

# How to Build a College List

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Devote lots of time to your list

-decrease stress

-optimize aid

-increase choices

**Find your best fit:** **academically** (does it have the education you want, can you get in, will you get merit aid), **socially and emotionally** (is it the right size, in the right place, with the right people, activities and values), **and financially** (can you afford it, will it give you enough financial aid; what are their outcomes, can you graduate in 4 years)

Drill down into a college department (all the same overall criteria you look at for the entire school)

Start with you, not the colleges.

- list your interests, activities and skills

- make a resume

- talk to parents, counselors

- do self-assessment questionnaire

Barrons, 100 Questions

47 percent of freshmen actually end up pursuing a different major by the end of their first year of college.

look at schools where you can explore, and change majors.

schools with good (faculty) mentorship and internships

Too many won't graduate in 4 years.

## Start looking!

- first at academics (balance, major)
- get into routine of reviewing school websites
- incorporate college visits into trips (small, medium, large; urban, rural)
- consider quality of life issues (environment, location, size etc)
  - talk to current students
- go where you can do well, graduate in 4 years, and is affordable
  - evaluate campus safety

admittance rate by college in a university?

google college name + fact book  
factbookonline



CollegeTransitions.com

**Dataverse**

evaluate colleges by major

[collegeboard.com](https://collegeboard.com)

college factual

Princeton Review website

[collegedata.com](https://collegedata.com)

common data set

College Navigator

Use rankings to learn about schools, NOT for ranking!

Big Futures: look for link top right for complete  
profile

[niche.com](https://niche.com) for student accounts of schools

Estimate what it will cost you  
Net Price Calculator  
Fafsa4caster

Ohio Wesleyan University: GPA 3.4 + 1150 SAT or 23 ACT = \$30,000, automatically, renewable for all 4 years. Close? You're eligible for \$20,000. Apply by January 15, no separate scholarship application required.

**OWU: offering off-campus  
interviews**

**register online to meet with us at  
[www.owu.edu/oci](http://www.owu.edu/oci).**

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>  
for list of test optional schools

Visit: see what there is besides academics;  
look for schools you've never heard of (rankings)

Research school website

look into departmental websites

investigate by interest/major



**WUE:Western  
University Exchange**

## Your Resources

- Your counselor

- Your teachers

- College and Career Outreach

- College Admissions and Financial Aid officers

## **There is more than one college for you**

The best way for you to learn more about a college is to ask questions.

Call, write or email the admissions staff.

Plan a visit if you can.

Attend college fairs and be sure to leave your name with the admissions representative from the colleges that interest you.