

Finding Colleges that Fit You Best



There are lots of things to think about when deciding which colleges you'll apply and ultimately go to. Location, size, cost — all these things and more can have a big impact on your college experience.

To make sure you apply to colleges that are an overall good fit for you, take some time to think about what your ideal school would be like. Any features that matter to you should play a part in finding the schools that fit you best.

WHAT DOES 'OVERALL GOOD FIT' MEAN?

A school that's an overall good fit is right for you financially, academically, and socially. This means:

- **The net cost** (the price you'll pay after any financial aid or scholarships) is manageable for you and your family.
- **Your college entrance exam** (e.g., SAT) scores are comparable to those of the most recently admitted freshman class.
- **You feel comfortable** with the campus culture and are confident there will be extracurricular and social activities you'll enjoy.

Remember: Only you know what you're looking for in a college. So follow your passions, trust your instincts, and **discover the schools that are right for you.**

It may help to make a list of characteristics that are important to you, beginning with the top priority. Some features to consider:

SIZE

- Do you want a big school with a wide variety of majors and state-of-the-art research facilities?
- Or do you want a smaller school with a strong sense of community where you know everyone by name?

LOCATION

- Do you prefer the city, the country, or somewhere in between?

DISTANCE FROM HOME

- How far from home do you want to venture?

HOUSING OPTIONS

- What types of housing does the school offer? Dorm? Apartment? Off campus?

AVAILABLE MAJORS AND CLASSES

- Does the school offer a variety of courses and majors you're interested in?

STUDENT BODY MAKEUP

- How geographically/racially/politically diverse is the student body?

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Does the school offer outlets for the activities you're passionate about?

CAMPUS ATMOSPHERE

- Is the campus high energy or laid back? Do a lot of students go home on weekends or do most stay on campus?