

Identify Important Factors in Choosing a College

In choosing a college, the first things you'll probably consider will be the **type of academic program** and the **availability of the major—or majors—you are most interested in**.

Here are some other things to think about as you compare colleges. How you rank these other factors will depend largely on your personal preferences and needs.

Number your top five factors by importance below.

Location

___ distance from home

Environment

___ type of school (2-year or 4-year)

___ school setting (urban, rural)

___ location and size of nearest city

___ co-ed, male, female

___ religious affiliation

Size

___ enrollment

___ physical size of campus

Admission requirements

___ deadline(s)

___ test(s) required

___ average test scores, GPA, rank

___ special requirements

Academics

___ majors offered

___ special requirements

___ accreditation—recognized by regional/national accrediting bodies as meeting its objectives

___ student-faculty ratio

___ typical class size

College expenses

___ tuition, room and board

___ estimated total budget

___ application fee, deposits

Financial aid

___ deadline(s)

___ required forms

___ % of student population receiving aid
scholarships

___ part-time employment opportunities

Housing

___ residence hall requirements

___ availability

___ types and sizes

___ food plans

Facilities

___ academic

___ recreational

___ other

Activities

___ clubs, organizations

___ sororities/fraternities

___ athletics, intramurals

___ other

Campus visits

___ when to visit

___ special opportunities