

# Narrowing Down Your College Choices

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# Factors to Consider

- Location
- Size
- Environment
- Admissions Req.
- Academics
- Cost
- Financial Aid
- Housing
- Facilities
- Activities
- Support Services
- Campus Visits

# Location

- How far from home do you want to be?
  - Within 50 miles?
  - 50-100 miles?
  - 100-250 miles?

# Size

- Enrollment

- Colleges & Universities in the US range in size from a few hundred students to over 50,000
  - It is important that the environment you choose feels the most comfortable to you

- Physical Size

- College campuses can be contained within a single building or spread out over hundreds of acres
  - Consider whether or not a school's layout may present potential challenges

# Environment

- Type of School- 2 yr or 4yr school
- Liberal Arts or Technical School
- School Setting- Urban, Small City, Rural
- Student Body- Co-ed, Male only, Female only
- Religious Affiliation- Catholic, Presbyterian, No Affiliation, Etc...

# Admission Requirements

- What is the application deadline you must meet?
- What tests are required- SAT or ACT; do they require the written portion of either test?
- What is the average GPA, Test Score, Class Rank of admitted students?
- Does the school have Early Decision or Rolling Admissions?

# Academics

- Do they offer your Major? If you are Undecided does the school offer services to help you decide?
- Student to Faculty Ratio
- Average Class Size- It is important to realize that you will have larger classes at times, especially during the first year or two in college

# Cost

- Tuition, Room, & Board- You will also want to try to find out what typical increases may be each year
- Estimated Total Budget- This includes items such as: books, lab fees, travel, and other miscellaneous items
- Application fee
- Deposits- Is there a deposit to hold your space in the freshman class? How much is it? Is it refundable? When is it due?



# Financial Aid

- Required Forms- Virtually every College in the US requires the FAFSA
- Deadline- What is the deadline for the FAFSA to be on file with your school(s) of choice?
- Availability- What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- Scholarships- What are the deadlines for consideration? Additional information required? What award amounts are available? Are scholarships renewable? If so, for how many years and what are the academic requirements?

# Housing

- Is on campus housing available?
- Are students required to live on campus? If so, for how long?
- What type of housing is available- Floor plans of Residence Halls, number to a room, etc...
- Meal Plan- What types of options are available? (If it's possible ask about sampling the food during your college visit)

# Facilities

- Academic- Find out what the school has to offer in terms of technology, computer labs, etc...
- Recreational- Does the school have a Fitness Center? If so, are students required to pay an additional fee?
- Other- Outdoor recreation, Bike paths, Athletic Facilities, Facilities available in the community and their availability

# Activities

- Clubs & Organizations
- Greek Life
- Athletics & Intramurals
- Intercollegiate Sports

# Support Services

- Accommodations- What types of services does the school offer for students with disabilities, both physical and learning?
- Academic- Does the school offer services for academic help, such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, etc...?
- Career Services- What type of assistance is available for students?
  - Resume writing
  - Job Search
  - Internships
  - Interviewing techniques

# Campus Visit

- This is the #1 way for you to decide if a College is right for YOU!
  - Contact the schools you are considering to learn about opportunities to visit campus
  - Be prepared- Have a list of questions to ask during your visit and do not hesitate to ask them, it is the best way to make an informed decision!
  - Try to schedule visits while school is in session, this will give you a better idea of the environment on campus