

CHECKLISTS OF CONSIDERATIONS

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A COLLEGE?

THE BASICS

- DISTANCE FROM HOME
- SIZE
small, medium, large
- SETTING
urban, suburban, small town, rural
- REGION
New England, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Southeast, West, International
- SCHOOL'S SELECTIVITY
college admission rate; typical profile of admitted student; average test scores;
- HOUSING
% that live on campus; off-campus;
of years housing is guaranteed
- RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION
- STUDENT POPULATION
co-ed; all female; historically black college, etc.

EXTRACURRICULARS

- CAMPUS CULTURE
relaxed/competitive; liberal/conservative;
school spirit; diversity; fraternities and sororities;
party atmosphere; artsy; etc.
 - ATHLETICS
varsity, club, intramural;
facilities for athletes and for non-athletes
 - VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
available to majors or to all students?
 - SAFETY
colleges are required to disclose crime statistics
 - DINING
options, meal plan flexibility, cost, quality
 - COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
 - OTHER INTERESTS
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THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- ACADEMIC MAJOR/AREAS OF STUDY
does the college offer strong classes/programs
in your area(s) of interest?
- ADVISING PROGRAM
- AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
- CALENDAR
trimester, semester, quarter, block
- CLASSROOM LEARNING
lecture, seminar, independent study, field trips, labs
- FACILITIES
labs, classrooms, libraries, computers, etc.
- FACULTY
quality/accessibility of professors;
are classes taught by full-time professors?
- LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM
a general, broad education in humanities & sciences
- REQUIREMENTS
determine the flexibility in choosing classes;
core curriculum; distribution req'ts; foreign language
- REPUTATION
strength of overall school; strength of major
success of graduates in career advancement
and graduate school admission
- SPECIAL PROGRAMS
study abroad, internships, co-op, college exchange
- SPECIALIZED CURRICULUM
focused preparation for a specific professions
(i.e. business, engineering, architecture, nursing)
- SUPPORT SERVICES
tutoring, writing center, faculty office hours,
learning disability support, study skills, computer skills