

Picking the College That is Right for You

There are a lot of factors that go into choosing the best college for you. It's one of the biggest decisions one will ever make. Your experiences, friends, lessons and decisions made during this time will impact your life long-term. It's an accord to prayerfully make. There are factors that you will want to take into account.

- Cost
- Location
- Student Body
- Campus Visit
- Long-Term Goals

Check out the attached sheet to read a little more about each of these. Discuss and make these decisions together as a family. They are some of the best you will ever make.

Guidance Events

- 3/7-Ottawa University Lunch Visit
- 3/20-ACU Lunch Visit
- 3/24-NAU Campus Visit
- 3/27-University of Alabama Lunch Visit
- 3/28-U of A Lunch Visit

Community Event

- 3/13-ASU Forensic Science Day

Scholarship Spotlight

- **Quest of Excellence Award Scholarship**

<https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/quest-for-excellence-awards>

- **Four-Year Nursing College Scholarships for HS Seniors**

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/nursing/high-school-graduate.htm>

- **KFC Foundation-Colonel's Scholars Program**

<http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/scholarships/kfc-colonels-scholars-program.php>

- **Scholarship America (6 different open scholarships here)**

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/what-we-do/students-parents/open-scholarships/>

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COST

College is expensive. Look carefully at your financial aid packages and have an honest conversation with your parents, and anyone else who will help you pay for school, about what you can afford. Your package might include a mix of loans, scholarships, grants and work-study; read the fine print to make sure you understand the terms and conditions for each type of aid.

LOCATION

It's important to decide not only whether you prefer an urban, suburban or rural setting, but also how far from home you want to live. If you move cross-country, flights home during school breaks can add up. But staying close to home could mean sacrificing the chance to challenge yourself in a new place or to meet an entirely new group of friends.

Attending an out-of-state college, either at a public or a private school, will generally cost more than a two- or four-year college close to home. So remember to take that into account when factoring location into your decision.

STUDENT BODY

If diversity at your college is important to you, read up on the composition of the student body. Are most students from a particular region or state? What about gender balance? Does the school offer the amount of socioeconomic diversity you're looking for? The College Board's Big Future website lets you search for a college and view handy student body statistics by school under the Campus Life tab.

CAMPUS VISIT

There's no replacement for visiting your potential campus and imagining what it would feel like to live there. Stroll through the quad and watch how students spend their free time. Ask current students how they like the school. Pop into the cafeteria and eat lunch, just as you would between classes as a student. If you can, set up a visit to a class that interests you

LONG-TERM GOALS

Make sure your potential school offers the majors and networking options that will set you up for success later on. If you have a lot of different interests and you're not sure what major you'll settle on, a big research university will give you options. Students who have a good idea of the career they want to pursue should go for a school that has a strong reputation in that area. Certain careers will require a big investment in graduate school, so keep that in mind, too, when choosing your college experience. If you're likely to take on major loans for a law or medical degree, decide now whether it's worth it to go into debt for undergrad, too.