

# 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.

## Location

- distance from home

## Environment

- type of school (2-year or 4-year)
- school setting (urban, rural)
- location & size of nearest city
- co-ed, male, female
- religious affiliation

## Size

- enrollment
- physical size of campus

## Admission requirements

- deadline(s)
- tests required
- average test scores, GPA, rank
- special requirements

## Academics

- majors offered
- special requirements
- accreditation—recognized by regional or national accrediting bodies as meeting its objectives
- student-faculty ratio
- typical class size

## College expenses

- tuition, room & 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