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Where would I thrive?

Every kid in elementary school can't wait for middle school, then middle schoolers can't wait for high school, and high schoolers can't wait for college. We are always waiting for school to be fun and we hear all the older kids saying that it will be better when you get to this place. After we hear that it gets better we stop trying and that is why we tell the younger kids that it's better when you get up here because that's what we thought. If you go and find things that make your experience fun and worth it, then it will be better and that is why people say college is the best time of your life. You are finally going to school for something that you want a life in and that you enjoy doing, so you need to find the best school for you. I narrowed my search down to Drexel University, The University of Kansas, and Michigan-Flint. I am choosing the best college for me from who has the best cost, location, college life, diversity, health science undergraduate ranking, and physical therapy graduate ranking.

Drexel University

Drexel University - the home of the Dragons - is a smaller private research college placed in the middle of the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cost of tuition is \$53,868, the cost of fees is \$2,405, and the cost of room and board is \$16,008 ("Cost of Attendance"). So after you are getting in, you are spending \$72,281 on college. The campus in total is only 96 acres large and that is on the smaller side of college sizes, the average being between 2,000 to 7,000. This college is extremely small compared to any other college because it is located in the middle of the city and the size of the student body is only 13,490 which is not a lot of people ("How Does"). The average acceptance rate for Drexel is 79% ("Explore Drexel") which is really high for a lot of colleges, meaning I have a good chance of getting in. I like all the basic things about this college because it is close to home, so I would be able to come back a lot and see my friends or family. It is also in the middle of Philadelphia. It would be so nice to finally live in a somewhat big city and not a small town like York. A small campus is nice because you get to know everyone since there are so little of you, but 13,490 are still a lot of people and I don't know if I will know all of them. Since the

acceptance rate is so high, I have a really good chance of getting into Drexel and becoming a dragon for the next four years.

My undergraduate major is going to be health science and in that major Drexel ranks 5th out of 55 in the state and 79th out of 618 in the country("2020 Drexel."). This is actually the highest ranking I have for a health science undergraduate program of the three. Then for my graduate, I could continue at Drexel with their physical therapy graduate program. The ranking for that 53rd out of 217("The Best."), which is not a bad ranking although that is the lowest ranking of the 3 colleges I have picked out. So I might be switching colleges and doing an undergraduate here and a graduate somewhere else. The other things I looked at was diversity and college life, their diversity ranking in PA is 6th out of 106 and 73rd out of 1,583. Both of those ranking are incredibly good and I want a college that is going to give me a diverse look at life because of the people I meet there. The ranking for their college life is 22nd out of 111 in state and 463rd out of 1,579 in the country("Explore Drexel."). This is the middle one, meaning that I have one college with a lower and one with higher rankings than this one. College life is very important to me because I want a place where I can have fun at and that is not just a place for learning, but a place where you can make lifelong friends and go have fun at a killer party. The campus is only 101 miles away from my house, 2 hours and 3 minutes with no traffic. So I can come back and see my dad at least whenever I can and I can also see the few friends I would still have in high school. Honestly, the location is good and bad, good because I am so close to my dad. But bad because I am still in PA and so far away from my mom. I really want to get out of here and see something else that is not PA. I like this college a lot and it is a place that could really help my future with all of the great programs that they have. There is also a lot of diversity which is what I want. I want a place that doesn't only look at the world through one lens. This college could be very good for me, so I could definitely see myself coming here in a year.

The University of Kansas

The University of Kansas - giving the nickname KU to simplify the name - has a student body of 19,596 and is only 1,000. The size of the campus is smaller than the average, but the student body is larger than most which I think is good. It might be nice to be on a semi-big campus because there would be more people and more things to do. KU is located in the middle of Lawrence Kansas and it is not in the middle of a city, but there are still things to do close by. The acceptance rate of The University of Kansas is 92%("The University."), which almost guarantees me a

spot on their campus as long as I meet the freshman requirements. This is the highest acceptance rate of the three colleges and that is very helpful for me because if I end up choosing a different college I can fall back on this one. The annual tuition is \$27,050 for me because I am an out of state resident and then there are books for \$1,212, room and board for \$6,500 up to \$14,500 (“Cost of Attendance”). So this one costs a lot more than Drexel because there I was a resident of the state and here I am not, but they offer a lot of financial aid which will help if I get it. I really like this college. As of right now I think it is my number one. I just like all of the little things about it; the high acceptance rate, the big student body, and the fact that they give out a lot of financial aid because of the high costs.

KU has a division 1 football team and student section at their game. They pride themselves in all of the school pride the student show. Also since the campus is somewhat large there are a lot of different activities to participate in like marching band, band, choir, softball, theater, and sororities. I am a little biased with what I put down because those are all the things that I love to do and KU has all of them. But there are other organizations and clubs that I am not a part of that I would try out in college like volunteering more and joining more sports. Their ranking for student life is 2nd out of 22 in Kansas and 45th out of 1,579 in the country, which is very high and something that plays a big factor in my college picking process. Diversity is also something that I take into consideration because I want something different than what I was when I was growing up. I want different views and experiences and people. The ranking for KU’s diversity was 3rd out of 20 in the state of Kansas and 366th out of 1,583 (“2020 University.”), so it is not the best ranking in the country and it is the middle-ranking for the three colleges. But there are other things that make up for this college not being the most diverse like the amazing health science undergraduate and physical therapy graduate programs they have for their students. For health science, they ranked 5th out of 11 in state and 240th out of 618 in the country which is really good (“2020 University.”). Now it might not be as good of a ranking as Drexel, but their ranking for their physical therapy graduate ranking makes up for it. The ranking is 28th out of 217 (“The Best.”) which is amazing and right below all of the ivy league schools. This place would give me an amazing education when it comes to physical therapy and that is really what I want out of college. This campus is 1,081 miles away from home, so it is kind of a big change in scenery for me. But that is what I want, I want something different than what I grew up with and I think that this college could give it to me. It is far away from PA, but it is only a short plane ride away so I can come home.

Michigan-Flint

The University of Michigan-Flint costs about \$35,762 with in total; tuition is \$21,633, books and supplies are \$1,000, room and board are \$8,769, other fees are around \$432, and other expenses go up to \$3,928(“University of Michigan–Flint.”). This college costs the most out of the three colleges and they offer financial aid. But it is certain that you will get it and a lot of people here don’t. This college isn’t getting off to a good start, but there are other things that are good about this place. It is located in Flint Michigan and it isn’t near the city, so it is a little bit of a drive to go and do things. That can also be good, the school is away from other people so it wouldn’t be different for me since my high school is also in the middle of nowhere. Right now this college isn’t really my top choice because it is a lot of money and it would feel the same as my high school in the sense that there is nothing close to it. The acceptance rate for The University of Michigan-Flint is 65%(“Explore University.”), which is the lowest rate of the three colleges that I have and that means that it is harder for me to get into this one than the others. The campus is only 76 acres large and the general size of the student body is 6,097(“How Does?”), this is extremely small and nowhere near the average size of a campus or student body. This is the smallest campus and student body, so I would be able to get to know everyone that goes there and then I would also be able to know where everything is at the school. I am not really a fan of some of the basic things here like the cost, but I like the small campus because it is different than my huge high school.

This university is 533 miles away from my home, 8 hours and 29 minutes. I don’t know if I love that or hate it because it is far away and I would get a new experience, but at the same time I wouldn’t know anyone or anything. Things might be different out in Michigan like what they like to do could be different, but the student life out there is really good their ranking is 27th out of 50 in the state of Michigan and 696th out of 1,579. The diversity at this school is not the best, there is actually no ranking for the diversity of this school because this school is highly conservative. The rankings are actually 21st out of 53 in Michigan for the most conservative college and it is 560th out of 1,692 in the country for the most conservative colleges(“2020 University.”). These are good ranking, they seem to have a school that loves to support their teams like football and basketball. That is what I want, I want a school that is proud of their school even if the teams suck and that is a student body that I want to be a part of. Now this college is more for a physical therapy graduate school because there is no health science undergraduate at this

school, so I would still have to go to a different school for 4 years before coming here. Their ranking for the physical therapy graduate program is 46th out of 217 (“The Best.”), which is better than Drexel and not as good as KU though. If I were to go to this college I might go to Drexel for an undergrad and then come here for a graduate, so if I do go to this school, I need to have a plan for before this. So honestly this college doesn’t hit all the stops for me, but they can give me a good education and I have a good chance of getting in and it's a small campus. But other things like cost and lack of diversity is not really making this a college that would be my number one choice. So I don’t know if I am willing to go here. I picked this college knowing that it had a good educational path for me. I already know that this would only ever be a graduate college for me because the only thing I liked is the small campus/student body and good education.

College is the best time of our lives before we are thrown into the real world, so we have to make it special and a time we will always cherish. I want to go to a college that would be perfect for me and have all the things I want, it is going to be my perfect place. It is going to have good diversity, a great college life, a decent cost, a good location, and would give me a good education for my future. I chose the three colleges Drexel, KU, and Michigan-Flint because of the amazing educational path they could all give me. But after I chose those colleges and chose the standards I had, a clear path of which college I should go to formed. Drexel had a good health science undergrad, a good physical therapy graduate, a decent-sized campus and a student body. But the cost was so high for someone even in-state and also I want to get out of here, I want to leave PA and see something else in this country. I will miss my dad and my friends, but I need something different than this small town and PA. Michigan-Flint was really not that good in my opinion. The only thing that I truly liked was the great physical therapy graduate program and student life. The cost was so high and there wasn’t that good of a chance of me getting financial aid to help, there is no health science undergrad, and they are highly conservative when I want diversity. The University of Kansas had it all though. They had diversity, they had good health science undergrad, good physical therapy graduate, amazing student life, the cost is still high, but there is a high chance for financial aid. This college really had it all for me and it is in between my mom and dad’s house, so that is a big plus and I can go to either house easily. So I think that The University of Kansas (KU) is the place for me because it has everything that I want and I feel like I would have an amazing chance of getting a good job after I graduate. I am excited to learn more about KU from past and present students like the college admission students they put on their page to help future students decide. So I can start my future career off in a bright step, make new friends, see new places, and start a new life. I can’t wait for college and all

of the fun times it is going to bring me. The University of Kansas is making me excited to learn because the place is amazing and I am going to be learning about something I love.

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