GALLUP PURDUE INDEX
COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

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• Intellectually and emotionally connected
• Able to do what they’re best at
• They like what they do at work
• Someone at work cares about their development
DEFINING SUCCESS
Well-being

Five Elements

PURPOSE: like what you do each day; motivated to achieve goals

SOCIAL: strong, supportive relationships and love in your life

FINANCIAL: effectively managing economic life - reduce stress, increase security

COMMUNITY: engagement where you live, like where you live, feeling safe and pride in community

PHYSICAL: good health and ability to get things done daily
DEFINING SUCCESS
Alumni Attachment
Strength of bond to alma mater
WHAT MATTERS
Six college experiences strongly related to graduates’ lives and careers

PEOPLE
1) Support from a professor who cares
2) Professor who got them excited about learning
3) Mentor who encouraged their dreams
WHAT MATTERS
Six college experiences strongly related to graduates’ lives and careers

ACTIVITIES
4.) Meaningful internship or job where they can apply classroom knowledge
5.) Worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete
6.) Active involvement in extracurricular activities
What kind of mentorship programs do you have?

How do you support student-faculty interaction outside the classroom?

What percentage of students are involved in internships/co-ops?

What do you do to promote student involvement in extracurricular activities?

How can students get involved in research or other long-term projects?
Welcome to the Gallup-Purdue Index

Putting the Gallup-Purdue Index into practice is critical. These checklists will help prospective students select the right university and, once on campus, make the most of their college experience on their way to a great job and great life.

- Gallup-Purdue Index Overview (PDF)
- Selecting a College - Engagement Matters
- Creating a Successful College Experience
SELECTING A COLLEGE — ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

A COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

The Gallup-Purdue Index, a recent survey of 30,000 U.S. college graduates, found that those who have achieved great jobs and great lives were more likely to be personally engaged with a faculty member, have participated in an internship, been involved in extracurricular activities and have graduated with minimal student debt. These findings hold true regardless of the type of four-year institution — public or private, non-profit college, a highly selective institution or a less selective institution; or a top 100 ranked school in U.S. News & World Report vs. other schools.

As you visit schools in search of the right fit, take these questions along, expect answers, and make an informed choice that will lead to a great job and a great life.

*Remember: This is only the first step. Students who actively engage in their college experience are more likely to see a return on their investment.

**FACULTY ENGAGEMENT**

- What kind of mentorship opportunities does the college/university offer, e.g., with faculty, graduate students or opportunity?
- What is the percentage of students involved in long-term projects, e.g., research opportunities for undergraduate students or semester-long projects?
- How are faculty members evaluated by the college/university? Is mentoring/direct interaction to support students one of the elements of evaluation?
- How does the college/university support faculty-student interaction outside the classroom, e.g., a faculty member joining a group of students for lunch, service learning, and faculty advising of student organizations?

**ASK ABOUT FACTORS THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOR YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE**

- Professors will ask me about learning.
- Instructors will care about me as a person.
- Mentors will encourage me to pursue my goals.
- Projects may take a semester or more to complete.
- Internships are available to apply what I learned in class.
- Extracurricular activities are available to contact me with students with similar interests and with opportunities to try something new.

Answers here will place the focus on the quality of your learning experience, those intangibles that can define your four years at college. You also will get a sense of the university’s emphasis in equipping your leadership and critical-thinking skills. The Gallup-Purdue Index showed that graduates with at least one professor who asked them about learning, cared about them as a person and was a mentor, have more than double the odds of being engaged at work after graduation and thriving in their lives. Make sure you are proactive in pursuing high-impact opportunities, and that the school you choose is committed to your success in these ways.

63% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAD AT LEAST ONE PROFESSOR WHO ASKED THEM ABOUT LEARNING.