



## Which Graduate School is More Me?

“For we are God’s workmanship” (WHO we are), created in Christ Jesus, for good works (DO), which God prepared in advance for us to DO. ~ Ephesians 2:10

Using an identity based approach, we believe that knowing WHO you are (who you are in Christ, and who you are as a uniquely designed bearer of His image) not only comes first, but must be in alignment with what you DO and where you DO it at. This exercise is intended to help you figure out your *Who before Do*<sup>TM</sup> so you can make a grad school decision based upon your unique and God-given design.

Selecting the program that is right for you requires that you know not just what you want in the school you attend, but how important each of those values are. It’s a BIG decision, and we are dedicated to helping you make the choice that is best for you in alignment with WHO you are! This exercise should help you to think logically about your decision **and** take their feelings/intuition into account. Both sides of the brain help make the best decision. This exercise designed by Jennifer Fonseca will help you discover what is most important to you and will make the decision making process much easier!

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**Step 1:** Review the “Values Important in the School I Attend” list and circle or highlight the values that are most important to you in a university/program.

**Step 2:** Narrow your list down to a top 10. Yup, just 10. I know, it’s so hard but you can do it!

**Step 3:** Go to the “Graduate Schools I Am Considering” table. For each of the 10 values you selected, you will assign it a numeric value between 1 and 10 where 1 = not very important and 10 = very important. You are **not** ranking them in order, but deciding on a scale of 1 to 10 how important each is to you. This means multiple qualities may have the same number, but be honest with yourself: not every value is really a 10.

**Step 4:** Move to the top column and list all the universities you are considering or applying to.

**Step 5:** For each university you are considering, decide how congruent each of your 10 values is against each school. The Congruence Scale goes from +3 (very congruent) to -1 (very incongruent). Write that number in the white column for each school.

**Step 6:** It’s time to do a little math. Relax, it’s just multiplication and addition, and you can use your fingers or a calculator! First, multiply the value x congruence. So if your value of tuition is a 10 and its congruence to School #1 is a +3 then  $10 \times 3 = 30$ . If School #2 has a congruence of -1, then  $10 \times -1 = -10$ .

**Step 7:** After you have multiplied each value x congruency, it is time to total the shaded columns for each school. The school with the highest total is the one that most closely aligns with your values.

# Values Important in the School I Attend

This exercise is designed to engage you at a heart and head level. God uniquely designed you. Not everything you value is of equal importance. So let's see what is most important to you and plug it into the grid on the next page. Start here by identifying which top 10 values are **most** important to you in the college you attend.

|                                      |                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial                            | Advising Relationships Available | Faculty Specialization            |
| Cost                                 | Quarter/Semester Program         | Prestige of School                |
| Scholarships Available               | Practical Experiences Offered    | Academic Reputation               |
| Financial Aid Available              | Food Options on Campus           | Accreditation                     |
| Average cost of living in Area       | Parking / Parking Costs          | Professors                        |
| Job Opportunities                    | Campus Culture                   | Positions Alumni Have Held        |
| Assistantships/Internship/Externship | Gym/Workout Facility             | Job Placement Rate                |
| Location                             | Faith-based School               | Weight of School's Name           |
| Urban                                | Denomination of School           | Admissions                        |
| Suburban                             | Active Campus on Nights/Weekends | Competitiveness of Program        |
| Rural                                | Male-to-Female Student Ratio     | Admissions Deadline               |
| Online Classes Available             | Educational Accommodations       | Difficult Admission Standards     |
| Surrounding Community                | Private School                   | Rolling Admissions                |
| In-State College                     | Public School                    | Admissions Requirements           |
| Out-of-State College                 | Spiritual Focus                  | Acceptance Rate                   |
| Housing Options                      | Disability Services              | Other                             |
| Distance from support system         | Age Range of Entering Students   | Recommended by Professors/Advisor |
| Weather/Climate                      | Diversity of Student Body        | Recruited by. . .                 |
| Research                             | Physical Facilities              | I know someone there              |
| Faculty Publications & Research      | Academic                         | Friends Going to the School       |
| Research Facilities/Equipment        | Program I Want                   | Family member Attended the School |
| Research Opportunities               | Average Time to Complete Degree  | Child Care Options                |
| Research Funding Available           | Small Class/Program Size         | Positive Visit to the Campus      |
| Research-Focused Program             | Accessibility of Professors      | International Study Options       |
| School Preferences                   | Ability to Research with ____    | Post-Grad Advising/Support        |
| Small School Size                    | Hands-on Learning                |                                   |
| Medium School Size                   | Lecture-style Learning           |                                   |
| Large School Size                    | Grading System                   |                                   |

Something important to you isn't on the list above? Write it in. ☺

## Graduate Schools I am Considering (EXAMPLE)©

In the example below, School 1 comes out as the clear winner, since its overall total is 44. But why do this? Well, because pro/con lists aren't as helpful as you think. You don't value everything equally. This model allows you to compare schools you are considering based on what you value and how important those values are to you.

*+3 (Very Congruent) / +2 (Congruent) / +1 (Maybe Congruent) / 0 (Incongruent) / -1 (Very Incongruent)*

| Values           | Rank Each Individual Value (1 to 10) | School 1  |    | School 2  |    | School 3  |    | School 4  |    | School 5  |    | School 6 |   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|----------|---|
| Cost             | 8                                    | +3        | 24 | -1        | -8 | 0         | 0  | -1        | -8 | 2         | 16 | 0        | 0 |
| Small Class Size | 4                                    | -1        | -4 | +2        | 8  | +3        | 12 | +2        | 8  | 0         | 0  | 1        | 4 |
| Program I Want   | 8                                    | +3        | 24 | +3        | 24 | 1         | 8  | -1        | -8 | +2        | 16 | 1        | 4 |
| <b>Totals</b>    |                                      | <b>44</b> |    | <b>24</b> |    | <b>20</b> |    | <b>-8</b> |    | <b>32</b> |    | <b>8</b> |   |

## Graduate Schools I am Considering

| Values        | Rank Each Individual Value (1 to 10) | School 1 |  | School 2 |  | School 3 |  | School 4 |  | School 5 |  | School 6 |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|               |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
| <b>Totals</b> |                                      |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |

*+3 (Very Congruent) / +2 (Congruent) / +1 (Maybe Congruent) / 0 (Incongruent) / -1 (Very Incongruent)*