

COLLEGE PATHWAY

What you Should Consider

Size and Diversity of the Student Body

Size will affect many of your opportunities and experiences, including:

- Range of academic majors offered
- Extracurricular possibilities
- Amount of personal attention
- Number of books in the library

When considering the student body, be sure to think about factors such as the geographic, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of the student body. Explore what kind of student organizations, or other groups with ethnic or religious foundations, are active and visible on campus.

Location/Distance

Do you want to visit home frequently, or do you see this as a time to experience a new part of the country? Perhaps you like an urban environment with access to museums, ethnic food or well-known sports teams. Or maybe you want easy access to the outdoors or the community feel of a small town.

Academic Programs

If you know what you want to study, research the reputations of academic departments by talking to people in the fields that interest you. If you're undecided, relax and pick an academically balanced institution that offers a range of majors and programs.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Today's college price tag makes cost an important consideration for most students. However, virtually all colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid.

Sports or Special Programs

Students who wish to participate in athletics, study abroad programs, internships, job placement programs, etc., may want to inquire about those options at each college.

Retention & Graduation Rates

One of the best ways to measure a school's quality and the satisfaction of its students is to find out what percentage of students return after their first year and the percentage of students who actually graduate. A college with good retention and graduation rates often indicates that responsible academic, social and financial support systems exist for most students.

Campus Life

Consider what your college life will be like beyond the classroom. Aim for a balance between academics, activities and social life. Before choosing a college, learn the answers to these questions:

- What extracurricular activities, athletics and special interest groups are available?
- Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students?
- How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- How are dorms assigned?

Early Decision/Early Action

Early Decision means you have decided that this is your first choice school. You can only apply to **ONE** school Early Decision. If accepted, you are bound by contract to enroll in that school and withdraw all other applications. Early Action means you apply early and get an admission response early, but you are not bound by contract. You can still wait to hear from all of your schools before making a final enrollment choice.

