

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Comparing higher education choices

There are a lot of options for continuing your education after you graduate from high school. With so many choices to consider, it's important to have information you need to decide what might work well for you.

Instructions

- 1** Visit the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard website (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>) to find colleges and universities near you.
- 2** Choose two schools to compare and contrast.
- 3** Answer the reflection questions.

Step 1. Do a college search

The College Scorecard site lets you to sort and filter schools based on features that are important to you. This makes it easier to compare schools and decide which one makes the most sense for you. You can begin by searching for schools based on location.

- a. On the College Scorecard (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>), click "Custom search." Under "Location," choose "Zip Code" and enter your zip code.
- b. Enter 100 in the "Distance in Miles" section.
 - You also can search for schools by state.
- c. Click the "Find schools" button at the bottom of the page.



Step 2. Compare schools

- Pick two schools to compare and click the plus sign next to each school's name.*
- Click the bar at the bottom of the page that says "Schools to compare and share" and then click the "Compare schools" button.
- To find the schools' student population size, click the "College Information" menu, and look under "School Information." The school's population is described as small, medium, or large and includes the number of undergraduate students.
- To see the schools' test scores, click the "Test Scores & Acceptance" menu.
- Enter information about the schools in the table below.

CHALLENGE

*Compare different types of schools, such as one public and one private school or one community college and one four-year school. The building icon under the school's name will show whether a school is private or public. Look for the "2-year" or "4-year" icon under the school's name to see whether it's a community college or a four-year school.

	Name of school 1:	Name of school 2:
Two-year or four-year school?		
Public or private?		
Average annual cost		
Overall graduation rate		
Student population size		
SAT/ACT score ranges (half of students had scores in this range)		
Majors that look interesting to you		

