

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

It is tempting to jump feet-first into an endless pool of college choices; however, choosing that route may prove to be counter productive. A student could experience burnout before they ever got started! A more strategic approach involves becoming acquainted with your expectations for the college experience. You can start by giving yourself a “mini survey” where you ask yourself questions like:

1. **Culture:** In what type of culture do I thrive – highly social and interactive or quiet and laid-back?
2. **Academics:** Am I looking for a highly competitive academic environment?
3. **Spirituality:** Does religion play a part in my decision, i.e., do I want a culture where religion is woven throughout the experience, or do I prefer a campus where religion is only optional; do I have a preference either way?
4. **Campus location:** Do I want a campus that is “off the beaten path” and offers outdoor activities and experiences, or do I prefer a school that is near a major city and accessible to the conveniences and activities that come with it?
5. **Extracurriculars:** How important are extracurricular activities – clubs and organizations including, for example, intramural sports, etc.
6. **Sports:** Is it important that my college have a strong competitive sports program – one where I can participate as a player or as a spectator?
7. **Size:** Am I looking for a small, liberal arts college or do I like the idea of attending a larger – potentially public university?
8. **Location:** Is my goal to stay close to home, or am I interested in exploring schools in other regions?
9. **Tuition/Cost of attendance:** Do I or does my family have a budget?
10. **Class size:** Do I thrive in smaller settings, or am I a learner who finds my energy from larger groups?
11. **Major:** Have I begun thinking about a major, and if so, should I only consider looking for institutions that offer studies in my area?
12. **Housing type:** Dorm or apartment; co-ed or same sex? Remember, this is where I will LIVE for the next few years, so I have to decide what is important to me.
13. **Greek life:** Do I plan on pledging a sorority or fraternity, or do I want a campus where Greek life isn't a part of the campus culture?
14. **Career programs:** How important is it that a school has a strong Career Services department or an emphasis on alumni relationships?
15. **Study abroad:** Do I plan on experiencing a portion of my educational journey in another country or region? If so, do I want to look for institutions with well-established study abroad programs?

NOTES:

.....

.....

.....

.....