

FIVE STEPS TO CHOOSING A COLLEGE

1. **Developing** a list of college factors, which are most important to you.
2. **Performing** a college search based upon the factors determined in Step 1.
3. **Conducting** Research on your initial list of colleges that were discovered in Step 2.
4. **Visiting** as many colleges as possible after narrowing down your initial list in Step 3.
5. **Determining** 3 or 4 colleges in which to apply during Fall/Winter of your senior year.

29 POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR COLLEGE

1. Academic Programs: Does the college offer the program(s) you are interested in?	11. Campus safety: Are the dorms secured? Does the college offer an escort service for late at night? Are there police phones on campus?	20. Study Abroad: Does the school offer a study abroad program?
2. Quality of Program: Is the college known for a particular program? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the program(s) you are interested in?	12. Rural, Suburban or Urban: Is the school in a large city, college town, or rural setting far from a major city?	21. Graduate School: What percentages of graduates go on to graduate school immediately upon graduation? What percent are accepted by medical, law or the business school of their choice?
3. Selectivity: Is the college highly competitive, very competitive, less competitive or non-competitive?	13. School size: Is the school small (fewer than 1000 students), medium, or large (more than 15,000 students)?	22. Graduation Rates: What percentage of student graduate? How long does it usually take for most students to graduate?
4. Chances of Admission: Be realistic! What are your chances of getting in? Is this a "reach" or "safety" school?	14. Geographical Diversity: Is the college a regional one attracting students from the same state or region? Or does the school attract students from all over the US or the world?	23. Placement: How many graduates go right into the market place? Is there a Job Placement office that assists? Which firms recruit on campus?
5. Difficulty: Will the work be a challenge for you, too advanced, or too easy? Is it a grind school? A party school?	15. Ethnic Diversity: What percentages of the students are from minority groups?	24. Library: How many books are in the library? Is it computerized? Is the campus library tied into a larger network?
6. Costs: What is the cost, including tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation and travel to and from campus, and pocket money.	16. Other Students: What are the students like? Will you fit in? Will you be able to make friends?	25. Facilities: Are there adequate sports and recreational facilities? A swimming pool? Athletic field for non-varsity? Music practice rooms?
7. Financial Aid: Does the school offer merit based aid or is all financial aid based on need? Does the school negotiate its financial aid offer?	17. Faculty: Are most classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?	26. Athletic Programs: Does the school offer a wide variety of intercollegiate and intramural sports programs? Are there adequate programs for women?
8. Commuters vs. Residents: Do most students commute from within town or do most students live on campus?	18. Curriculum: Is there a core curriculum for all students in your program? How much freedom do you have in choosing courses?	27. Computers: Are computers required of incoming freshmen? Are there adequate facilities on campus?
9. Living Conditions: Is campus housing available and guaranteed for all four years? Are the dorms coed? Are alternative housing arrangements available?	19. Advanced Placement: Does the school accept Advance Placement credits? For what scores? Do you get sophomore standing or more in-dept courses while retaining freshman status	28. Socialization: Does the school offer a full complement of activities? Are there fraternities and sororities? Does that matter? 29. Internships: Are there opportunities for hands-on experience while in college? Do any of these pay a salary or stipend.
10. Location: Is the school close to home or clear across the country? Could you go home for a weekend, Thanksgiving?		