

Choosing a College That is Right for You...

Step 1: Determine what you might like to study or major in at college.

Yes, many students enter college as “undecided,” and that's fine, but if you have some idea of a career or a major, that information can help in finding colleges that offer (and even specialize) in that field. Take the short college major quiz and find your best fitting college majors! Link to: <http://www.mymajors.com/>

Step 2: Develop a list of criteria you want to use to evaluate and weed out colleges.

Do you want to live close to home, or far away? Do you want a large university or

a small college? Does it offer your major? How about public vs. private, costs, social life, housing and admission requirements? See the following site to rank you top five factors by importance. How you rank these factors will depend largely on your personal preferences and needs.

<http://www.actstudent.org/college/factors.html>

Follow this link to research colleges by majors offered

<http://www.mymajors.com/College-Search-by-Majors-and-states.cfm>

Remember that one of the criteria that you want to use to evaluate colleges is admission

requirements. For example *passing the TSI test or similar assessment is required before a student can take most classes at a Texas public community college-Angelina College.*

All universities have varying admission requirements. For example, see the following link

for UT-Tyler: <http://www.uttyler.edu/admissions/freshman.php>

Step 3: Compile your list of possible colleges and universities.

With at least some idea of the criteria that are important to you, begin the gathering phase. You will surely get suggestions from family, friends, high school teachers, professionals in the

field/major and guidance counselors. Attend a college fair with your school to get more information from many colleges/universities. How about checking college websites and internet searches? For example College Confidential can help you narrow down your school choices. Search more than 3,000 colleges and universities by name, location, or area of study!
http://www.collegeconfidential.com/college_search/

Step 4: Now it is time to narrow your list of colleges to a manageable number.

This number will vary widely depending in part on how many you and your family can realistically visit. Most experts suggest narrowing the list to 10 or fewer.

Step 5: Visit the colleges on your list.

The best way to really get a feel for a college is by visiting the campus, taking a tour, meeting with students, attending a class, reading the campus newspaper, eating in the cafeteria, and spending the night in a dorm (if possible).

Here is a great campus visit checklist:

<http://www.getin2college.com/Documents/Visit-Checklist.doc>

