CHAPTER 6: EXPLORING EDUCATION

User Guide

Introduction

Exploring Education is a Career Visions module for searching for educational institutions (universities, technical colleges, special training schools) that meet your educational needs and desires.

This guide shows you the main screens you will see in Exploring Education.

Starting the Program

To start Exploring Education from Career Visions:
Click on the World of Learning button on the Main Menu and then click on the Exploring Education button on the World of Learning Main Menu.

To start Exploring Education from the stand-alone version:
Double-click the Exploring Education icon from the desktop.
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Main Screen
Click here to see schools
Click on the category titles to see the characteristics
Click here to see a list of the choices you’ve made
Click here to clear all your choices

Making Choices
Some categories have subcategories within them. To see these subcategories, click on one of the headers.
Rate a school feature by clicking on the radio buttons
Click on the Zoom Out button to return to the main screen
Click here to see schools
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Finding Schools that Offer a Program of Study

Click on a program area to see the list of programs for that area.

Click on the Zoom Out button to return to the main screen.

After clicking on a program area (see screen above), a list of programs will appear. Click on the program(s) in which you are interested and then click OK. After clicking OK, you will then be able to rate the programs you selected.
Searching for Schools that Have Athletic Programs

Click on an athletic program area to see the list of sports for that area.

After clicking on an athletic program area (see screen above), a list of athletic programs will appear. Click on the sport(s) in which you are interested and then Click OK.

Choose the division level here

Rate the sports programs here

Click on the Zoom Out button to return to the main screen
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Geographic Location

Click on the states in which you want to search for schools.

slider categories

Some categories require that you move a slider. Click on the thumbnail and drag to the level you desire. Then click on the radio button to make your rating.

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Application Deadline

When you click on a month, all the months after it will be highlighted. This will give you a list of schools which have an application deadline during or after the month you've selected.

Click on the Zoom Out button to return to the main screen.

Seeing Matching Schools

Click on the radio buttons to see matching schools.

Click on the tab bar to change your list.

Click here to change the sort order of your list.

Click on the Zoom Out button to return to the main screen.
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Clicking on this dial changes the kind of information you get when you click on a school. In this picture it’s set to Why Good. So, when you click on a school you will get information as to why this school is a Good match (see next screen).

Because the dial is set to Why Good, clicking on a school in the list will display the choices you’ve made and whether or not they match the selected school.

Seeing Matching Schools

Click on a school to get information on it
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Administrator's Guide

Overview
Exploring Education is a Career Visions module for locating postsecondary educational institutions that will satisfy the user's goals and educational requirements. Given a set of institutional characteristics, the user can:

• Assign any characteristic a ranking according to how important it is that a school match or not match that characteristic
• See a list of schools sorted according to how well each matches the user's choices.
• Get information about any of the schools
• Compare (in chart form) the characteristics of two to five schools at once
• Compare (in more detail) two schools side by side

The target audience includes users who:

• Have little experience or knowledge about postsecondary education
• Have considerable knowledge of what they want, but not where they can get it

Time Required for Use
An experienced Exploring Education user may take two or three minutes setup time, five to fifteen minutes to make choices, plus five to ten minutes per school accessed. An inexperienced user will need five to ten minutes setup time, twenty to thirty minutes to make choices, plus five to ten minutes per school accessed.

General Program Sequence
Some Exploring Education users will work back and forth between the characteristics and the list of schools. They may repeatedly make a choice, check the list, make another choice, and so on, and only occasionally access information about the schools at the top of the list. Other users will have a clear idea of what they are looking for and quickly select the characteristics that are important to them, and then examine those schools that best match their choices.

Links to Other Data
[Does not apply to stand-alone versions]
The screens that present school information include links to the Programs of Study database. A user could begin by getting information about the University of Illinois, for example, jump from there to information about Program of Study 6555 - Electrical, Electronics, and Communications Engineering, and could then jump from there to descriptions of other colleges that offer the program. The user could also jump to information about the occupations that are associated with a particular program. At any time the user could back up to Exploring Education and repeat the procedure for another occupation.
Scoring Formula
Many people get confused about how Exploring Education scores schools. This section explains all the details.

A school receives a certain number of points for matching each of the user's choices. (Important: To match a choice marked as "Dislike," the school must NOT involve that characteristic to a significant extent.) The points awarded for a match are:

Like A Lot 5
Like 3
Dislike 4

The maximum number of points a school could receive depends on how many characteristics the user has chosen, as well as the ranking the user gave each characteristic. The score for the school is found by dividing the number of points received by the maximum possible points given the user's choices, and multiplying by 100. Once a school is scored, it is put in either the Very Good category, the Good category, the Fair category, or the Poor category. Schools are placed in a particular category based on the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score of School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>85 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>70 to 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>50 to 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0 to 49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a school does not have a Required characteristic, it is automatically put in the Poor Category.
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Example:
School A doesn't offer Computer Science, is a private (nonreligious) school, and has a dress code.
School B offers Computer Science, is a private (nonreligious) school, and has no dress code.
School C offers Computer Science, is a public university, and has no dress code.
The user chooses:
• Like A Lot - Computer Science;
• Like - Private (Nonreligious) school;
• Dislike - Dress Code.
The maximum points a college could receive would be $5 + 2 + 3 = 10$.
School A receives 3 points: It doesn't match the user's choice for Computer Science;
Science, nor Dress Code. School A’s score would be \((3 / 10) \times 100 = 30\).
School B gets all 12 points: It involves both of the user’s positive choices, but has no dress code, the negative choice, so it matches all 3. School B’s score would be \((12 / 12) \times 100 = 100\).

School C receives 9 points: It matches the user’s choice for Computer Science & Dress Code, but not for Private (Nonreligious). School C’s score is \((9 / 10) \times 100 = 90\).

**Choosing Ranks**

The **Require** rank should be used very sparingly: You should impress this upon your students. A student who definitely wants to study Computer Science may indeed want to require that characteristic from the Programs of Study category; but in general, students should use the other rankings. You must also get them to use different ranks. A student who ranks every choice as Like A Lot is not going to get good discrimination in the school list. To see why, consider the scoring formula. Suppose a student has chosen three characteristics, ranking each of them as Like A Lot. Table 1 shows the possible scores for that set of choices. Table 2 shows the possible scores if the user changes the ranking of the 3rd choice to Like. Notice that there are only 4 possible scores in Table 1, but there are 6 possible scores in Table 2. This is because there are more unique ways to combine 5, 5, and 2 than there are ways to combine 5, 5, and 5.