



Choosing a college is not about finding the top ranked school—it's about finding a college that's a good match for you.

Knowing what you are looking for in a college will help you find a college that's a good fit.

Put a check beside any of the following that are important to you.

Type of College

Will a two-year or a four-year college best help you meet your career goals?

Two-year colleges (community colleges) offer affordable one- and two-year career programs. You can also start at a two-year college and then transfer to a four-year college after a year or two.

Four-year colleges offer more courses and a wider range of extracurricular activities. A four-year college degree can also open more doors and provide more career opportunities than a two-year degree.

Size

Do you want to go to a large school with lots of majors, programs, and activities, or to a small school with fewer students, a more personal atmosphere, and smaller classes?



Location

Where do you want to go to college? In your home state? Close to home? Near a big city? Close to nature?



Academic Programs

Is there a specific subject that you want to study? While most colleges offer popular majors such as business, not every college will offer the major you may be interested in.



Admission Requirements

Some colleges accept all high school graduates; others are very selective. Look for colleges that accept students with academic records (grades and test scores) similar to yours. You want to find a school that's a good academic fit.

Cost

Cost is a very important consideration for most students.

When calculating college costs, include tuition and fees, room and board, books, and an allowance for personal expenses. Remember, financial aid often makes it possible for students to attend schools that would otherwise be too expensive.

If cost is a factor, consider the following:

- Public colleges receive government funding and are generally less expensive than private colleges.
- Going to a public college in your home state usually costs much less than a public college in a different state.
- To cut college costs, consider starting at a community college, or living at home and commuting.

Do a College Search

To do an online search for the colleges that have what you're looking for, go to www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org.