

# How to Find the Right College

Finding the right college is an extremely important decision for many high school juniors and seniors. It is a big life change, especially if you decide to attend college out of state; therefore it is important that you take the time to research your intended colleges and make sure that you will be a perfect fit at the school. This will reduce your likelihood of transferring later.

## Decide on a Major

As a seventeen-year-old college student, it is a little early to decide what you want to major in while in college, however your major may determine the school you attend. Students with common majors such as psychology or business can attend almost any college as those areas of study are offered at most schools. However students with an interest in education, medicine, or law, should research the best schools available for those majors. If you are going into one of these specialized fields, you want to make sure that you attend a school that has the curriculum that will help you succeed when you are ready to hit the job market.

## Location

When choosing a college, make sure you are alright with the surrounding area around the college. Is the college located in a city where you will have to use public transportation to get around or is it in a suburb where a car will be necessary? Also make sure it is an area that you may not mind living in the future as some college students continue to live in the area where the college they attended is located. Also, if you are a student who may want to come home often, then you may want to consider a college close to home. This way you won't be spending too much money on airplane tickets; you can commute home by bus, train, or even car if you are able to have one on campus.

## Extracurricular

Check into extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations that your intended college offers. If you plan on pledging to a sorority or fraternity then check to which ones have chapters on campus. If you play sports, check out the popularity of the teams on campus. This is all helpful to do since joining clubs and organizations on campus will help you be more involved with your college as well as make friends.

## Other tips on finding the perfect College

- Check into things such as size and student to teacher ratio. If a class of two hundred students does not appeal to you, then you may want to stay away from large public schools.
- Check to see how much the tuition, room, and board and other fees total. You may have found the perfect college but if the tuition is expensive, you may have to take out additional student loans and/or apply for scholarships.
- Make sure you apply to more than one college, just in case your "first-choice" falls through. Try to find at least two to three "perfect" schools so that you have a cushion in case something does not work out with the first school.

Find and Compare Colleges that are right for you:

Enter Your Zip Code:

