

Choosing Your College Priorities

Regardless of how prestigious a college is or how much it costs, college success is all about finding the right college fit. It won't matter if your parents graduated from there, or if all of your high school friends plan to enroll there in the fall, if the college isn't a good fit for you. This means finding a college that offers what you need in terms of academics, location, campus and social life. If these factors don't fit you, then little else will matter.

The chart below contains many college fit factors. Select the five that are the most important to you. What do you need most to be comfortable and succeed? Then, select five that are the least important to you. These are factors that, for you, don't matter as much if your other needs are met. Prioritizing what matters to you will help you add or eliminate potential schools from your college search.

<p>Location</p> <p>Distance from home Weather Off-campus setting Geography: beaches, mountains, etc.</p>	<p>Academics</p> <p>Majors offered Academic reputation Teaching style Classes outside your major Class size</p>
<p>Campus</p> <p>Size Atmosphere Dorms Diversity Cost (tuition, room, board, fees) Financial aid</p>	<p>Social Life</p> <p>Clubs, sports and recreational opportunities Art scene Greek life Going to college with friends from high school</p>

What is most important to me in a college?

What is least important to me in a college?