

I'm new to this, where do I start?

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First, some self-reflection:

- How do you want your college experience to be the same *or different* from your high school experience?
- In what type of academic setting are you most successful?
- If you aren't certain of your future college major, what are some general areas that you find interesting? (*It is OK to be undecided about your major!!*)



A little more self-reflection:

- What extracurricular activities do you want to continue (or try for the first time) in college?
- What feels comfortable, and how much do you want to push yourself beyond your comfort zone?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- *Who* do you want to be in the future?





Factors to Consider:

- Location
- Size
- Distance
- Academic Programs
- Cost
- Climate
- Public/Private
- Campus Setting



Other factors to consider:

- Commuting vs Residential
- Residence Halls
- Dining
- Clubs
- Athletics
- School Spirit
- Social Scene
- Student Happiness



Use your resources to build a list

- College Counselors
- Guide Books
 - Princeton Review
 - Fiske Guide to Colleges
 - Colleges That Change Lives
- College Websites
- College Social Media
- High School Visits
- College Fairs
- Campus Visits
- Contact an admission representative

Pro Tip: Set-up a college specific email account and check it regularly (1-2x week)

Go ahead and sign up for mailing lists. You can always unsubscribe if you eliminate a school from your list!



Narrow the search *and* keep an open mind!

**What are the
non-negotiables?**



**Keep an
open mind
with
variables
you are still
considering.**



Take Action:

SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR YEAR:

- Set up college-specific email account.
- Plan a campus visit!
Start local, then expand.
- Concerned about cost?
Complete the Net Price Calculator

JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR:

- Sign up for the ACT or SAT
- Work on college essay
(brainstorm ideas, write a first draft, refine/proofread)
- Craft your resume
- Start a document/spreadsheet to keep track of important dates and deadlines



A few more pro tips:



- Consider setting aside time each week to discuss the college search.
- Document college visits
 - Take pictures
 - Debrief on what you liked (or didn't like)
- Be kind and celebrate
 - There will be stressful moments for students *and* parents
 - Celebrate the wins



Final assurances....

There is more than one “right fit” school

Education is a worthwhile investment and may be
more affordable than you think

There is a college that wants YOU



Enjoy the journey!

Questions?

