

College Priorities Checklist

My Top Criteria

- Athletic Offerings
- Campus Safety
- Setting (urban, suburban, or small town)
- Diversity of Student Population
- Extracurricular Organizations and Events
- Faculty Experience and Expertise
- Financial Aid Availability
- Geographic Location
- Housing Availability and Cost
- Length, Time, and Location of Classes
- Number of Students Enrolled
- Percentage of Students who Graduate
- Programs of Study (majors/minors)
- School Facilities and Equipment
- School or Program Reputation
- Student-to-Faculty Ratio (class size)
- Support Services (meals, counseling, etc.)
- Transportation Availability
- Tuition and Fees

My Parent's Top Criteria

- Athletic Offerings
- Campus Safety
- Setting (urban, suburban, or small town)
- Diversity of Student Population
- Extracurricular Organizations and Events
- Faculty Experience and Expertise
- Financial Aid Availability
- Geographic Location
- Housing Availability and Cost
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It's a good idea to discuss with your parents what is important to you and try to understand what may be important to them as well. Choosing the right college is ultimately your decisions, but your family should be a large part of the process, especially if they are going to be helping you out financially. If you are still having trouble identifying what's important to you, ask yourself:

- Why do I want to go to college?
- What do I want to get out of college?
- What are my goals for college and after college?
- Which college will best/least help me work toward my goals?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of going to college right after high school?
- Do I thrive in a large or small academic environment?
- How much are finances a factor for my family?
- In which type of campus setting am I most/least comfortable?

After picking your criteria, use CollegeBoard's College Search (bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search), enter in your priorities in the search criteria, and explore the colleges that come up in your results to find schools that might be a good fit.