

Finding the Right Fit – Victor Zamora & Katie O’Brien, Seattle University Admissions

Here are some categories that might guide your college search process. In the blank column, write your individual preferences for each section.

Size	
The size of a university can affect class sizes, access to a variety of majors, research opportunities and personal experience. Think about the settings in which you typically thrive...will the student population of your college/university be important to you?	
Type of School	
Are you interested in a two year or four year school? Public or private? For what kind of degree (and experience) are you looking? Identifying this characteristic will help you narrow down your choices.	
Academics	
Are you still trying to figure out your major of interest? Perhaps a college or university with lots of options is best. Know for sure that you want to study something specific? You can shorten your list by seeking out schools that offer that degree.	
Student Life	
Interested in Greek life? Are you interested in athletics? Do you want a school with a fantastic outdoor recreational or extra-curricular theatre program? Do some research to make sure your life outside the classroom will be satisfying.	
Setting	
What is your ideal college campus? Is it in or near a city? Does it need to be close to wilderness and nature? How close or far away would you like to be from home? Never underestimate the importance of location in terms of your own interests and needs.	

Resources for how to go about “Finding the Right Fit”

College Board: www.collegeboard.com (Look for the “College Matchmaker” and “College Quickfinder,” in addition to online timelines and other organizational tools and tips.)

NACAC: www.nacacnet.org (Find information about national college fairs and lists of other—often more specific—online resources.)

U-Can: www.ucan-network.org (Find information about institutions written by the students who actually attend the college/university as well as easy-to-read statistical information to easily compare schools.)

High school counselor/guidance center: Use your counselor as a resource to find out the best schools for you.