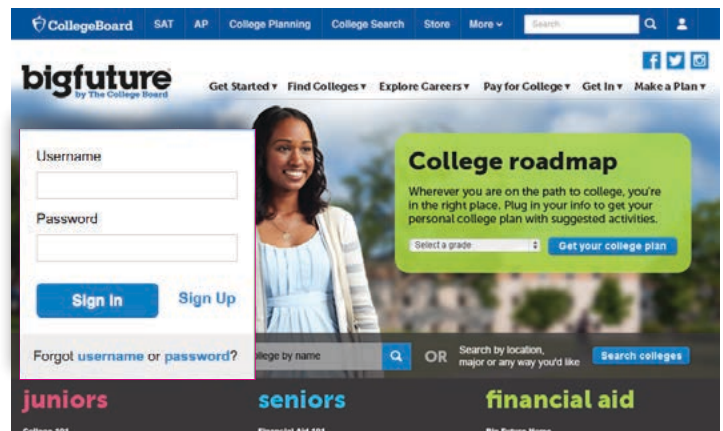


How to Build a College List

The next step in your academic career is deciding where to apply to and attend college. By applying to a range of colleges, you can expand your opportunities and increase your likelihood of success. We can help.

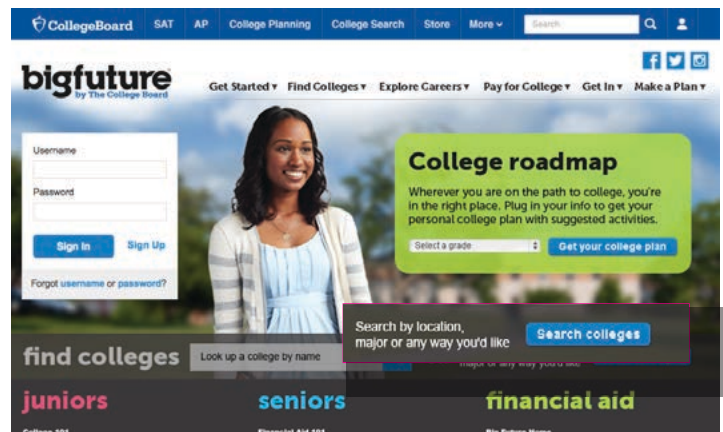
1 CREATE A FREE COLLEGE BOARD ACCOUNT

Visit bigfuture.org and sign up for an account. You can register for exams, get test scores, find colleges, and learn about financial aid and more with this account.



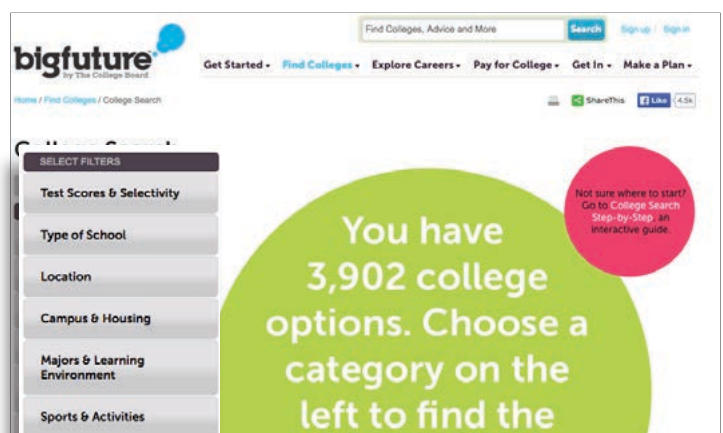
2 CLICK ON SEARCH COLLEGES

There's no magic formula for choosing a college. Use this tool to find the right colleges for you. Search by type, size, location, majors, cost, and more.



3 CHOOSE A FILTER TO GET STARTED

Start with one that's important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.



4 SELECT YOUR PREFERENCES AND GET GUIDANCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Review your options and answer the questions. You'll get tips and advice as well as videos from college planning experts and college students to help you understand your choices.

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting college preferences. On the left is a vertical sidebar with 'SELECT FILTERS' and categories: Test Scores & Selectivity, Location, Campus & Housing, Majors & Learning Environment, Sports & Activities, Academic Credit, Paying, Support Services, and Diversity. The 'Type of School' filter is selected and expanded. It includes: '2-Year or 4-Year' with radio buttons for '2-year community college' and '4-year college or university'; 'Public or Private' with radio buttons for 'Public', 'Private', and 'For-Profit'; 'School Size' with icons for 'Small (<2,000)', 'Medium (2,000-15,000)', and 'Large (>15,000)'; 'Single-sex or Coed' with radio buttons for 'CO ED', 'All Women', and 'All Men'; and 'Religious Affiliation' with a dropdown menu set to 'No preference'. A 'TIP: Skip any questions that you don't care about.' is visible in the top right.

5 GET INSTANT COLLEGE MATCHES

As you make your selections, the number of matches is updated. The more options you select, the more refined your list of matches, which appears behind the question window, becomes. Your preferences are summarized to the left of your list, so you always know what you're searching.

The screenshot shows a grid of college search results. On the left is a sidebar with 'SELECT FILTERS' and categories: Test Scores & Selectivity, Type of School (set to '4-year school'), Private, Coed, Location, Campus & Housing, and Majors & Learning Environment. The main area is a grid of college cards, each with a logo, name, location, and a '100% Match' badge. The cards include: Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX), Academy of Couture Art (Beverly Hills, CA), Adelphi University (Garden City, NY), Adrian College (Adrian, MI), Adventist University of Health Sciences (Orlando, FL), AIB College of Business (Des Moines, IA), Alaska Bible College (Palmer, AK), and Alaska Pacific University (Anchorage, AK). Each card also indicates 'College Application Fee Waiver Available'.

6 PRIORITIZE YOUR PREFERENCES

Start with the preferences that are important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.

This screenshot is similar to the previous one, showing the same grid of college search results. A 'Type of School' filter overlay is open, showing '4-year school' selected. The overlay also shows 'Private' and 'Coed' options with sliders and radio buttons. The grid of college cards remains visible in the background.

7 CHOOSE A COLLEGE TO EXPLORE

Click on a college to learn more about the school. On the "At a Glance" page, you'll get an overview of the school and a map showing its location. The box to the right shows you whether the college matches your college preferences. If there's a check mark, the college matches.

The screenshot shows the 'At a Glance' page for Adelphi University in Garden City, NY. It features a large photo of a brick building. On the left is a sidebar with categories: Deadlines, Majors & Learning Environment, Campus Life, Applying, Paying, For Transfer Students, and For International Students. On the right is a 'Are you on track?' section with a 'Go to Academic Tracker' button. Below that is a 'Does this college have what you want and need?' section with a 'MY MUST-HAVES' list: '4-year school', 'Private', and 'Coed', all with checkmarks. A 'MY WANTS' section is also visible at the bottom right. A descriptive paragraph states: 'A medium-sized, 4-year, private university. This coed college is located in a large town in a suburban setting and is primarily a commuter campus. It offers associate, bachelor's, master's'.

8 GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Browse the topics on the left menu — such as “Majors & Learning Environment,” “Paying,” or “Campus Life.” Tabs within each section offer even more specific information.

At a Glance Medium-sized school

- Total undergraduates: 5,040
- First-time degree-seeking freshmen: 919
- Degree-seeking undergraduate: 5,000
- Graduate enrollment: 2,605

Geographic Location 20 miles from New York City.

Unique Facilities Speech and hearing center, science library, observatory, arboretum, Center for Health Innovation

Applying Student Body | Housing | Activities | Sports | Support Service

Average Age 23

Race/Ethnicity 53% White, 4% Non-Resident Alien, 2% Two or more races

9 SEE IF YOU’RE ACADEMICALLY ON TRACK FOR THE COLLEGE

Click on the “Applying” section and the “Academics” tab there. It shows the high school course work required by this college. Enter how many years of each subject you’ve taken, and the chart will instantly update to show if you’re academically on track or need to adjust your plan. Also in the “Applying” section, you can see how your grades, class rank, and test scores stack up to those of students accepted at this school.

Applying Decision & Early Action

Plans available

- Admitted early decision
- Applied early action: 2,554
- Admitted early action: 2,084

Somewhat selective 68% of applicants admitted

Academics & GPA | SAT & ACT Scores | AP | CLEP

Years of High School Classes

| ARE YOU ON TRACK? | HIGH SCHOOL COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| How many years of these high school classes have | Years | | | | |

10 ADD THE COLLEGE TO YOUR FAVORITES LIST

Click the “Add to My College List” button located next to the college name.

Adelphi University
Garden City, NY

[Add to My College List](#) | [See if you're on track](#) | [Compare colleges](#) | [Print complete college profile](#)

At a Glance | **Deadlines** | **Majors & Learning Environment** | **Campus Life** | **Applying** | **Paying**

Are you on track? See if you're set to meet this college's requirements — and how you can get there. [Go to Academic Tracker](#)

Does this college have what you want and need?

MY MUST-HAVES

- 4-year school
- Private
- Coed

MY WANTS

A medium-sized, 4-year, private university. This coed college is located in a large town in a suburban setting and is primarily a commuter campus. It offers associate, bachelor's, master's

Be sure to apply to at least four colleges.

Why Apply to 4 or More™?

1

It can save you money

Every college offers different scholarships and financial aid packages that can help you pay for college. Apply to at least four colleges so that you can compare and determine which is the best option for you.

2

It increases your odds of getting in

If you apply to only one or two colleges, you risk not getting into either school. If you apply to at least four, you have a much better chance of being admitted.

3

A good fit makes a difference

Students who apply to at least four colleges increase their chances of finding a good academic, social, and financial fit. And a good fit matters because it will influence your overall college experience.

Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information