

Using College Board's "Big Future"
to research and select colleges.



Here is an essential checklist of questions to ask before deciding on a college.

- 1) Is the city or town that the college is located in one that you'd like living in? Is the school located within a reasonable day's drive to other thriving cities? How far from home?
- 2) Location of malls, movie theaters, amusement parks, historical sights, other entertainment.
- 3) Is the campus big or small? Can you reasonably walk from class to class in a decent length of time or would it be better to bike or bus?
- 4) Does the cost of living in the city sound reasonable for a college student?
- 5) Is it in a city that will have internships in your field or will you have to travel for that experience?

6) Is there a good campus scene for whatever niche group you're part of? Is it a socially active campus that you feel comfortable in? If not, how about in the city?

7) Is dorm life, as portrayed on a school's website or seen during your campus visit, the experience you're looking for? Single-sex versus coed

8) Does the school have the major you want and is the program sufficient?

9) Does the college have large or small classes or both? Which do you prefer or think you'd prefer?

10) Does the school have any interesting electives you'd like to take, such as philosophy of film or yoga? What other educational experiences does the college offer?

11) Is it a social campus, a commuter campus or a quiet campus? Parties, sporting events, concerts, lecture series, famous speakers? Are there Student organizations and activities

12) Is the school within your price range or worth going into debt over?

13) Has the school had significant price hikes from year to year, making it difficult to gauge how much it'd cost to attend for four years?

14) Is the campus visually pleasant and a place you'd be okay spending a good chunk of your time on? Are the students at the college happy?

15) What's the weather like there? Is there a lot of one kind of weather, like snow or rain, that you love or can't stand?

- 16) Are the professors kind or approachable? Do they offer office hours? Have you checked some professor ratings on sites like ratemyprofessors.com or asked current students?
- 17) How well does the school rank academically? Is this important to you?
- 18) Is there a line of successful alumni from the school?
- 19) Does the college offer career services, fairs, counseling. Are they aggressive at offering internships and job placement? What % of graduates find full-time jobs or graduate school after graduation?
- 20) Can you imagine going to any other school more than this one? Or does this one just feel right? How important do you regard your feelings vs. logic?

The College Board - College Admissions - SAT - University & College Search Tool - Google Chrome

←

→

↻

https://www.collegeboard.org

★

☰

AppsSuggested SitesYahoo! MailImported From IEOther bookmarks

SATPSAT/NMSQTAPCollege PlanningCollege SearchProfessionalsMore

Search

Notices and Alerts

Alert:

At this time, rush SAT score reporting is not available. Please use the regular reporting service.

CollegeBoard

About UsAdvocacyMembershipNews & PressResearch

Username

Password

Sign In

Sign Up

Forgot username or password?

College Search

Search by college name

CSS/Financial Aid
PROFILE

Apply Now
for Financial Aid

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

Apply for non-federal financial aid at hundreds of colleges and scholarship programs with just one form.

Read More

Students

AP

Education Professionals

College Planning

More to Explore

Initiatives

Events

SAT

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Southern Regional Forum (Feb.



BigFuture™

[Get Started ▾](#)[Find Colleges ▾](#)[Explore Careers ▾](#)[Pay for College ▾](#)[Get In ▾](#)[Make a Plan ▾](#)[I know what I want](#)[I am not sure where to start](#)[Location matters to me](#)[College majors are my top priority](#)[I'm worried about college costs](#)

Find your future

Look up a college you're interested in.

[Go](#)

OR

Search for colleges that have what you want.

[Search](#)

Looking for a
specific college?

[Go](#)

Want to explore
your options?

[Search for colleges ▸](#)

Know where you
want to be?

[Search by location ▸](#)

Not sure where to
start?

[Take a first step ▸](#)

Pick three colleges and then use
BigFuture.org to fill in the
information on the table.



	College 1	College 2	College 3
Name of College			
AT A GLANCE:			
Describe the campus and location			
College Webpage			
# of total undergrads			
# of freshmen			
Average Financial Aid Package			
DEADLINES:			
What is the Regular Application Deadline?			
MAJORS...			
What % of freshman return for sophomore year?			
What major(s) does this college offer that interests you?			
APPLYING:			
What % of applicants is admitted?			
What does the college consider "very important" in the admission process?			
SAT/ACT SCORES			
Mid Range Critical Reading SAT?			
Mid-Range Math SAT?			
PAYING:			
Estimated total cost when living on campus			

How to Build a College List



FOR JUNIORS

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.

The screenshot shows the BigFuture website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "Find Colleges, Advice and More" and a "Search" button. To the right are links for "Sign up" and "Sign in". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with options: "Get Started", "Find Colleges", "Explore Careers", "Pay for College", "Get In", and "Make a Plan". The main content area features a sidebar on the left titled "SELECT FILTERS" with a list of categories: "Test Scores & Selectivity", "Type of School", "Location", "Campus & Housing", "Majors & Learning Environment", and "Sports & Activities". The "Type of School" filter is highlighted with a pink border. In the center, a large green circle contains the text "You have 3,902 college options. Choose a category on the left to find the". To the right of the circle is a pink callout box that says "Not sure where to start? Go to College Search Step-by-Step, an interactive guide."

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.

This screenshot shows the BigFuture website with the "Type of School" filter selected in the sidebar. The main content area displays several filter categories with checkboxes and icons: "2-Year or 4-Year" (with checkboxes for "2-year/community college" and "4-year college or university"), "Public or Private" (with checkboxes for "Public", "Private", and "For-Profit"), "School Size" (with icons and checkboxes for "Small <2,000", "Medium 2,000-15,000", and "Large >15,000"), "Single-sex or Coed" (with icons and checkboxes for "Coed", "All Women", and "All Men"), and "Religious Affiliation" (with a dropdown menu set to "No preference"). A pink callout box on the right says "Not sure where to start? Go to College Search Step-by-Step, an interactive guide." Below the filters, a "TIP: Skip any questions that you don't care about." is displayed. At the bottom right, there's a button that says "CLOSE AND SEE RESULTS".

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 web interface for finding college matches. On the left, under 'SELECT FILTERS', there are sections for 'Test Scores & Selectivity', 'Location', 'Campus & Housing', and 'Majors & Learning Environment'. The 'Test Scores & Selectivity' section is expanded, showing sliders for 'Type of School' (set to '4-year school'), 'Private', and 'Coed'. Each slider has 'Don't care', 'Want', and 'Must have' markers. To the right, a grid of college cards is displayed, each with a logo, name, location, and a note about 'College Application Fee Waiver Available'. The colleges listed are Abilene Christian University, Academy of Couture Art, Adelphi University, Adrian College, Adventist University of Health Sciences, AIB College of Business, Alaska Bible College, and Alaska Pacific University.

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 identical to the one above, but with a pink rectangular box highlighting the 'Type of School' filter section in the 'Test Scores & Selectivity' category. The box encompasses the '4-year school' slider and its 'Don't care', 'Want', and 'Must have' markers.

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.

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

For Transfer Students

For International Students

[MORE TO EXPLORE](#)



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

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

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

Deadlines

Majors & Learning Environment

Campus Life

Applying

Paying

For Transfer Students

For International Students

[MORE TO EXPLORE](#)

Students who viewed this college also viewed these:

[See similar colleges](#)

Medium-sized school

Total undergraduates	5,040
First-time degree-seeking freshmen	918
Degree-seeking undergraduate	5,000
Graduate enrollment	2,605

Commuter Campus

Suburban Setting

Large Town

Geographic Location

20 miles from New York City

Unique Facilities

speech and hearing center, science library, observatory, arboretum, Center for Health Innovation

Student Body

Housing

Activities

Sports

Support Service

Visiting a college can give you a feel for life on campus.

Many students say that a college's size, location and campus “personality” were major factors in their final choice. A college's student body is an important part of that equation. Ask yourself these questions: Are you interested in being part of a diverse community with people from many different backgrounds? Do you want to be around students who are interested in sports, studying, politics or something else?

Average Age

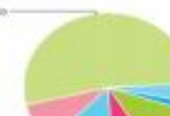
23

All students

21

Race/Ethnicity

82% 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.

The screenshot shows the BigFuture website for Adelphi University. The 'Applying' section is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the 'Academics & GPA' tab is selected. The page displays admission statistics for 'Somewhat selective' colleges, with 68% of applicants admitted. It also shows a table for 'Years of High School Classes' with columns for 'How many years of these high school classes have' and 'Years' (1, 2, 3, 4). A note from the college states: '3.0 cumulative GPA, and combined critical reading, math and writing SAT score of 1500 or higher very important. Rank in top third of class, school and community activities, references also important.'

10 ADD THE COLLEGE TO YOUR FAVORITES LIST

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

The screenshot shows the BigFuture website for Adelphi University. The 'Add to My College List' button is highlighted with a red box. The page also features a 'Are you on track?' section with a 'Go to Academic Tracker' button, and a 'Does this college have what you want and need?' section with a 'MY MUST-HAVES' list: 4-year school, Private, and Coed. A description of the college is provided: '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'.