

Public Abstract

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Graduation Year: 2006

Title: Factors Influencing the College Choice of African-American Students Admitted to the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

The purpose of this study was to describe factors contributing to the college choice of African-American students admitted to the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) at the University of Missouri - Columbia (MU). The population for this study was of 22 African-American students admitted to CAFNR at the University of Missouri – Columbia for the Fall 2005 semester. The response rate for matriculants was 58% and for non-matriculants it was 20%.

The data revealed little difference in admission criteria between matriculants and non-matriculants. When compared to African-American residents, non-Missouri residents were less likely to attend MU. The most used and most useful source of information for matriculants was a visit to campus. The most influential institutional characteristic for matriculants was availability of scholarships. Relatives who attended MU were the most influential on the matriculants' college decision to attend MU. Campus residential halls were most influential on social interactions for matriculants and 70% of these students began the college choice process in the tenth grade.