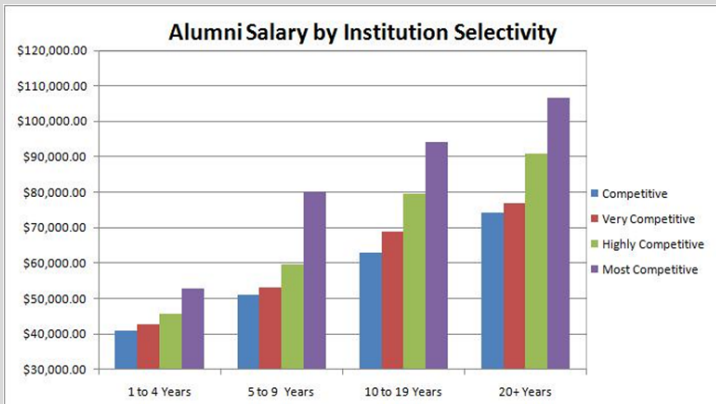


# Why Attend Highly Selective, Private Liberal Arts Colleges?



"Why Students Want To Go To Harvard," The Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 17, 2011.

## During Economically Difficult Times....

"[T]here are two main reasons college costs aren't usually a problem for those who graduate. First, many colleges are not very expensive, once financial aid is taken into account.... Second, the returns from a degree have soared. Three decades ago, full-time workers with a bachelor's degree made 40 percent more than those with only a high-school diploma. Last year, the gap reached 83 percent. College graduates, though hardly immune from the downturn, are also far less likely to be unemployed than non-graduates."

"Even for Cashiers, College Pays Off," N.Y. Times, June 25, 2011

## On Highly Selective/Elite Colleges...

"... 'Strong evidence emerges of a significant economic return to attending an elite private institution... and some evidence suggests this premium has increased over time.' ...[T]he results are clear: attending an elite school confers definite financial advantages... in the last few years a combination of factors have led private colleges and universities to alter their financial aid policies to ease the burden on middle-class families who are unable to afford the full tuition. One such change is to deemphasize the use of college loans, so that students don't graduate with a crippling debt load."

"Are Elite Colleges Worth It? Cornell economics professor weighs the value of higher education," Ithaca Times and Finger Lakes Community Newspapers, Feb. 23, 2011.

## On College ...

"The average take-home pay of college graduates is nearly twice that of their high school counterparts ... Even factoring in student-loan payments, college graduates make more in their first year of work than those with only high school diplomas ... Over 40 years, the college graduate's earnings would top that of a high-school counterpart by more than \$1 million."

"College degree is still worth the (very considerable) cost," N.Y. Times, Dec. 28, 2011

# Why Attend Highly Selective, Private Liberal Arts Colleges?

## On Highly Selective Colleges and Under-Represented Students ...

"[Regarding] black students, Latino students, low-income students and students whose parents did not graduate from college[:] 'For them, attending a more selective school increased earnings significantly,' Mr. Krueger has written. Why? Perhaps they benefit from professional connections they would not otherwise have. Perhaps they acquire habits or skills that middle-class and affluent students have already acquired in high school or at home."

"Revisiting the Value of Elite Colleges," N.Y. Times, May 3, 2011.

## Factors that Make a Liberal Arts Education Work:

- Faculty commitment to teaching and interacting with students.
- Opportunities to participate in research projects.
- Intimacy of and opportunity for peer interaction.
- Opportunities for leadership.
- A broader exposure to activities and experiences.
- Accessible support services.
- An historic and articulated sense of the college.
- A strong commitment to developing essential skills.
- Synthesis of teaching and research.
- Small classes.
- Less emphasis on multiple-choice exams.
- Engagement in the classroom and on campus."

Greene & Green, *The Hidden Ivies* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2009), pp. 17-19.

## On Liberal Arts Colleges ...

"[A liberal arts education seeks to help students develop] a high degree of intellectual literacy and critical-thinking skills; a sense of moral and ethical responsibility to one's community; and the ability to reason clearly, to think rationally, to analyze information intelligently, to respond to people in a compassionate and fair way, to continue learning new information and concepts over a lifetime, to appreciate and gain pleasure from the beauty of the arts and literature and to use these as an inspiration and a solace when needed, to revert to our historical past for lessons that will help shape the future intelligently and avoid unnecessary mistakes, and to create a sense of self-esteem that comes from personal accomplishments and challenges met with success...."

"A liberal arts education challenges students' conceptions and pushes them to ask difficult questions, question established answers, and develop their own arguments through logical reasoning and the discovery of new understandings. A liberal arts education helps a student specialize in at least one particular area, but also to see and make connections among multiple fields of inquiry."

Greene & Greene, *The Hidden Ivies* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2009), pp. 12-13.