<table>
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<th>Types of Colleges</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Liberal Arts</th>
<th>Two-year and Vocational Programs</th>
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| Characteristics  | • four-year program  
• subsidized by state governments which allows for lower tuition for in-state students  
• often large in size  
• wide variety of program offerings  
• include liberal arts but also offer additional programs | • four-year program  
• often high tuition which can be countered by the school’s own financial aid  
• generally small to mid-sized  
• small classes and low faculty to student ratios  
• less emphasis on a specific degree; more centered around an appreciation for learning and the interconnectedness of all subjects | • two-year programs and certificate programs that are usually twelve to eighteen-month programs  
• also called community college, junior college, technical institute or trade school  
• academic pathways  
• career-oriented training that is focused and can be obtained quickly  
• very affordable if accessed through a public school |
| Academic Preparation | • range from open admission to more selective  
• English, social studies, science, math through algebra II and a year or two of a foreign language | • selective  
• Honors and Advanced Placement courses  
• four years of English, social studies, science, math through calculus and at least two years of a foreign language  
• GPA in the top 20% (or higher) of class | • open admission |
| Application Overview | • simple application process – paper or online  
• occasionally require personal statements or recommendation letters  
• ACT or SAT  
• submit FAFSA by school’s priority deadline | • most accept Common Application  
• personal essays  
• recommendation letters  
• submit FAFSA and CSS by school’s priority deadline  
• ACT or SAT (often with essay and sometimes SAT subject tests) | • simple application process – paper or online  
• no essays or letters of recommendation required  
• need to take placement test in lieu of SAT or ACT  
• submit FAFSA by school’s priority deadline |
| Typical Degrees | • Bachelor’s degrees  
• Master’s degrees  
• Doctorate degrees | • Bachelor’s degrees  
• some liberal arts schools offer Master’s degrees  
• often students go on to graduate school to pursue Master’s degrees and/or Doctorate degrees | • Associate degrees  
• Associate degrees can be used as a way to easily transfer into a four-year program to obtain a Bachelor’s degree  
• a variety of Certificates in technical and vocational fields of study such as mechanics, cosmetology, fire science, and health fields |