**College & Career Planning Assignment Three: Contrasting Universities & Making a Choice**

**Rationale:**

There are sixteen institutions within the University of North Carolina System and thousands of other institutions around the world. You have a big decision to make – *Which university will you attend?* You decision should be based on a thoughtful analysis of all the relevant information. You must decide what factors are most important to you. For example, do you want to move or stay close to your current home? This may be the most important factor for some people. For other people, the reputation of the institution may be more important. This assignment is designed to help you identify and sort through the different factors involved and help you reason through an informed decision.

**The Assignment:**

**Part One: Collecting and Organizing Information**

The first part of this assignment involves collecting and organizing information as well as prioritizing your needs. You should use the table below as a tool to organize the information and to prioritize your needs. First, you must first pick at least two universities to consider. You may add additional columns and study as many universities as you wish. After you pick your universities, you must find the information in their literature / web pages and complete the table below. Use the cells under each university to make notes about the item in the first column. As you consider each item, rank its importance to you as *high, medium, low, unimportant*. You may use the sort feature to group your priorities together. You may add rows to include your individual needs that may not be addressed in this table. However, do not delete rows.

**Part Two: The Essay**

In a well-organized essay, contrast the universities you have chosen and describe your thought process as you picked the university of your choice. You must explain the reasoning behind picking your first choice university. In your explanation, you must explain why your top five priorities (at least) are most important to you.

**Grading:**

Your work will be graded according to the rubric found in course documents.

**Part One: Collecting and Organizing Information**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Priority | Type Name of University One Here | Type Name of University Two Here |
| What is the mission statement of the university? Is it in line with your philosophy and needs? |  | Type your information into these cells. |  |
| What is the universities reputation? In other words, how is it ranked in national reports or is the media attention it receives favorable? |  |  |  |
| How many faculty members are in the department? |  |  |  |
| How many undergraduate majors are in the department? |  |  |  |
| Is there a diverse faculty and student body? |  |  |  |
| Does the department have a good balance between teaching and research? |  |  |  |
| How would you describe the culture of the university? What kind of “culture shock” might you experience? |  |  |  |
| How old are the department’s facilities? Are they up-to-date? |  |  |  |
| What personal experience do you have with this university? |  |  |  |
| What have you learned about this university from your friends or family that factors into your thought process? |  |  |  |
| Does the department offer graduate degrees? |  |  |  |
| Are the faculty members active in their field of study? |  |  |  |
| What is your expected cost of tuition and fees? |  |  |  |
| What is the name of your major? |  |  |  |
| How do the programs of study differ? (List the classes you need to take to complete the degree.)  |  |  |  |
| Are foreign language courses required? |  |  |  |
| Are health / wellness / fitness courses required? |  |  |  |
| Is the university part of the CAA? |  |  |  |
| How will your classes from Forsyth Tech transfer? |  |  |  |
| Distance from your permanent address. How often will you come home? What will it cost? |  |  |  |
| Where will you stay? What is the estimated cost of room and board? |  |  |  |
| How difficult is it to find housing? |  |  |  |
| Will you be able to park on campus? What is the fee? |  |  |  |
| What unique opportunities exist within this department and university that you might be interested in. |  |  |  |
| Add your own items to consider. |  |  |  |
| Will your program of study at Forsyth Tech be different, depending on which university you choose? How so? How do you know? Explain.  |  |  |  |

**Part Two: Essay**

Type your essay here.