistry, math, and nutrition to prepare for a nursing license exam.
Philosophy	The study of life's most difficult questions, requiring the use of logic, creativity, and analysis. A good way for students to prepare for law school.
Physics	Students study the laws that rule the universe, such as gravity, electricity, and energy.
Political Science	Students learn about the organization of people and societies, or how to influence the world as a future president, politician, or other leader.
Product/Industrial Design	Students learn to design and make products such as phones, furniture, or cars for large numbers of people. Great for students with an interest in design, science, and math.
Psychology	The science behind how people and animals think and feel. A great major for students who enjoy learning and talking about emotions.
Public Health	The study of diseases, access to healthcare, and poverty. Students learn not only about illnesses and treatments, but also government policies and economics.
Service Academy	Service Academies help students become commissioned officers in the United States Armed Forces while completing their undergraduate degree. These are very specialized and highly structured programs offered in a small number of locations nationwide. Academies are free to attend, but students must serve in the military for a certain number of years after graduating.
Social Entrepreneurship	Students learn to develop sustainable and innovative solutions to social, cultural, and environmental problems.

Sociology	The study of people and how they interact with society, both as individuals and in groups such as families, cliques, or cultures.
Sports Management	Students learn how to run a sports team or gym by taking classes in business, law, and fitness.
Sports Medicine Kinesiology	The study of how to treat and prevent sports injuries. This is a great major for students interested in becoming trainers or physical therapists.
Statistics Analytics	The collection, discovery, interpretation, and communication of meaningful patterns in data including, for example, scientific research, marketing analysis and election results. These majors may also include Data Science.
Teaching Degree	Students want to learn how to teach others in a specific subject or focus on a certain age group. The college offers a degree that allows students to begin teaching upon graduating.
World Languages	College offers majors and minors in many world languages, including more obscure ones.

Campus Culture

Big Fish in a Little Pond	Good for students with a lot of talent who prefer to win respect and admiration within a small, closely knit community
Conservative Campus	The political culture on campus is conservative, and Republican student groups are popular.
Creative Campus	Out-of-the-box thinkers are the norm, as creativity is encouraged in the classroom and beyond.
Diverse Campus	Students come from different parts of the world and represent many races, ethnicities, and family backgrounds.
Free Time	Balance is important. Students will have time off for camping trips, socializing, or watching movies with friends.
Friendly Campus	Students work together and support one another academically and socially. Staff and faculty are welcoming and supportive.
Great Food	The college serves up gourmet food in the dining hall or other on-campus establishments.
Green Campus	Students and administrators are environmentally conscious, and the campus buildings are eco-friendly.
International Student Body	There is ample support - a cultural center or language tutoring (ESL) - for students from other countries.

Large College	There are many students on campus and a lot of activity. Great for students who want to constantly meet new people.
LGBTQ+ Friendly	There is support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning students. Students are open minded and accepting.
Liberal Campus	Student views are mostly progressive or liberal. There are clubs and organizations for Democrats.
Medium College	College has 2,500-10,000 students and provides a good balance of opportunities and familiarity. It is big enough that students will meet new people but small enough that they will see familiar faces around campus.
One of a Crowd	Good for students who are comfortable being anonymous and able to navigate a larger university setting.
Outdoorsy	Students enjoy exploring the outdoors, and the school offers clubs and trips.
Party School	The party scene is an important part of student life.
Politically Aware	Debates about political issues are common, and students pay attention to current events.
Religious Affiliation	College was founded by a religious group and maintains an affiliation with a specific church or denomination.
Religious Atmosphere	The campus has active religious groups or worship services, and students actively practice their faith. Students who do not practice the affiliated religion may feel uncomfortable on this campus.
School Spirit	Students wear the school colors with pride, and not just on game day.
Small College	A college with fewer than 2,500 students. Students will often see familiar faces on campus and run into friends while studying or eating.
Social Justice	Students and staff are concerned about helping those in need. Community service is popular, and students believe that everyone deserves equal rights and treatment.
Sororities Fraternities	Sororities: Greek life for women, common at larger universities. Young women can live together in a sorority house with many traditions and service opportunities or have nonresidential options for meetings and social activities. Fraternities: Greek life for men. Students can live in a fraternity house or have nonresidential options for meetings and social activities.
Strong Sense of Community	Students and staff are a supportive family and provide a home away from home.

Women-Only

Student body is all women.

Work Hard, Play Hard

Students can be serious and studious but know how to have a good time on the weekends.

Educational Culture

Accelerated Programs

College offers accelerated programs on a shorter timeline for students interested in receiving a graduate degree in addition to a bachelor's degree, or two different bachelor's degrees. Examples include medicine, law, business, graduate healthcare professions programs, or 3-2 engineering programs.

ACT/SAT Optional

The college does not require SAT or ACT scores for applicants. Great for students with test anxiety or low performance on standardized exams.

Apprenticeship & Certification Programs

Program for students who want to head straight into specific careers that require either a certification or apprenticeship, such as electrician, nursing assistant, auto mechanic, plumber, or other skilled trades.

Collaborative Environment

Study groups are common, and students help each other out.

Community College

A two-year program where you can receive an associate's degree and possibly transfer to a four-year university. A great option that allows you to save money, live at home, and explore a variety of classes.

Competitive Environment

A great fit for students who want to take classes with intelligent and motivated students who aren't afraid of competition and hard work.

Co-op Programs

Internships (sometimes paid) are offered for current students. At some colleges, students can participate in programs during the school year. Employers are increasingly looking for students with real work experience on their résumés.

Design My Own Major
(Student-Designed Programs)

College allows students to chart their own path and design their own academic major, taking ownership of their education in unique and unstructured ways.

Gap Year

Students may defer admissions and spend a year after high school working, travelling, volunteering, or studying abroad.

Hands On Learning

Students enjoy learning by doing, in a lab, in the field, or through an internship.

Hispanic Serving Institutions

University enrollment is comprised of at least 25% Hispanic students and may include additional support and opportunities for these students.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

College is a member institution with a rich history of educating African-American students. A large percentage of students are Black, though it is not a requirement to attend.

Learn by Discussing	A good match for students who are confident speaking up and sharing their opinions and prefer learning through discussions.
Learn by Listening	A good match for students who are comfortable taking notes and prefer learning through lectures and presentations.
Learn by Reading	A good match for students who prefer learning by reading textbooks, articles, research papers, or literature. Students must be comfortable with independent learning.
Lots of Class Choices	There are hundreds of classes to choose from each year.
Love of Learning	Students enjoy learning for the sake of learning and want fellow students to feel the same way. Great for students with natural intellectual curiosity.
National Reputation	People will recognize the name of the college and will be impressed.
Pushed by My Peers	You are okay attending a college where you are an average student. You want to be motivated by the smart students around you and won't feel overwhelmed if you get some Bs and Cs here and there.
ROTC	The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) gives students the opportunity to participate in military classes and training while in college. Students can receive scholarships in exchange for service upon graduating.
Scholarly Environment	Professors are world renowned, and students are highly intellectual.
Small Classes	The majority of classes are under twenty students and commonly center on discussion and interaction.
Structured Program	A great fit for students who prefer a detailed syllabus, explicit instructions, and a clear grading rubric.
Thrive on Pressure (High Pressure Environment)	Students thrive under pressure and compete with one another to achieve the highest grades.
Top of My Class	You like being the smartest one in the room and can't imagine getting a B.
Unstructured Program	Students have the option to design their own majors or take ownership of their education in unique and unstructured ways.

Extracurricular Activities

Big Time Athletics	Sports and school spirit are important to the college's identity. Athletic events for this college are often featured on ESPN and other networks.
Clubs & Campus Activities	Students are active, and there are countless clubs and activities to choose from.

Community Service	Students are actively trying to improve the world around them through volunteering.
Cultural Events	There are opportunities to attend theater and arts events. Students learn about other cultures (or teach about their own cultural background) through festivals and events.
Debate/Mock Trial	College has a serious debate and/or mock trial team that regularly attends competitions.
Good Fitness Facilities	Students have access to modern gym facilities, weight rooms, tennis courts, and fitness classes.
Intramural Sports	Informal sports teams are popular on campus. Club teams may have practices and travel to play neighboring colleges.
Recruited Athlete	You could be recruited as a Varsity athlete in a college program.
Study Abroad	Many opportunities to travel to other countries to live, study, and learn about other cultures. A high percentage of students take advantage of study abroad.
Varsity Athlete	Students are recruited and participate in NCAA Division I, II, or III NAIA Athletics.
Residential Life	
Bike Friendly Campus	The college has bike lanes, storage, and maybe even a repair shop. There is a culture of bicycle commuting on campus and in the community.
Campus Appearance	Campus is well designed and has memorable architecture and beautiful landscaping.
Close to Home	You wish to attend a college located within a few hours of your hometown. You want to be able to drive or take a short flight back home over the weekend (and plan to bring your laundry).
College Town	Located in a town or city full of college students and youthful energy.
Far from Home	You are excited to attend college in a different part of the country. You do not plan to go home on weekends throughout the school year.
Great Dorms	Dorms are modern, spacious, and have a strong sense of community.
Modern Facilities & Technology	Campus has been recently updated and may include new dorms, state-of-the-art science labs, or modern classrooms. There is little deferred maintenance on campus.
Residential Campus	Students choose to live in dorms for at least the first two years, and social activities are centered on campus.



Corsava Card Definitions

Rural Campus	Located in a very small town or in the middle of nowhere surrounded by trees, ocean, or fields.
Snow	Cold weather and snowy days are common. Students are okay with wearing a heavy jacket for much of the year and may even be able to go skiing nearby.
Suburban Campus	Campus is in a smaller town within an hour of a large city.
Sunshine	Campus location is in a sunny part of the country.
Urban Campus	Located in the middle of a city. Students are comfortable in a city environment and do not need a grassy tree-lined quad.
Weekend Life	Students stay on campus on the weekend, and there are lots of activities to keep them engaged.

Student Resources

Academic Advising	Advisors and mentors help students find the right major and graduate on time.
Academic Support & Tutoring	Formal support - tutoring and peer mentoring - is available for students.
Access to Professors	Professors focus primarily on teaching and are regularly available to meet with students one on one. Studies show student-faculty interaction is the most beneficial factor regarding satisfaction with college.
Career Advising	Advisors and mentors help students prepare for life after school. They assist with résumés and bring companies to campus to recruit students for jobs and internships.
Diversity Fly-in Program	College offers a free or subsidized campus visit for students from groups underrepresented on that particular campus. Eligible students may include, but are not limited to, underrepresented minorities, women, first-generation, and/or low-income students.
Financial Aid	Great for students who require financial assistance to help cover the cost of college through grants and loans.
First-Generation Student Support	College has ample resources and support - from the admissions process to career placement - for first-generation college students.
Honors College	An advanced program that often features small, discussion-based classes with lots of writing.
Internships	Jobs or research opportunities are popular on campus or with local companies.



Corsava Card Definitions

Learning Disability Support

Services are available for students with learning differences or for those who need special tutoring.

Merit Aid Scholarships

School awards scholarships to students based on their merit and achievements. Scholarship awards may be based on GPA, test scores, or extracurricular activities.

Physical Disability Support

College provides excellent accommodations for students with physical disabilities (such as handicap accessibility or support for deaf or hard-of-hearing students).

Pre-Med, Vet, Dental Advising

Faculty and staff provide support for students interested in medical, dental, or veterinary school. Advisors are available to help students select appropriate classes and prepare for standardized testing. They may also provide letters of recommendation.

Research Opportunities

A great match for students who want to participate in the discovery of new knowledge, whether it's in a science lab or on the ground in a faraway land.