

5 Steps to Creating a College List

To which colleges should I apply?

Finding colleges that fit you best begins with self-discovery – that means getting to know your interests, your goals, and what’s most important to you. The following five steps will get you started on the right path.

1

Answering questions like these will help you focus your college search:

- What interests me?
- How do I spend my free time?
- What do I feel passionate about?
- How do I learn best?
- What do I think I want to do in the future?

2

Visit schools to learn about basic college categories and answer questions about your preferences. You’ll also find in-depth information about searching for colleges, along with advice from college students and educators.

3

For some students, sports and activities are very important. Other students want a challenging academic environment. Look at your answers to the questions in Step 1. What do they say about you, and what do you want from your college?

4

Use *College Search* (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>) to find colleges that match your preferences. Search for colleges by location, majors, size and more. There’s guidance to help you along the way.

5

Check out individual profiles of the colleges that come up in your *College Search* results. When you see a college you like, click “**Add to List**” to save it to a favorites list. You can return to it later and refine your list as you go along.

What now?

For more about searching for colleges, visit

(<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/how-to-find-a-college-that-fits-you>)