



ASSESSING YOUR LIST OF COLLEGES

As you develop a list of colleges that interest you, be sure you can answer these questions:

The Basics

- Where is the college? Can you locate it on a map? Is it too close to home? Is it too far?
- Have you taken the course work the college requires for admission?
- What size is the college? How many students are undergraduates?
- What is the college's admission ratio (proportion of applicants were admitted last year)?
- Does the college offer majors that interest you?
- Is the college coed or single sex?
- What percentage of students lives off campus?
- How many of the students graduate in four years? Five years? Six years?
- How many first-year students return for their sophomore year?
- How much does the program cost? What is the total per-year expense?
- What type of financial aid is available?

Where Would You Fit In?

- What are the college scores for the SAT® or ACT? Where does that place you?
- What were the high school GPAs of most of the freshmen last year?
- Are freshmen guaranteed on-campus housing? If not, where do they live?
- Are there extracurricular activities that interest you?

Examine the schools' programs and curricula. Talk to college representatives, students, graduates, and teachers.

- What are their strong academic programs?
- What courses are required for graduation?
- Are the courses you need/want available each semester? At convenient times?
- Are there special programs that interest you (study abroad, internships, etc.)?
- What is the social life like? What percentage of students joins fraternities or sororities?
- Do the pictures and the language the college uses to describe itself attract you?
- What is your general impression of the college?
- Is the school accredited?
- If professional certification is required for employment in the field that interests you, how many students enroll in the school's program pass the certification exam?