

Worksheet: Design Your Dream College

Not sure how to choose a college? You might find it difficult to separate what you want from where your friends will be attending, or even from the desire to get away from home. Use this questionnaire to determine the living and learning environments best for you. Then, use the College Comparison Chart on page 12 to rank your top contenders.

1. Consider your career goals. Will an associate degree from a community college achieve these goals, or will you need to attend a four-year college?

2. A liberal arts education imparts general knowledge in a wide range of subjects, with an emphasis in one or two areas of study. A professional, technical or vocational curriculum solely focuses on preparing students for a specific career. Which type of curriculum will best help you reach your post-college goals?

3. Small colleges offer more intimate classroom settings, while large schools often have a greater selection of academic and extracurricular programs.

On what size campus would you feel most comfortable?

- Very small (fewer than 1,000)
- Small (1,000-3,999)
- Medium (4,000-8,999)
- Large (9,000-19,999)
- Very large (20,000+)

4. Do you plan to live on campus or commute?

5. What distance from home is your ideal college?

6. Your major should be enjoyable and help you reach your career goals. List the majors you are considering.

7. Think about the surroundings of your future school. What type of community are you looking for?

- Rural
- Urban
- Suburban

8. Describe the student population at your dream school. Is it ethnically diverse, same-sex, religious, etc.?

9. List any special programs (study abroad, honors, internships, etc.) you seek in a school.

10. List any special interests or activities in which you plan to participate during college.

11. Consider how much you and your family can afford. What is the most you can spend on tuition?

12. Is it important for you to have a car on campus?

13. How important is it for your school to have an impressive reputation?

14. Your academic profile:

GPA: _____

Class rank (percentile): _____

ACT score: _____

SAT score: _____

Worksheet: College Comparison Chart

School attributes	Your dream college	School #1	School #2	School #3
Affiliation: public, private, religious-affiliated, single-sex, ethnically affiliated				
Student population: Very small (fewer than 1,000), small (1,000-3,999), medium (4,000-8,999), large (9,000-19,999), very large (20,000+)				
Distance from home: one-hour drive or less, one- to four-hour drive, four- to eight-hour drive, plane ride or train trip				
Type of campus: residential, commuter				
Community: urban, suburban, rural				
General curriculum: liberal arts, technical, vocational, professional				
Campus activities in which I plan to participate: sports, music performance groups, clubs, Greek life, etc.				
Specialized programs: honors, special-needs services, study abroad, graduate and professional co-enrollment, distance learning				
Computers: wireless access, computer labs, school distribution of individual laptops				
Will research facilities (libraries, labs) support my course of study?				
How impressive will this school appear on my résumé to future employers? Very impressive, impressive, not impressive				
To what extent do professors teach courses?				
Student/teacher ratio				
Average class size				
Are my majors of interest offered?				
Can I pursue a master's degree or doctorate degree at this school if I desire?				
Am I required to live on campus?				
Housing available: single dorms, shared rooms, off-campus, married housing, fraternities and sororities, smoke-free, single-sex, special-needs accessible, interest-based				
Can I have a car on campus?				
How much will this school cost per year (tuition, room and board, books, supplies, transportation)? Less than \$10,000, \$10,000-\$20,000, \$20,000-\$30,000, \$30,000+				
Are work-study, grants, scholarships or loans available to bridge the gap?				
	Your scores/grades	School #1	School #2	School #3
Class rank of incoming freshman class: top 1%, top 5%, top 6%-10%, top 11%-20%, 20%-40%, 40%-100%				
Average ACT/SAT				
Average GPA				
Selectivity: highly selective: 5% or fewer of applicants; selective: 5%-20% of applicants; moderately selective: 20%-40% of applicants; open admissions: 40% or more of applicants				