

SELECTING A COLLEGE

Steps in Selecting a College

1. Develop a profile using the below considerations.
2. Use the internet to find colleges that match your preferences.
3. Narrow down the number of potential colleges to 3-5 to which you will submit applications during the first semester of your senior year.

College Selection Criteria

When you choose the college that you hope to attend, you should begin by taking a close look at yourself and your needs and preferences. The criteria listed below can be used to make the selection process easier:

Location:	Local In-state Out-of-state
Size:	Small (less than 1,000) Medium (1,000 - 10,000) Large (over 10,000)
Setting:	Urban Rural (small town)
Type:	Technical School Community College (2 year) College, University (4 year)
Religious Affiliation:	Is it operated by a religious group?
Public/Private:	The type can affect various costs.
Costs:	Tuition, fees, room and board, transportation
Climate:	Warm, cold
Majors:	What majors and special programs are offered that fit your interests and goals?
Student Life:	What extracurricular activities are available? What is the male-female ratio? What housing is available? What is the social climate of the school? Do students remain on campus during the weekend or do many of them go home?

MY COLLEGE PROFILE

Location:	
Size:	
Setting:	
Type:	
Religious Affiliation:	
Public/Private:	
Cost:	
Climate:	
Majors:	
Student Life:	
Other:	

Colleges matching the above profile:

College

Location

VISITING A CAMPUS

A campus visit is highly recommended. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- Meet with an admissions officer. Also, an on-campus interview is required at some colleges. Even if it is not required, interviewing at a college will usually help your chances of being accepted.
- Verify admission requirements and learn about the application process.
- Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- Determine college costs (including tuition, textbooks, room and board, etc.).
- Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- Ask questions about academic requirements/offering.
- Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, and academic atmosphere.
- Ask about the career placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- Tour the campus (be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, etc.).
- Talk to students about the general academic and social environment and the amount and kind of study necessary for success.
- Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available and about campus life in terms of social activities.
- Investigate transportation options.
- Schedule an overnight visit, if possible and desired (this should be scheduled before arriving on campus).

COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET

COLLEGE NAME			
LOCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distance from home 			
SIZE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enrollment • physical size of campus 			
ENVIRONMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • type of school (2 yr., 4 yr.) • school setting (urban, rural) • location & size of nearest city • religious affiliation 			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deadline • tests required • average test scores, GPA • notification of acceptance 			
ACADEMICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programs offered • special requirements • accreditation • student-faculty ratio • typical class size 			
COLLEGE EXPENSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tuition, room & board • estimated total budget • application fee, deposits 			
FINANCIAL AID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deadline • required forms • % receiving aid • scholarships available 			
HOUSING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residence hall requirement • meal plan 			
FACILITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • academic • recreational • other 			
ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clubs, organizations • athletics, intramurals • other 			
CAMPUS VISITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interview and tour • visit class lecture • special opportunities 			