

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- What high school courses are required? Are entrance tests required? Which ones?
- What scores are acceptable?
- Is a certain grade point average or class rank required?
- Will my activities and school involvement be considered?
- Is there an essay on the applications? Is it read?
- Is there an early decision or early action plan?
- Are personal interviews or letters of recommendation required?
- Do certain majors have special requirements?
- Can admission denials be appealed?
- What are the application filing dates?

ACADEMICS

- What is the average class size? Largest? Smallest?
- What was the grade point average for the freshman class last year?
- What services does the school offer for the student who is undecided about a major?
- What are the most popular majors?
- Are students taught by full-time faculty members, graduate assistants, or a combination of both?
- What types of additional services are provided by the school at no additional cost to the student (e.g. tutoring, career and personal counseling, developmental reading and study-skills workshops, job placement)?
- Is there an honors program? What are the qualifications for entry?

COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

- Where is the college located (city, suburb, small town, or rural setting)?
- What is the surrounding community like?
- Is the college public, private, or church affiliated?
- What is the current student enrollment?
- What special or unique programs are offered?
- Does the college have general education or course distribution requirements? What are they?

COST

- What are the costs for tuition?
- Room and board/other fees
- Is there a difference in the costs for in-state and out-of-state students?
- Are accepted students required to place deposits for tuition and housing? Are these refundable?
- When must accepted students decide whether they will attend?

FINANCIAL AID

- What percent of students receive financial aid based on financial need?
- What percent of students receive scholarships based on academic ability?
- Will my financial aid be adjusted if my need increases?
- What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
- When are financial aid applicants notified of their awards?
- Is there a tuition payment plan?
- Are there campus jobs available? Are there off-campus jobs as well?

SOCIAL LIFE

- What is the male-to-female ratio?
- What percent of students reside on-campus?
- Are dorms co-ed or single sex?
- Is it a "suitcase college" where all the students leave on the weekends?
- What are the procedures for selecting a roommate?

STUDENT POPULATION

- Where do the majority of students come from?
- Do most of the students commute or live on-campus?
- What types of student activities are there?
- Are sororities and fraternities on-campus?
- What athletic programs are available?
- Is the surrounding community supportive of the college?
- Does the college have a campus visitation program?
- Is housing available/guaranteed for freshmen?
- Is it available for all four years?