

Choosing a College Criteria

<p>Academic Atmosphere: Do I prefer to work hard and compete with the best, or do I prefer to earn respectable grades without great pressure? What kind of atmosphere is best for me – challenging, intense, relaxed, supportive?</p>	<p>Academic Programs: A specialized professional school or a broad liberal arts program? Must I choose a major to be admitted? Study Abroad, ROTC, Honors Seminars for freshman? State of the art facilities?</p>	<p>Social Atmosphere: Am I seeking a residential or “commuter” college? Small, close-knit community where the college is the center of the community or a large, diverse university? Political or non-political? Strong Greek system? A part or studios atmosphere?</p>	<p>Cost: Is cost a major factor? Interested in public or private? (Remember: don’t rule out a private college due to cost as you may qualify for financial aid or scholarships.)</p>
<p>Geographic Location: How important is it to be close to a particular environment – ocean, skiing, etc.? Does climate matter – warm, cold, rain? Is college a time for travel or do I need to stay close to home?</p>	<p>Size of College: Small: up to 2,500 Medium: up to 12, 500 Large: up to 20,000 Very Large: over 20,000 Do I want to know my professors and advisors on a first name basis or do I prefer more distance?</p>	<p>Sports: Are intercollegiate athletics important? Division I? Are athletic scholarships offered? Can I play? How much? Are intramural sports more important than “super-star” sports?</p>	<p>Housing: Is housing guaranteed? Is off-campus housing necessary? If so, how available and affordable? Is there an active campus housing agency?</p>
<p>Religious Orientation: Would I benefit from a college with a strong ethical/religious value? Is chapel required or perhaps a required religious class?</p>	<p>Extra-Curricular: Is it important that there are good opportunities in drama, journalism, debate, radio, TV, politics, ethnic culture clubs? What are the chances for me to get involved in my favorite organization?</p>	<p>Student Body: With whom will I be attending college: Single sex or coed? Diverse or homogenous? Am I seeking the identity and support of an ethnic population? Regional or international population?</p>	<p>Surrounding Community: Small town, megalopolis, close but not in a major metropolitan area? Fast, serene, culturally stimulating, natural beauty, ethnic diversity?</p>

Choosing a College Priority Board

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