

How to find the College of your Dreams

Before you research colleges, way before you visit a college, and waaaaay before you fill out those applications, it helps to know what KIND of college will be the right one for you!

By taking a moment to reflect on the following questions, you will be able to narrow your search to the college that is your perfect Fit.

CAMPUS SIZE

When I think about my first semester in college:

I want to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people

I want to see people I know on the way to every class

I feel I can learn better in my college courses if:

I have ample access to tutors, a learning center, office hours and help from teachers

I just figure everything out on my own

DIVERSITY

I want to attend a college with:

lots of different kinds of people

or people with interests similar to mine

SCHOOL/HOME LIFE

When I think about weekends at college, I think about:

Cheering on the sports teams, hanging out with friends, going to school sponsored events and exploring a new town

Going home in time for dinner Friday night

Being far away from home for extended periods of time makes me feel:

Anxious/worried

Excited

CLASS OFFERINGS

My favorite classes are:

Short and to the point

Anything that makes me think outside the box

LIVING SPACE

What is more important to you in a residence hall?

Updated appliances and trendy furniture

Community feeling

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

I think of college as a time to:

Start this new chapter of my life with those around me I already know

Start from scratch

REPUTATION

When looking for schools, I prefer:

laid back atmosphere

high academic standards

EXTRACURRICULAR

My average school night of fun consists of:

- Going out or watching movies with friends
- School-sponsored programs and events

FRESHMAN RETENTION

When it comes to new students, colleges should:

- Keep them updated and involved from the start
- Only worry about them if they are in jeopardy of not graduating

CAREER GUIDANCE

When I graduate, I would like:

- To forge my own path
- Help in finding the next step for me

FREE TIME

When I think about where I will be at college, I think about:

- Being in a big city with lots to offer
- Being in a small town where everyone knows everybody

ALUMNI NETWORKING

After college, I will probably:

- Want to stay involved and connected to my college
- Enter the workforce and forget about college

SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID

To afford college, I think its best to:

- Get a job and go to school at the same time
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid

PATH TO DEGREE:

Do I want to go to a

- two-year college -earn an associate degree and transition to a four year college
- four-year college- bachelor's degree
- and beyond – Master or Doctorate degree

More question to ponder:

Public or Private? Many students exclude private colleges because they think they are more expensive, but that's not always the case. Financial aid can sometimes make private colleges as affordable as public colleges. And private colleges are not always more selective.

Location:

Am I staying close because I think it will be less expensive? Sometimes out-of-state schools are more affordable. Look into schools in the Mid-West -where tuition can be lower for a high performing college!

Keep an Open Mind

Challenge your assumptions about what will work for you. Maybe a small rural setting will give you the best experiences and growth, even if you are from the city.