

THE COLLEGE SEARCH: FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

LEARN WHAT TO CONSIDER AND TOOLS TO USE AS YOU CREATE A COLLEGE LIST THAT MATCHES YOUR NEEDS

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

MAKE A LIST AND CHECK MORE THAN TWICE – EVOLVING AS YOU EVOLVE

THE LIST

- Type of institution
- Academic program
- Location/radius
- Extracurricular activities



College comparison chart

As you investigate colleges, use this worksheet to keep track of schools in which you're most interested and to compare them to your wish list of ideal characteristics. In the second column, list all 12 factors in order of importance to you — 1 for most important, 12 for least important.

Factors to consider	my factor rank (1-12)	my wish list of college characteristics	college name	college name	college name
Type (technical, two-year, college, university)					
Major/academic program					
Size of school					
Location (setting/surroundings)					
Selectivity					
Academic atmosphere					
Student life/activities					
Diversity of student population					
Housing					
Facilities (library, theater, cafeteria, sports)					
Cost (college budget) and affordability					
Other					

TOP 10 MYTHS ABOUT COLLEGE

#1 It's better to get good grades than challenge yourself.

#2 I need to know what I want to do when I grow up to go to college.

#3 Big colleges are best if you don't know what you want to study.

#4 College is only for 4 years.

#5 You only visit a college after you have been admitted.

#6 You have to go to a top name university for undergrad to get into grad school.

#7 I can't afford college.

#8 Having a roommate is the worst thing ever.

#9 I have to go to a school with the same activities I participated in while in high school.

#10 I have to go where my parents tell me to.

THE POWER OF THE VISIT

The more you see the more you know what you want and don't want in a school.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU VISIT

- Meet with a faculty member in the program.
- Check out the school newspaper and/or bulletin boards.
- Don't be afraid to talk to current students.
- Have lunch in the dining hall.
- Check out the surrounding community
- Sports? Meet a coach. Club? Meet an advisor or student.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO APPLY YOURSELF

Own it and take charge of your future!!

TOP TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the most popular majors?
- Does the college have a center for academic success?
- Can you describe the typical student?
- What are the most popular activities on campus?
- Who will teach my classes?
- What is your favorite essay topic?
- What is your job placement rate?
- What are your top sending states?
- How many students are in my major?
- What do students in my program do after they graduate?

THANK YOU!!

- Questions?

Just remember: Keep your options open and don't be afraid to challenge yourself!