



# RESEARCHING AND CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

What to  
consider when  
researching  
colleges to  
help YOU find  
the best fit.



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# CONSIDERATIONS



## TYPES OF COLLEGES

Consider whether you want to attend a college or university, private or public institution, or a community college.



## ASPIRATIONS

Consider your career goals. Does the college offer the majors and classes in your area of interest that will prepare you for your chosen career path? What level of academic support is available? Is there career services support? What is the job placement rate of graduates?



## SIZE

Consider the size of the college or university. Are you looking for a small campus experience with fewer students and smaller class sizes or a larger university with a bigger population of students and a wider variety of options?



## LOCATION & DISTANCE

Consider the college location and distance from your home. Do you want to be closer to home or farther away? Location can impact tuition cost since in-state tuition is often less expensive than out-of-state.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

Consider the demographics of the student body and faculty/staff. Does the college have students/faculty from diverse races and cultures? Are there both people like you and people from other backgrounds who you can be exposed to and learn from?



## CAMPUS LIFE

Consider the campus environment and community. Where will you live - dorms or off campus? What will you eat? How can you get involved? Are students active on campus? What is nearby to do when not in class? Do you like the campus? Is it urban or rural?



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Consider extracurricular options that are available to you as a student. Are there sports you like? Are there clubs of interest? Can you be exposed to new activities that you may be interested in trying?



## VIABILITY OF ACCEPTANCE & ATTENDANCE

Consider the viability. Do your GPA and test scores match the average of students admitted? How many students are admitted vs. the number that apply? What is the tuition and cost of room/board/supplies? Can financial aid cover this if needed?

	School 1	School 2	School 3
Type of College			
Majors of Interest Available			
Academic Support Available			
Job Placement Rate			
Student Demographics			
Faculty Demographics			
Size of College			
Class Sizes			
Location of College			
Distance From Home			
In-State vs. Out-of-State			
Urban vs. Rural			
Student Involvement			
Campus Environment			
Housing Options			
Nearby Campus Options			
Extracurricular Activities			
Tuition Cost			
Room/Board/Supplies Cost			
% of Students Receiving Financial Aid			
Average Accepted GPA			
Average Accepted Test Score			

	School 4	School 5	School 6
Type of College			
Majors of Interest Available			
Academic Support Available			
Job Placement Rate			
Student Demographics			
Faculty Demographics			
Size of College			
Class Sizes			
Location of College			
Distance From Home			
In-State vs. Out-of-State			
Urban vs. Rural			
Student Involvement			
Campus Environment			
Housing Options			
Nearby Campus Options			
Extracurricular Activities			
Tuition Cost			
Room/Board/Supplies Cost			
% of Students Receiving Financial Aid			
Average Accepted GPA			
Average Accepted Test Score			



# COLLEGE BINGO

A college with majors that support your aspirations	A college with student demographics that include and support students like you	A college with on campus housing options that appeal to you	A college with extracurricular activities you enjoy	A college with a strong sense of community
A college with diverse demographics where you can learn from new perspectives	A college with interesting classes you want to take	A college with a campus atmosphere where you could see yourself	A college close to home	A college far from home where you can try new things
A college with high job placement rates	A college with academic supports such as tutoring	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	A college with an urban environment	A college with a rural environment or an environment where the college itself is the main focus
A college with off campus housing options that appeal to you	A college where you meet the test score requirements	A college with appealing dining options	A college with nearby things to do when not in class	A college with career service support post-graduation
A college where you meet the GPA requirements	A college with strong financial aid options	A college with affordable tuition	A college with a mascot you like	A college with sports you like and can get involved with as an athlete or fan

# Pre-Application

## CHECK LIST

The colleges I am applying to...

- Fit the type of college I want to attend
- Support my career aspirations
- Provide academic support
- Provide career service support
- Have successful job placement rates for graduates
- Meet my size preference
- Include demographics that support my identity and/or include outside perspectives to help me learn/grow
- Are located in an area that support my desire to stay close to or leave home
- Are located in environments that fit my lifestyle choices
- Have housing options that appeal to me
- Have dining options that appeal to me
- Have options for student involvement that fit my goals/interests
- Have extracurricular activity options that fit my interests
- Are viable options for acceptance (try to include 2 reach, 4 target, and 2 safety schools)
- Include financial aid options necessary for attendance
- Include schools I could see myself attending