The social and individual benefits of a college education are manifold. Given this reality, it is important to understand the college-going process, how and why some students successfully navigate it, and what policies and programs can help students from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds overcome barriers to college access and entry. In this context, EDHI 665 examines critical questions pertaining to who goes to postsecondary education and the type of postsecondary institution she/he may attend. The course begins with an examination of the theoretical perspectives that are used to understand college choice and enrollment processes. It ends with an examination of outreach programs and the impact of college on students. Students will have the opportunity to apply theories and perspectives by conducting interviews and doing a comprehensive review of the literature on a college choice topic of their interest.

This course, College Access and Choice, blends theory, policy, and practice, and should be useful for both emerging scholars and practitioners. At the conclusion of the course:

- Students will be familiar with college choice theory and how it can be applied to influence policy and individual student cases
- Students will understand how and why grades K-12 are closely linked to postsecondary education
- Students will be familiar with the demographic characteristics of both college students as well as individuals who never apply to college
- Students will understand the various pathways to college and to a baccalaureate degree
- Students will understand the community college student experience, and barriers and determinants to transfer
- Students will have identified important research questions related to college access and choice
- Students will have had the opportunity to meet and network with several influential researchers and policymakers who work on issues related to college access and choice
- Students will be familiar with a variety of resources for finding information about colleges and recent policy movements to improve the information available.
Course Topics

- Pathways to postsecondary education
- Conceptual frameworks for examining college choice processes
- Outreach programs & their assessment
- Review of research on key factors on college choice
  - The role of the school and the community
  - The role of preparation for college
  - The role of culture and family
  - The role of information
- Perspectives on college enrollment
- Pathways to college completion
- Transfer

Required Texts


Recommended Texts


Required Assignments

All assignments must be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and in 12-pt. font. Please use APA style for references and formatting. You can find these guidelines in the *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association*. If you do not own this book, it should be available in most libraries.

Use scholarly references – your work should be based on peer review scholarship and academic books and news sources such as *The Chronicle of Education*. Sometimes sources from the popular media are appropriate; however, be critical in assessing their worth. Do not cite work that you have not read, and only cite work in your reference list that you have used in your assignment.
**Ongoing Assignment: Class Participation (10%)**: For each class, students must bring one question that captures a critical reflection of the readings. These questions will be used to prompt class discussion. Students are also expected to fully participate in in-class discussion, Canvas discussion and debate; in this aspect, quality is always valued much more than quantity, and respect is a necessity at all times. From time to time, students will be asked to do presentations on particular topics (e.g., student populations, outreach programs, conceptual frameworks). Finally, students are expected to attend all classes unless their absence is justified for religious or health reasons, participation in academic conferences, or family or work-related emergencies. Students who cannot attend class for justified reasons can work with the Professor and TA to make up credit missed as a result of their absence.

**Assignment #1: College Choice Interview Paper & Presentation (30%)**: This assignment is intended for you to synthesize the different perspectives about college choice and how personal experiences influence the selection of a particular postsecondary institution. Interview a traditionally aged (18 – 24) college freshman about his or her college choice process. Using conceptual frameworks and research evidence discussed in class complete a short essay (2-4 pages) describing your interviewee’s college choice experiences and how it compares and/or contrasts the present models and theories in the literature. Make certain that your paper discusses implications for theory and practice as part of the conclusion section. Tables and references do not count in the page limit. Please use pseudonymous instead of the true subject’s name. The oral presentation is due on **February 28**. The short paper is due on **March 7**. Examples of the paper will be posted on Canvas.

**Assignment #2: Annotated Bibliography (20%)**: Develop an annotated bibliography of 5-10 books or scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles pertaining to a topic of college access or choice. The articles to be summarized should have been published in a top refereed journal. This assignment is closely related to the term paper. The annotated bibliography is due on **April 11**. Examples of the annotated bibliography will be posted on Canvas.

**Assignment #3: Final Term Paper & Presentation (40%)**: Trace the roots, present status, and future trends affecting an important current or emerging issue dealing with college choice or access. This assignment consists of two parts worth 20 points each: a) oral presentation, and b) term paper (to be completed either individually or on a group basis). Detailed guidelines will be provided in a separate handout later in the semester. Each component of the paper should address the following issues: 1. **Introduction**: Provide a clear and direct statement of the topic under review; include a brief description of the significance of the postsecondary issue, its roots and present status. Use statistics and opinions by experts to illustrate the importance of the topic. 2. **Literature Review**: Identify, explain and discuss the conceptual framework(s) or perspective(s) that deal with your topic. Describe and summarize what is known about the topic under investigation; avoid presenting only abstracts. It is likely that you are going to find contradictory findings and points of view; present both of them. Not all studies need to be discussed in detail. If applicable, provide a summary of relevant legislation and court cases pertaining to your topic while describing why they are relevant. 3. **Conclusion**: Indicate the extent to which findings answered your research question. What patterns did you observe? Can the findings be generalized? What are the limitations in the studies reviewed? Indicate if and what additional research is
needed. Support your comments with references to relevant literature. This section should also
discuss the practical (e.g. educational programs and practices) and theoretical implications of your
findings while addressing those future trends that are likely to affect the educational issue under
consideration. **FORMAT.** The paper should be typed and carefully edited. The document should
not exceed 30 pages. Citations, format and references should follow the APA style. **Oral
presentations start on April 25 and end on May 9.** All papers are due **April 25, 2013.** Students
can turn in completed and proofread manuscripts 2 weeks before the due date for unprejudiced
reviews. Examples of the written report will be posted on Canvas.

**Grading Criteria**
Each written assignment will be graded on the following criteria:
- Organization, Logic, & Development of Ideas
- Writing Clarity & Quality
- Soundness of Analysis
- Relevance & Quality of Literature Review
- Thoughtful Discussion of Implications to Policy & Practice
- Accurate Formatting, Referencing, and Style
- Well-Reasoned Justification of Topic Choice (Final Term Paper Only)

**Assessment Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>% OF GRADE</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Every Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment # 1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Presentation: February 28</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Paper: March 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment # 2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>April 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment # 3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Presentation: April 25 or May 9</td>
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<td>Paper: April 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Important note:** A penalty of 10% will be applied to all assignments turned in after the deadline.

It is your responsibility to inform me before class if you will not be able to attend, be late, or will
need to leave early.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>94-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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**Absence Due to Religious Holidays or Academic Conferences**
You will not be penalized because of your religious beliefs and observances. Whenever possible, you will be given reasonable time to make up any academic assignment that is missed due to a religious obligation or observance. Please inform me of any conflicts between the course schedule and religious observances as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

This is the case for participation in academic conferences as well. I am aware of when most academic conferences are and have tried to make sure that assignments do not conflict with those dates. However, should there be a conflict please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements.

**Inclement Weather**

Official closures and delays are announced on the university Web site ([www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu)) and on the snow phone line, 301-405-SNOW (7669).

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication will not be tolerated and will be reported to the University. Additional information on the Code of Academic Integrity is available on the web at: [http://www.she.umd.edu/code.html](http://www.she.umd.edu/code.html).

**Special Needs**

If you have a documented disability or any other special need and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. The University is obligated, whenever possible, to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Students who have questions about their rights or accommodations may contact the Disability Support Service at 301-314-7682 or [http://counseling.umd.edu/DSS/](http://counseling.umd.edu/DSS/). Disability Support Services is located in Shoemaker 0126.

**Course Contingency Plan**

Should an emergency arise that closes the University for an extended period of time, I will be in contact, if possible, with additional instructions. Assignment due dates and readings may be altered depending on the length of time class might be canceled.

**Course Evaluation**

As a member of our academic community, you as a student have a number of important responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to submit your course evaluations each term through CourseEvalUM in order to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning at Maryland. Please watch for the dates the system will open for evaluation of the semester and make a note of the link at which you can access the submission system: [https://www.courseevalum.umd.edu/](https://www.courseevalum.umd.edu/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic or important activity</th>
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</table>
| January 24  | **Introduction**  
Distribute assignment #1: college choice  
- Factors mattering most on the pathways to postsecondary education.  
- Transfer  
- The college choice process  
- College choice information resources and tools – an overview (e.g., College Navigator, Net Price Calculators)  
- Aspirations, preparation & enrollment  
  - The role of the school  
  - The role of family and the community  
  - The role of ability to pay  
- Bridging the K-12 – postsecondary education gap  
  - Outreach policies & programs                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| January 31  | **Pathways to postsecondary education**  
Central questions:  
What are the pathways to postsecondary education?  
- How different students follow different pathways  
  - Lowest SES students  
  - First generation college students  
  - Minorities  
- What matters most for at each milestone on the pathway to postsecondary education?  
**Movie: The College Track: Who’s In, Who’s Out**  
**In class exercise: On the path to college**                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| February 7  | **Conceptual frameworks on college choice: The economic perspective**  
- Enrollment decisions as a result of cost/benefits considerations  
- Elements of enrollment management  
- The role of financial aid as an enrollment management tool  
Central questions:  
What role ability to pay plays in making decisions about attending college?  
**In class exercise: Choosing colleges given different student aid packages and tuition costs.**  
**Submit list of tentative topics for term project**                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| February 14 | **College choice: conceptual frameworks**  
- College choice as stages  
- College choice as a process  
- College choice as a nested process  
Central question:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic or important activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td><strong>College choice: Bridging K-12 with postsecondary education</strong>&lt;br&gt;Central questions:&lt;br&gt;What kinds of outreach programs are out there?&lt;br&gt;Who benefits from such programs?&lt;br&gt;What are the characteristics of successful outreach programs?&lt;br&gt;How can K-12 and PSE institutions collaborate to help these outreach programs succeed?&lt;br&gt;Tentative Guest Speaker: Kim Cook, Executive Director, National College Access Network (NCAN)</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td><strong>College choice: The role of the school and the community</strong>&lt;br&gt;Linked High School Counseling with College Counseling&lt;br&gt;Central questions:&lt;br&gt;What role does the <strong>school</strong> play in the college choice process?&lt;br&gt;What role does <strong>counseling</strong> play in the college choice process?&lt;br&gt;What role does the <strong>community</strong> play in the college choice process?&lt;br&gt;What role does <strong>information literacy</strong> play in college choice process?&lt;br&gt;What is building a <strong>school culture of college going</strong> all about?&lt;br&gt;Show the movie: The college track: Expect the best&lt;br&gt;Assignment # 1 written report due&lt;br&gt;Guest Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Professor and Chair, Department of Counseling and Human Services, John Hopkins University</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td><strong>College choice: The role of preparation for college</strong>&lt;br&gt;Central questions:&lt;br&gt;What role preparation for college plays?&lt;br&gt;How curricular activities matter?&lt;br&gt;Are college preparatory programs effective?&lt;br&gt;Guest Speakers: Dr. Jennifer Engle, Director of Higher Education Research and Policy, Education Trust, and Greg Darnieder, Special Advisor on College Access to Secretary Arne and former Director of the Department of College and Career Preparation for Chicago Public Schools.</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td><strong>Spring break</strong></td>
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<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic or important activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td><strong>College choice: The role of culture &amp; family</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Central questions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What enables individuals to be prepared for college?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What role does culture play?</td>
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<td>- What role does family play?</td>
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<td><strong>Show the movie: Éxito escolar (Academic Success)</strong></td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td><strong>College enrollment: conceptual frameworks</strong></td>
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<td>Central questions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What motivates individuals to enroll in postsecondary education?</td>
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<td>- Who attends postsecondary institutions? (Who’s in and Who’s out?)</td>
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<td>- Where do students go?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What happens to students when they go to institutions of PSE? (How do PSEs affect students?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td><strong>Transfer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central questions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What matters most in transferring to a four-year degree institution?</td>
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<td>- What is the impact of community college attendance on baccalaureate attainment?</td>
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<td>The Community College Transfer Calculator</td>
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<td><strong>Annotated bibliography due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Potential Guest Speaker:</strong> Dr. Teri Hollander, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Maryland System</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td><strong>Pathways to degree completion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central questions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What matters most in securing a baccalaureate degree?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What is the role of financial aid in degree completion?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What are the pathways to a college for minority and low-SES students?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- How stable financial aid packaging impacts the college experience across time?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- What is the completion agenda and who is involved? What are the potential unintended consequences of a policy focus on student completion?</td>
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<td><strong>Show the movie: First generation freshman by John Merrow. Podcast # 27.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td><strong>Student presentations start</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Term paper due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td><strong>No class - AERA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td><strong>Student presentations end</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

January 24: COURSE OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTIONS

REQUIRED READINGS

RECOMMENDED READINGS

January 31: PATHWAYS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

REQUIRED READINGS

RECOMMENDED READINGS

February 7: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS: THE ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

REQUIRED READINGS
Chapter 1. **Textbook. Start with this reading**


Also explore the following websites:

- College Measures: [http://www.collegemeasures.org/4-year_colleges/home/](http://www.collegemeasures.org/4-year_colleges/home/)

### RECOMMENDED READINGS


### February 14: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS: THE COLLEGE CHOICE PROCESS

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Chapter 1. **Textbook.**

**RECOMMENDED READINGS**

**February 21: OUTREACH PROGRAMS: BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN K-12 & POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**RECOMMENDED READINGS**

**February 28: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**
*Oral report of assignment # 1 is due.*

**March 7: COLLEGE CHOICE: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY**
*Written report of assignment # 1 is due.*

**REQUIRED READINGS**
MacAllum, K., Glover, D., Queen, B., & Riggs, A. (2007). Deciding on Postsecondary Education: Final


RECOMMENDED READINGS


March 14: COLLEGE CHOICE: THE ROLE OF PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE

REQUIRED READINGS


RECOMMENDED READINGS


March 21: **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

March 28: **THE ROLE OF CULTURE & FAMILY**

**REQUIRED READINGS**


**RECOMMENDED READINGS**


April 4: **COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS**

**REQUIRED READINGS**


RECOMMENDED READINGS

April 11: TRANSFER
Annotated Bibliography Due

REQUIRED READINGS
Start with this reading

RECOMMENDED READINGS

April 18: PATHWAYS TO DEGREE COMPLETION
REQUIRED READINGS
Start with this reading.


Also explore the following website:
http://completionagenda.collegeboard.org/
http://www.completecollege.org/

RECOMMENDED READINGS


April 25: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Final Paper Due

May 2: AERA - NO CLASS

May 9: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS