

COLLEGIATE

CREATIVE

INTELLECTUAL

COLLEGE CULTURE

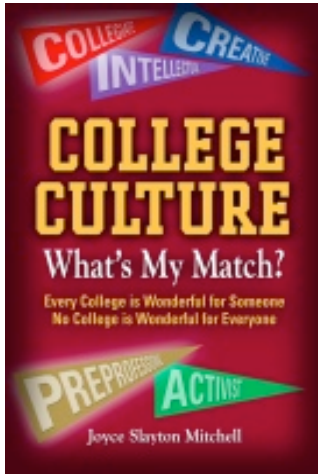
What's My Match?

**Every College is Wonderful for Someone
No College is Wonderful for Everyone**

PREPROFESSIONAL

ACTIVIST

Joyce Slayton Mitchell



Going beyond the rankings, majors, locations and the advice that high school students hear from everyone, College Culture: What's My Match? considers the kind of student life that feels right for the particular student. The principle of the book is based on the philosophy that every college is wonderful for someone. No college is great for everyone.

COLLEGE CULTURE

What's My Match?

Second Edition

by Joyce Slayton Mitchell

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COLLEGE CULTURE

WHAT'S MY MATCH?

by
Joyce Slayton Mitchell

What the College Admissions Deans' say about Joyce Slayton Mitchell and her college admissions advice and published books:

HARVARD “Mitchell’s wisdom makes her a legend in college admissions, particularly because she cares so deeply about the right ‘match’ for every student. She offers many great insights into the complexity of the college admissions process and what should be the overriding concerns of the vital issue of the match between the student and the college.”

—William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE “Joyce Slayton Mitchell has won my heart with this thoughtful and practical guide to the college admissions process. Her advice is straight up and free of gimmicks—a rarity found in today’s college admissions resource books.”

—Martha C. Merrill, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

NORTHWESTERN “Trust Joyce Slayton Mitchell. Her advice gives everyone—students, their parents, and their counselors—the ‘can do’ confidence to get through college admissions without meltdown. Read this book in sections and read some of it out loud. You’ll like what you hear. Ms. Mitchell knows the hearts—and minds—of students and their parents.”

—Sheppard Shanley, Senior Associate Director of Admissions

LYNN UNIVERSITY “It’s a how-to-with heart—less about gimmicks and more about caring for the student and his or her

experience of the admissions process. The approach is quite sane and really very helpful.”

—Delsie Z. Pillips, VP for Enrollment

CARLETON “Mitchell provides a strong personal advocacy for student decision making in the college-search process. If you can compare the search for the right college in 21st-century America to a wild, white water rafting ride, then you want this author as your river guide. There are . . . uncertainties, unseen rocks, and too many rapids among the many options facing young people in choosing a just-right college. Ms. Mitchell places the decision-making process squarely in the hands of . . . student[s] and provides the most useful tips for guiding their choice process. It is well done and [a] must read for every college-bound student.”

—Paul Thiboutot, Dean of Admissions

SMITH “Eight First Choices” makes a scientist out of the high school senior who sets out to collect data until she finds her eight perfect matches. America’s vast college resources are highlighted as this book shows students how to measure all of our different campus cultures.”

—Audrey Y. Smith, Director of Admission

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN “This is one of the finest publications about college admissions that has come out in some time. The author was able to apply her extensive knowledge of the real issues that create anxiety among students and parents and artfully provide an effective road map to help students navigate their way though the college admission process.”

—Ted Spencer, Director of Admissions

MACALESTER “Mitchell offers a primer on how to help the deans get to know you. She convincingly makes the point that the

key to ending up with a satisfying final college choice relies on the student's approach to the process—critical self-examination, thorough research, complete investigation, plenty of organization, and an open mind throughout.”

—Lorne T. Robinson, Dean of Admissions

DUKE “For many years Joyce Slayton Mitchell has given outstanding advice to families seeking guidance through the college admissions maze. And we in the admissions profession have enjoyed her valuable insights, sharp opinions, and clear writing as she has examined the college selection process. This thoughtful and well-organized book, which distills her years of experience, is no exception.”

—Christoph Guttentag, Director of Admissions

DICKINSON COLLEGE “After thirty years in college admissions, including at Colgate and Johns Hopkins, I know that highly selective college admissions has become superficial—colleges are now arrogant (‘maybe you just might be good enough to get in, maybe not’) and the students are myopic (‘I must get into an Ivy university or I will be nothing’). And in my thirty years, I have read countless books claiming an insider’s view and advice. Way too much clutter for profit, and too short on sound advice that is student centered. Enter Joyce Slayton Mitchell and *Eight First Choices*. This is a must read for the very bright student who thinks ‘Prestigious U’ is the only place for her, as well as the above average student who is scared to death that he won’t be accepted anywhere. Mitchell tells it like it is—it’s about the students’s learning style and educational objectives, and about discovering the range of college options to find the right fit. I speak often and around the country on the same topics. Nobody does it better than Mitchell.”

—Robert J. Massa, Vice President for Enrollment

Haverford “Joyce Slayton Mitchell is very knowledgeable about the constant changes in the admission profession. Her overall expertise and emphasis on student ownership of the admission process is invaluable for anyone applying to selective colleges and universities.”

—Michael J. Keaton, Senior Associate Director of Admission

University of Pennsylvania “This is the only book that puts you, as the college applicant, at the center of the admissions process. Eight First Choices will encourage you to be philosophical, thoughtful, and strategic about your college choices.”

—Eric J. Kaplan, former Director of Admissions

Rice “The most interesting and practical guide I have read in many years. A ‘must read’ for students and parents entering the college admission process.”

—Richard N. Stabell, former Dean of Admission

Indiana University “What a terrific resource for students and families! Eight First Choices is such a comprehensive, balanced, step-by-step guide to the college selection process, with an emphasis on the research and self-assessment necessary for assuring a good match. Use the extensive expertise and personal knowledge of Joyce Slayton Mitchell as you begin and complete your college search!”

—Mary Ellen Anderson, Director of Admissions

Stanford “Joyce Slayton Mitchell is a real teacher. She uses the college selection process as a learning experience for students. She tells her students up front that they are going to learn a great deal about themselves and what’s important to them. As a result,

they have a much better college selection experience. For students and parents undertaking the college application process, I can think of no better guide. This book distills [Mitchell's] wisdom into 208 pages, and provides a most valuable piece of sanity and wisdom.”
—Robin Mamlet, former Dean of Admission

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH “*Eight First Choices* offers wise advice about the college search process culled from decades of counseling experience by Joyce Slayton Mitchell. This stress-busting book infuses the reader with hope and energy on the first premise, ‘you are in charge,’ provides practical advice on how to make this happen, and ends with the affirmation, ‘be authentically and specifically you.’ Mitchell’s indeed right, selecting the right college can and should be an adventure in self-learning and she provides a step-by-step practical guide to getting the job done right. Give yourself a gift – make full use of this expert’s advice.”
—Betsy Porter

EMORY “During my twenty-one years at Emory, I have benefited greatly from Joyce Slayton Mitchell’s wise, accurate, and compassionate view of college admissions. Listen to what she says; she gets it right and she knows what’s most important in all of this: the students!”
—Scott L. Allen, Associate Dean, Director of International Recruitment

COLGATE “There are those who have been trying to sell their publications by trying to lead college-bound applicants and their families into believing that making the best college selection is as simple as reading a list or two of ill-conceived rankings. For the applicant who is serious about doing meaningful research and reading valuable suggestions about how to indentify colleges and universities that could be ideal matches, Joyce Slayton Mitchell’s

excellent book is exactly what they should be reading. The bottom line, though, is that *Eight First Choices* is a terrific piece of work.”
—Gary L. Ross, Dean of Admissions

WESLEYAN “This book brings the advice of one of the great college counselors to many who need it most—and haven’t typically had the advantage. You could read the first five pages and be a leg-up in the process. But don’t stop there! JSM knows what she is talking about, writes clearly in an easy-to-follow format, and shares very good, practical information that will help every student be successful in making the next step to college. I have given many copies to friends and family to help pave the way for a successful college search.”

—Nancy Hargrave Meislahn, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

DARTMOUTH “A thoughtful and well-done book. Joyce Slayton Mitchell knows of what she speaks.”

—Karl M. Furtenberg, former Dean of Admissions

College Culture: What's My Match?
By Joyce Slayton Mitchell

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Joyce Slayton Mitchell

10-STEP COLLEGE QUIZ

Who is this kid behind that GPA and those SAT scores?
The colleges want to know. You want to know!

FIND YOUR MATCH!

Talking to a sophomore at the University of Maryland, the young man explained, “I transferred for the architecture program and they dropped it for financial reasons my first semester.” “Why didn’t you transfer?” “Because I love it here!” Students leave college because they don’t fit in. They stay because it’s a great match, the place where they can relax enough to feel confident as they live and learn at their best. Where will you fit in? What’s the best campus culture for you? The person you want to be. Take this 10-Step Quiz and find out – choose one for each question.

1. What is your favorite school club or activity?
 - a. SAT prep group
 - b. environmental club
 - c. sports
 - d. philosophy club
 - e. music or drama club

College Culture: What's My Match?

2. You're planning Friday night with your friends, do you go with the kids to the:
 - a. battle of the bands
 - b. USA-China exchange student program
 - c. high school arts festival
 - d. science fair workshop
 - e. climate change film

3. What was or is your favorite subject in junior year?
 - a. art, music, or dance class
 - b. chemistry or physics
 - c. social science
 - d. history
 - e. English literature

4. What kind of student are you?
 - a. I like to read and discuss in small study groups everything an author writes
 - b. I like time and space to try new mediums and designs for my ideas
 - c. I like to study in the library until I really understand my homework before I relax

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- d. I like to do my homework and leave plenty of time to work on my community service projects
 - e. I study my favorite subjects and don't mind winging it once in a while for the rest
5. What's your favorite sport or recreation activity?
- a. the gym: treadmill, rowing machine, weights
 - b. biking, kayaking, camping out
 - c. team sports: football, basketball, and baseball
 - d. tennis, swimming, and the gym
 - e. yoga, dance
6. What do you consider your best quality to highlight on your college application?
- a. curiosity
 - b. imagination
 - c. work ethic
 - d. compassion
 - e. loyalty
7. When you daydream about Saturday night at college, what will you be doing?

College Culture: What's My Match?

- a. fund-raising for a water purification group
 - b. cheering for the home team
 - c. attending a Dostoevsky lecture
 - d. attending the city philharmonic concert
 - e. attending an event for medical research internships
8. You are filling out your housing form for college. Where will you want to live?
- a. a condo near campus
 - b. theme house on campus
 - c. fraternity or sorority house
 - d. living and learning center
 - e. downtown apartment
9. Imagine walking on campus and it begins to snow, what are you talking about?
- a. the ski report for Saturday
 - b. the Jean-Paul Sartre film on Saturday
 - c. the winter photography show
 - d. selling pizzas in the dorms for all of the snow-bounds this weekend
 - e. the special needs at the soup kitchen this weekend

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10. What kind of friends do you hope to have when you get to college?
- a. innovative friends who like to go to performances and art galleries
 - b. serious friends who are in college to get ahead in the world
 - c. friends who take action for justice
 - d. friends who show up at the games and know how to have a good time
 - e. friends who rather socialize with a few than party with a crowd

KEY

	Red	Purple	Blue	Gold	Green
1	c	d	e	a	b
2	a	b	c	d	e
3	d	e	a	b	c
4	e	a	b	c	d
5	c	d	e	a	b
6	e	a	b	c	d

College Culture: What's My Match?

7	b	c	d	e	a
8	c	d	e	a	b
9	a	b	c	d	e
10	d	e	a	b	c

Circle each letter you chose for all ten questions. Go down each vertical color column, starting with question one through question ten, and give yourself ten points for each letter that you chose. Add them up! Let's say you have 7 red, 2 gold, and 1 blue. That would be 70 % Collegiate, 20% Pre-professional, and 10% Creative. Match your scores with the campus culture descriptions below.

COLLEGE CULTURE DESCRIPTIONS

Red = Collegiate campus culture such as University of Texas, Duke, Northwestern, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, or smaller and collegiate such as Colgate, Denison, and Wake Forest. A campus culture where you will find big sports, fraternities, and where you will talk about sports, parties, and friends between classes and in the dorms;

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Purple = Intellectual campus culture such as Carleton, Chicago, Grinnell, Pomona, and Swarthmore where you and your friends will spend your time talking about books you've read, where you will continue your discussions from class, argue and debate about academics, politics, and economics;

Blue = Creative campus culture for design and performing arts majors such as conservatories Julliard and Oberlin or design schools such as Rhode Island School of Design, Savannah School of Arts and Design where you and your friends will talk and sing between classes and in the dorms about the arts, practice sessions, gallery openings, fashion and upcoming performances;

Gold = Pre-professional campus culture where you and your friends talk between classes and in the dorms about GPAs, MCATs, GREs, LSATs, M.B.A.'s, start-up companies, Steve Jobs, the global economy, medical and law school, business, engineering and architecture schools, such as Cornell, UNC, Stanford, Wharton, MIT, Berkeley, University of Illinois, SUNY: Buffalo, and Carnegie Mellon;

College Culture: What's My Match?

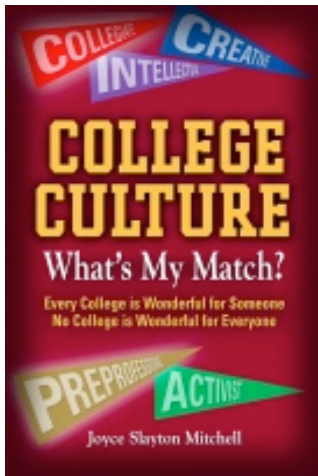
Green = Activist campus culture where your friends and you will protest, organize, demonstrate, boycott, and talk about human rights, animal rights, environmental, and climate issues between classes, in the dorms, and on the quad such as Grinnell, Haverford, Oberlin, Pitzer, and Wesleyan.

How did you do? Are you strongest in Collegiate? Second in Pre-professional? Is an Activist culture important to you? Remember that these categories are determined by what students talk about outside of the classroom. You know, at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Between classes, in the dorm, the locker room, the student union, at the games, having a coffee, in the library and everywhere you will go. Campus culture is the heart of student life on campus.

Think about it. Does it make sense? With your best campus cultures match in mind, you are now ready to research the colleges with the most “you” in the campus culture as an important ingredient of how you choose where you will apply to go to college. Campus Cultures: What's My Match? will help you to find more information about your match, the mix of campus cultures on campus, and how to think about everything you need to

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know about your college choices beyond rankings, major, and location.



Going beyond the rankings, majors, locations and the advice that high school students hear from everyone, College Culture: What's My Match? considers the kind of student life that feels right for the particular student. The principle of the book is based on the philosophy that every college is wonderful for someone. No college is great for everyone.

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