



# Choosing a College.....Factors to Consider

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## **Step #1- Begin with a self-assessment:**

- What are your academic interest? Strengths and weaknesses
- What kind of a learner are you? Do you like a challenging curriculum?
- What activities do you enjoy?
- What kind of environment are you looking for in college? (city,suburb,small town,rural).
- Do you have any special needs or concerns?
- Why do you want to go to college?
- Have you considered a major or career or are you undecided?

## **Step #2 – Decide what factors are important to you:**

- Academic environment and offerings
- Size (enrollment & class sizes)
- Type of institution (public, private, technical, or religious affiliations)
- Location (distance from home)
- Cost and Financial Aid
- Student diversity
- Academic atmosphere and campus culture
- What is the dropout rate
- Student housing

## **Step #3 – Visit campuses and apply to colleges:**

- Research college admission requirements (SAT, GPA, essay, letters of recommendations, deadlines)
- Get a copy of your transcript to verify it is accurate and up-to-date
- Talk with your High School Counselor and/or visit the Career Resource Center
- Call admission offices and arrange for a campus tour. (fall/winter are best times)
- If you don't know what questions to ask ***see the attached sheet*** for ideas
- Fill out FAFSA application. (opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Recommended to apply to 3-5 colleges
- Create an account on Parchment then send your transcripts electronically

## Questions to ask a College Representative

1. Are extracurricular activities considered when making admission decisions?
2. Do you offer career planning and placement at graduation?
3. What do students do when they are not in class or studying? Clubs, fraternities, sororities, etc.
4. What are the deadlines for application and for financial aid?
5. When are notifications of acceptance sent?
6. What type of scholarship opportunities is available?
7. What kinds of academic assistance are available?
8. What are the most popular majors?
9. What services are offered to students needing help or tutoring?
10. What are the ranges of SAT and ACT scores and grade point average of entering freshmen? What are the average SAT, ACT, and GPA scores?
11. What are the deadlines for admission? Do you offer alternatives to regular admission such as early decision, early action, and rolling admission? How many applications did you receive last year? What percent of students were admitted?
12. What academic preparations do you expect in order to be admitted- which qualities and experiences are you looking for in a student? What kind of student is most successful at your university?
13. Do you have any pointers on writing essays that your school requires with the application?
14. What is the cost of attendance?
15. What percent of students receive merit-based scholarships? How much is offered for the largest merit scholarship? What is the average merit-aid given?
16. What percent of students receive need-based financial aid and grants?
17. What is the availability of campus work opportunities?
18. What percent of students do internships? How does your college assist student in finding internships?