

Identify Important Factors in Choosing a College

In choosing a college, the first things you'll probably consider will be the *type of academic program* and the *availability of the major—or majors—you are most interested in.*

Here are some other things to think about as you compare colleges.

Location

- *distance from home*

Environment

- *type of school (2-year or 4-year)*
- *school setting (urban, rural)*
- *location & size of nearest city*
- *co-ed, male, female*
- *religious affiliation*

Size

- *enrollment*
- *physical size of campus*

Admission requirements

- *deadline(s)*
- *tests required*
- *average test scores, GPA, rank*
- *special requirements*

Academics

- *majors offered*
- *special requirements*
- *accreditation—recognized by regional or national accrediting bodies as meeting its objectives*
- *student-faculty ratio*
- *typical class size*

College expenses

- *tuition, room & board*
- *estimated total budget*
- *application fee, deposits*

Financial aid

- *deadline(s)*
- *required forms*
- *% of student population receiving aid*
- *scholarships*
- *part-time employment opportunities*

Housing

- *residence hall requirements*
- *availability*
- *types and sizes*
- *food plans*

Facilities

- *academic*
- *recreational*
- *other*

Activities

- *clubs, organizations*
- *sororities/fraternities*
- *athletics, intramurals*
- *other*

Campus visits

- *when to visit*
- *special opportunities*