

Navigating Schoollinks

Researching and Favoriting Schools

Over the summer I would like you to start researching schools you are looking at applying to so you come into your senior year with a solid list. I would recommend selecting 5-10 schools you are interested in. Don't go to crazy! You can use Schoollinks or <https://www.collegedata.com/> to do your research.

Step 1: Research and Identify Schools

Your list of schools should contain 25% Safety, 50% Target & 25% Reach Schools.

- **Likely/Safety** (Any College or University you have an 80% chance or higher of being accepted)
- **Target** (Any College or University that you may have difficulty getting into due to acceptance rates. More prestigious institutions with acceptance rates at or under 30-20%)
- **Reach** (Highly selective institutions that may be a dream school to you. Ex. Stanford, Harvard etc.)

Step 2: Know your Timeline

There are many different application deadlines and reasons for applying early or not. Choose what best fits you and understand what each decision entails.

- **Early Action** (Nonbinding- You receive an early response to your application but DO NOT have to commit to the college until the normal reply date)
- **Early Decision** (Binding- If accepted as an Early Decision applicant you MUST attend the college)
- **Regular Decision** (Most common- You receive acceptance letter and then decide which school you wish to attend. You have until the end of April to accept)
- **Rolling Admissions** (Rare- Colleges review applicants as they are sent in. No hard deadline)

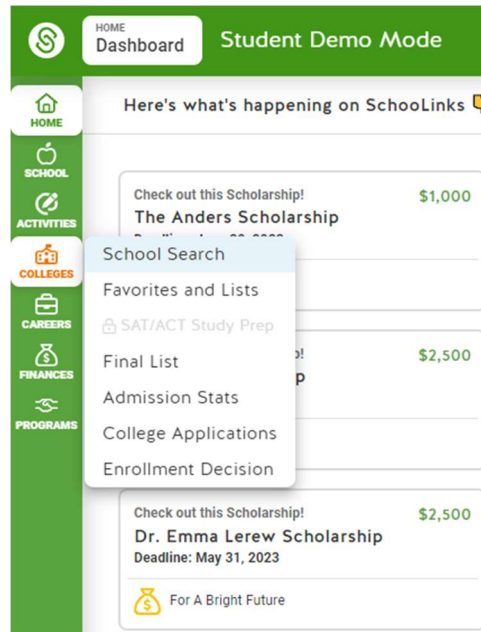
Step 3: What are the qualifications of enrollment

- SAT Scores needed or Test Optional
- Average GPA Acceptance
- Essay Requirements
- Interview Required
- Teacher/Counselor Letters of Recommendation

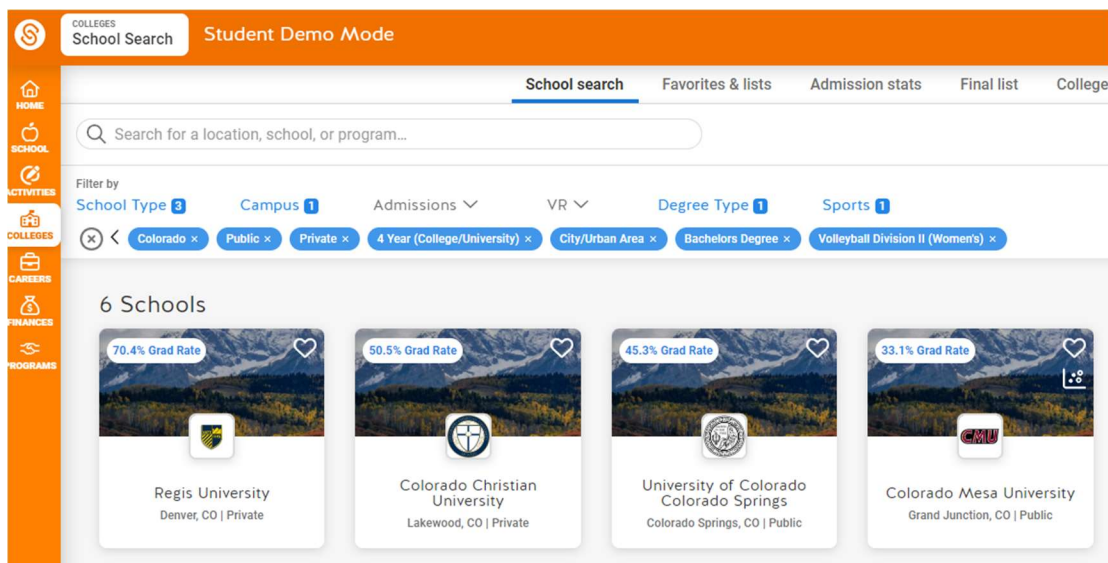
Researching/Favoriting/Identifying in Schoollinks.



On the main page/dashboard on the left-hand side go to “Colleges” and then “School Search”



From here you can either type in schools you are interested in and/or use the filter below the search bar to tailor your search for areas, degrees or sports you are interested in.



When you click on schools individually it will take you to their page where you can get more information on things like their campus, student life, athletics, academics and programs, admissions and applications etc. If this is a school you are interested in applying to then click the “Favorite” heart button on the right-hand side to add to your favorites list.

The screenshot shows the 'School Profile' page for the University of Colorado Boulder. The header is orange with 'Student Demo Mode' and 'Exit Demo X' buttons. A left sidebar contains navigation icons for Home, School, Activities, Colleges, Careers, Finance, and Programs. The main content area features a large banner image of a campus walkway. Below the banner, the school's name and location are displayed. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Overview (selected), Campus Setting, Student Body, Academics & Programs, Athletics, Student Life, Cost & Financial Aid, Admissions, Application, and Suggestions. The 'Overview' section displays key statistics: Undergrad Degrees (Bachelors Degrees), Acceptance Rate (84%), Graduation Rate (71%), Undergrad/Total Enrollment (30,307/37,437), and US News Ranking (99th). A brief description of the university's history and offerings is provided at the bottom.

Once you have researched your schools and favorited the ones you are interested in, under the colleges tab on the left-hand side you can click “Favorites & Lists” and it will show you your personalized list.

The screenshot shows the 'Favorites & Lists' page. The top navigation bar includes 'School search', 'Favorites & lists' (selected), 'Admission stats', 'Final list', 'College applications', and 'Enrollment decision'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Your favorited schools & programs' (selected), 'Schools', and 'Programs'. The main content area displays a grid of school cards, each showing the school's name, location, graduation rate, and a 'No programs favorited at this school' message. The schools listed are: University of California-Berkeley, University of California-San Diego, Pepperdine University, University of Denver, Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado Boulder, San Diego State University, Colorado State University-Fort Collins, and Northern Arizona University.

The last thing I would like you to do is click “Final List” under the Colleges tab and rank your favorited schools into the three categories “Likely, Target & Reach”. You can add from your favorites list by clicking the blue button on the upper right-hand corner.

Final List

Search college to add

Likely
You have a high chance of acceptance because your stats exceed admission standards.

- University of Northern California
- Acceptance
- Grad rate
- University of Colorado Denver
66% Acceptance
46% Grad rate
- Western State Colorado University
88% Acceptance
43% Grad rate

Target
You have a fair chance of acceptance because your stats meet most admission standards.

- California State University-Fresno
90% Acceptance
57% Grad rate
- Northern Arizona University
81% Acceptance
52% Grad rate
- University of Colorado Boulder
84% Acceptance
78% Grad rate

Reach
You have a lower chance of acceptance because your stats miss some admission standards.

- UC Berkeley
17% Acceptance
91% Grad rate
- UCSD
36% Acceptance
87% Grad rate
- Colorado School of Mines
54% Acceptance
76% Grad rate

Comment | Add from favorites & lists

You can also click the “Admission Stats” tab on the top to enter your SAT scores and GPA so you can see your acceptance rate.

