

This year's most promising dating apps

Whether you're looking for farmers or salads, there's an app for that

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College is the perfect time to meet people and see what's out there. In today's world where many interactions occur online, dating apps are a great way to find relationships, hookups and new friends.



TINDER

As one of the most well-known dating apps, Tinder is a great place to look for potential relationships, hookups and friends. Despite its reputation as a place to find casual sex, it has sparked many lasting relationships. Second-year student Danielle Akinwande is well acquainted with Tinder's versatility.

"When I started using Tinder I would just use it to talk to people and just look at who's on the app," she said. "I didn't think it would lead to a relationship. But I met my boyfriend on Tinder and we've been together for a year."

A Tinder profile can be easily set up in less than five minutes. The profile pictures are big enough to see what you're getting into, and students can also engage in cool features like "Tinder University" which connects users to other students nearby. The app is a great tool for linking up; users just need to be willing to look past the corny pickup lines and sometimes aggressive vibes.



BUMBLE

Many people love Tinder for its fun, easy-to-use swiping format. Those who are looking for something a little different than Tinder's pool should look to Bumble for swiping with a twist. The most obvious difference between the two is that when a guy and a girl match on Bumble, the girl has to send the first message.

Described by its founder Whitney Wolfe Herd as a "feminist dating app," Bumble even has a code of conduct designed to maintain a safe, fun environment. Alex Escribano, sophomore, said while Tinder and Bumble are similar, she liked the BFF feature of Bumble, which allows users to swipe platonically for potential new friends.

"I want to see what kind of people are around me and make friends," said Escribano. "You can connect with even more people around you on Bumble."



OKCUPID

For students who know they are looking for something specific, OkCupid is the way to go. OkCupid sets itself apart from other dating apps by allowing users to fill out a very long and comprehensive profile.

Users answer questions about themselves and can even indicate the way they would prefer their matches to respond to the same prompts.

However, the app is lacking in user-friendliness with the awkward-to-use platform and small profile photos compared to Tinder and Bumble. Another issue with OkCupid is that anyone can message anyone, which can lead to annoying spam or unwanted nude photos.



COFFEE MEETS BAGEL

An alternative for students looking for particular characteristics in a prospective companion is Coffee Meets Bagel. The app sends male users 21 "bagels" or profiles to look at each day. Female users are shown a pool of "bagels" who have already liked their profile. According to Georgia State student Mitchell Blakely, Coffee Meets Bagel is a good choice for people who know what they are looking for.

"You can even choose the occupation you want your significant other to have," he said.

Unfortunately, you can't have exactly what you want all the time on Coffee Meets Bagel. Not every "bagel" sent to users will have the preferences they specified, and if they do there's a good chance they're far away. The app is similar to Bumble and Tinder as far as ease of use goes, save for some occasional crashes.



HINGE

College students who love to use Facebook will enjoy browsing dates on Hinge. The app connects to Facebook profiles to connect users through mutual friends. Hinge's most notable feature is not only that it shows users the friends they have in common with their matches, but the interests they share with their matches as well.

A great perk of Hinge is that users can reach out to their mutual friends if they want to know more about their matches' personalities. A downside, is that because of the mutual friend concept, the app generates far fewer matches than the apps that don't rely on such specific pools of people. Additionally, users are only able to add photos from Facebook and Instagram profiles, which is limiting compared to apps which allow users to curate their own collection of photos they deem suitable for a dating app.



HAPPN

Happn is like

the sister of Hinge; instead of choosing matches based on shared friends, it generates matches based on shared locations. Thankfully, the app doesn't disclose users' current locations in real time but shows the most recent time and location that prospective matches have crossed paths. This is a great feature for students who struggle to find common interests – everyone users match with on the app have already been within 800 feet of each other, so there's automatically something in common.

SOCIAL MEDIA

And if dating apps aren't your thing, there's always the timeless approach of sliding into the DM's. Plenty of college students connect online via social media apps every day, including Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, the latter of which is currently testing out a new feature that will bring online dating directly to the site. Called Facebook Dating, the feature is now being tested in Colombia, Canada and Thailand.

On Snapchat, users can now keep track of their friendships thanks to new "Friendship Profiles." Friendship Profiles organize the content that users save within a chat with their friends. Snapchat users can also see their astrological compatibility with friends and dates.

MOST NICHE DATING SERVICES

FARMERSONLY.COM
for farmers and ranchers

MEET-AN-INMATE.COM
to meet lonely inmates

SALADMATCH.COM
find your salad soulmate

SEACAPTAINDATE.COM
find your first mate

THEATLASPHERE.COM
for people who LOVE Ayn Rand

POUNCED.ORG
for furries

420DATING.COM
why toke alone?

Source: Today.com

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