

The College Selection Process

I. Assessment Tools

- A. Ask yourself:
 - Why do I want to go to college?
 - What areas of studies or careers interest me the most?
 - What activities do I enjoy?
 - What talents or skills do I have?
(academic/music/art/drama/athletic/leadership)
 - What resources (financial/personal) are available to me?
- B. Consider the following factors about colleges you research:
 - Location
 - Type
 - Size/Student Body
 - Academics
 - Campus Life
 - Financial aid options/Scholarships
 - Reach or Realistic?

The goal should not be to find THE college, but to find several of many places where you'll be happy and productive.

II. Where to begin

- A. General Resources
 - Your college counselor
 - Guidebooks
 - College Literature
 - Web Sites
 - Family/Friends
- B. Getting more details
 - Connect with an alum
 - Take a virtual visit
 - View the video/DVD
 - Attend a college fair or school visit

III. Visiting a college campus

- A. You visit may include:
 - Information Sessions
 - Campus Tours
 - Personal Interviews
 - Visit a class
 - Tour facilities
 - Have lunch
 - Stay overnight
 - Explore the surrounding town or city
 - Talk to students

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- B. Take notice
 - Condition of the campus
 - Facilities
 - Classrooms
 - Housing
 - Read the bulletin boards & newspapers

IV. The Interview

- A. Who will conduct the interview?
 - Directors
 - Admission Officer
 - Current student
 - Alums
- B. Commonly asked questions
 - What classes do you enjoy the most?
 - What do you do outside of class?
 - What do you do in the summer?
 - What books have you found enjoyable but challenging?
 - Whom do you admire?
 - What are your post-college plans?
 - What are you looking for in a college and/or what brings you to this one?
 - What will you contribute to this college?
- C. Tips
 - Prepare
 - Explain
 - Boast
 - Expound
 - Question
- D. Some questions worth asking
 - What is the average class size?
 - What are your internship options?
 - Where can I study or take classes off campus?
 - Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?
 - What happens here on weekends?
 - What do students like best about this school?
 - What do they complain about?