

5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

HOW DO I RESEARCH COLLEGES?

- Visit: wcan.org/resources/college-map for a list of colleges in Washington state
- View college websites
- Sign up for college mailing lists
- Attend **college fairs**
- Tour colleges (virtual tours are a great option!)

College search takes time. Schedule a few hours each week to work on researching colleges.

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

Type of college – technical, 2-year, 4-year

Location – distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.

Degrees available – **associate's, bachelor's, certifications** and **apprenticeships**

Programs available – subject areas or **majors** offered

Public vs. private – public colleges are partially funded by government funds and private colleges are not directly publicly funded

Special focus – colleges that focus on a specific interest or student population such as arts, single-sex, religiously affiliated and specialized-mission colleges

Diversity – the types of cultures, languages and demographics represented on campus or in the community

Size – number of students, campus size, class size, city population, etc.

Cost of attendance – in- or out-of-state **tuition**, college **fees**, books, transportation and housing

Selectivity – measured by the percentage of students who get accepted based on admission requirements

Graduation rate – number of students who graduate within 4 or 6 years from that college

* GOOD TO

KNOW: Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to **transfer** to a 4-year school and some offer bachelor degree programs.

* DON'T FORGET:

Consider the admissions requirements and determine if the school is a **reach, solid,** or **safety** for you. It is recommended that you apply to at least one school in each category:

Reach – You might not get in, but it's worth applying to because it's your dream school

Solid – You're a competitive applicant and will likely get accepted

Safety – You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out

TALK TO:

Your high school counselor

College and career center adviser

College **admissions counselors** or representatives who visit your school

Family members, teachers, mentors and community members who have been to college

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