



College Search: Beginning the College Search Process

Choosing a college is a process and with careful planning and organizing this can be a journey filled with introspection, discovery and new horizons.

Start by asking yourself some of the following questions as you think of yourself as a college candidate:

- What are your academic interests?
- What are your strengths as a student? In the classroom? Outside of the classroom?
- What kind of academic challenge do you hope to find in college?
- Do you enjoy regular interaction with your teachers?
- How do you prefer to be assessed as a student: In class discussions? On exams? Frequent writing assignments? Longer research papers? Team or individual projects?
- What activities do you enjoy the most outside of class?
- Do your activities show commitment, passion, or leadership?
- What interests do you plan to pursue in college?
- Are any particular facilities important to you?
- What sort of social opportunities do you hope to find in college? Fraternity or Sorority life? Strong school spirit? Faith-based organizations?
- Is a particular location important to you? To your parents?

- What particular curriculum requirements do you expect a college to have, if any?
- How diverse of a student body are you looking for?
- Will financial aid be a factor? Merit Aid? Work Study? Grants? Loans?

And, follow the following is advice by Martha O'Connell author of *How To Choose A College That's Right For You*:

- Size matters: Your college does not have to be bigger than your high school.
- A *name brand* college will not guarantee your success.
- You don't need to pick a major to pick a college
- Don't be scared by the stories.
- You can afford to go to college.
- You don't have to go to college right away, and it's never too late
- The most important factor in choosing a college is *fit*.