College Search: Questions to Consider

Size

Are you looking for a school with a lot of different major programs? Do you want a school that offers many extracurricular activities? Would you like to be a leader on campus? Do you want a lot of personal attention from your professors?

Location

Do you want to visit home more frequently?

Do you want to be in a big city or small town?

Do you want to be in a scenic area or in the middle of a metropolis?

Academic Programs What is your intended major?

Cost

Private schools are usually more expensive.
Out-of-state tuition is usually more expensive.
What scholarships and financial aid are available?
What are the scholarship and financial aid deadlines?

Campus Life

What activities are offered?
What clubs and organizations are available?
What does the local community have to offer?
Do they have fraternities or sororities?
How are dorms assigned?

Statistics

What are the acceptance rates? What are the retention rates (freshman to sophomore)? What are the graduation rates?

Admission Criteria What do I need to be admitted?

What are the deadlines?

A campus visit is a good idea for a college you are strongly considering. Take a scheduled campus tour as well as doing some looking around on your own. Be sure to visit a classroom, eat in the dining hall, check out the dorms, look at the bulletin boards and student newspaper. Ask for a list of clubs and organizations. Ask for a schedule of events. Notice what the students are wearing. Notice how friendly or unfriendly the students are. Find out what it is like on the weekends.