

My College Search Priorities

NAME

CURRENT SCHOOL

GRADE LEVEL

HS GRADUATION YEAR

CITY & STATE

01 Campus Size & Setting

What type of campus environment feels like the best fit for you?

- ☐ **Small college** — more intimate classes and close-knit community
- ☐ **Medium-sized college** — a balance of resources and community
- ☐ **Large university** — more programs, activities, and campus options

What type of location appeals to you most?

- ☐ **Urban** — city environment with cultural, career, and entertainment access
- ☐ **Suburban** — near a city but with a traditional campus feel
- ☐ **Small town** — college is a major part of the local area
- ☐ **Rural** — a quieter setting surrounded by nature

02 Location & Distance From Home

Where do you want to explore?

Are there states, regions, or specific cities you're interested in?

Are there places you want to avoid?

How far from home are you comfortable traveling?

Do you prefer being close enough to visit home often, or are you excited for a new experience farther away?

03 Cost & Financial Priorities

Understanding your budget early can help identify realistic college options.

What is the maximum amount your family is comfortable paying per year?

Are you hoping to receive merit scholarships or financial aid?

Are there financial considerations your college list should keep in mind?

04 Academic Fit

Think about the type of academic environment where you'll be most successful.

How do your grades, coursework, and test scores compare to students at your target schools?

Are you looking for reach, match, or likely admission options?

Do you prefer smaller classes, research opportunities, hands-on learning, or other academic experiences?

05 Majors & Academic Interests

What subjects or fields interest you?

What topics do you enjoy learning about?

Are there majors, programs, or career paths you want to explore?

If you're undecided, what areas would you like a college to offer?

06 Sports & Recreation

Which sports and recreation opportunities are important to you?

- ☐ **School-sponsored athletics** — varsity teams, NCAA athletics, competitive programs
- ☐ **Club sports** — student-run competitive teams
- ☐ **Intramural sports** — casual leagues and recreational competition
- ☐ **Fitness & recreation** — gyms, outdoor activities, wellness programs
- ☐ Not a major priority

What sports or activities would you like to continue?

07 Student Life & Campus Activities

What do you want your life outside the classroom to look like? What clubs, organizations, or communities interest you?

Examples: arts, theater, music, or creative groups · student newspaper or media · volunteer opportunities · cultural organizations · Greek life · religious or community groups · entrepreneurship or leadership programs

08 Campus Environment & Experience

What qualities would make a college feel like home?

Consider: diversity and campus culture · housing options · dining options · study abroad opportunities · career services and internships · campus traditions and community

09 Must-Haves vs. Nice-to-Haves

Not every college will check every box. Knowing your priorities will help you focus your search.

MY TOP 3 MUST-HAVES

1

2

3

THINGS I'M FLEXIBLE ABOUT

ONE THING I WANT MY FUTURE COLLEGE TO HAVE