



Elite Prep College List Builder

A guide to finding the right college for you

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This guide belongs to:

THE COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS | *Finding the Right Fit*

The college search process ends with finding colleges that are the right fit for you – academically, socially, and financially – where you will grow and reach your educational and personal goals. But the process begins with developing a good understanding of YOU – both in terms of what you’re looking for in a college experience and how competitive you are as an applicant to that college. Colleges consider a host of academic and non-academic factors in selecting the first-year class. Take a moment to jot down your information.

Your GPA <i>Unweighted</i> <i>Grades 9–11</i>		Your GPA <i>Weighted</i> <i>Grades 9–11</i>		Number of AP Classes <i>Grades 9–12</i>		SAT or ACT Score <i>Composite</i>	
AP Exam Scores <i>List subjects and scores</i>		Extra-curricular Activities <i>List your top 3 activities including leadership roles and highest achievement in each activity</i>					

THE COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS | *Finding the Right Fit*

1. Why do you want to go to college? In other words, what do you want to get out of college?

2. If you have an intended major or career, what types of activities would you like to do in college to pursue your academic and career goals?

3. Aside from academics, what extracurricular activities on and off campus would you like to engage in during college?

4. What are three things you do that you want to be able to continue to do in college?

5. What three things would you like to do that you've never done before during your college years?

6. What parts of your hometown do you like and not like? Are you looking for a similar or different environment during college?

WHY COLLEGE? | *What are you interested in studying or doing in the future?*

Students are often told to follow their passion, but what does that actually mean?

Following one's passion will hopefully lead to a career that is both purposeful and rewarding. Start by listing your academic or intellectual interests, why you enjoy these subjects, and possible careers related to these interests. Then list your interests outside of school, why you enjoy these activities, and types of careers you might be able to pursue involving those interests.

Are there overlaps in your interests and/or possible careers? Do you see any connections?

Courses or subjects you enjoy at school	Interest you have outside of class	Another interest you have outside of class
Why do you enjoy these subjects?	Why do you enjoy this activity?	Why do you enjoy this activity?
Possible careers	Possible careers	Possible careers

WHY COLLEGE? | *What are you interested in studying or doing in the future?*

Understanding the knowledge and skills that you will need to be successful in a potential career will help you decide what majors and learning opportunities you should look for in college. In addition, you should research the work environment, salary, and career trajectory (what you will be doing after working for 10 years) as you evaluate each career path.

Career #1	Career #2	Career #3
Education required	Education required	Education required
☐ Undergraduate Degree ☐ Graduate/Professional Degree	☐ Undergraduate Degree ☐ Graduate/Professional Degree	☐ Undergraduate Degree ☐ Graduate/Professional Degree
Knowledge you will need	Knowledge you will need	Knowledge you will need
Skills you should develop	Skills you should develop	Skills you should develop
Work environment	Work environment	Work environment
Salary after 5 years	Salary after 5 years	Salary after 5 years
What position do people have after 10 years?	What position do people have after 10 years?	What position do people have after 10 years?

TYPES OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Public Universities vs. **Private Colleges & Universities**

Public universities tend to be large (some have student enrollment as large as 40,000 students), and private colleges and universities may range from 1,500 to 15,000 or more students.

Tuition at public universities tends to be more affordable than that at private colleges, especially for in-state students. By contrast, tuition at private colleges and universities is the same regardless of where the student resides.



Public Universities

- Supported by taxpayers in the state
- In-state residents pay less than non-residents (i.e., students from out-of-state and international students)
- University of California tuition:
 - » \$15,000 for residents
 - » \$49,000 for non-residents
- Large student body: 15,000-40,000 undergraduates
- No religious affiliation

Private Colleges & Universities

- Main sources of income are tuition and investments
- Not supported by taxpayers in the state – all students pay the same tuition
- Tuition is much higher than tuition for public universities – \$55,000 and up
- Small to large student body: 1,500-15,000 undergraduates
- Many are religiously-affiliated

TYPES OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Research Universities vs. **Liberal Arts Colleges**

Research universities offer both undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as professional programs in business, engineering, medicine, and law. Furthermore, research universities tend to have professors who focus considerable time and effort on conducting research across various disciplines from science to social sciences to the humanities.

Liberal arts colleges, on the other hand, tend to focus more on the undergraduate educational experience. Hallmarks of a liberal arts college education include wide-ranging curricula, smaller class sizes, and tight-knit communities.



Research Universities

- Over 100 majors (many choices, easier to change majors)
- Research opportunities with professors who are experts in their fields (they wrote the textbook)
- Strong engineering programs
- Diverse student body (racially, ethnically, geographically, etc.)
- Many on-campus activities (hundreds of student organizations, major sports programs, concerts organized by the university)
- On-campus housing not guaranteed after the first year

Liberal Arts Colleges

- Focus on undergraduate education (classes are taught by professors who care about teaching)
- Small class sizes (less than 20 students typically) promote the sharing of ideas and connecting with peers
- Close interaction with professors in and outside of class (makes it easier to get recommendation letters for graduate school)
- Residential colleges (on-campus housing for all four years)
- Don't need to compete with graduate students for research opportunities with professors

YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH | *What are you looking for in a college?*

Your Preferences	How important is this factor?
How far from home would you like to be? ☐ Close by ☐ Within a 2-hour drive ☐ Accessible by plane	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Which environment do you prefer? ☐ Large city ☐ Suburb ☐ Small city or town ☐ Rural	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Do you want to live in or near a particular city or town? 	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Does the weather matter to you? ☐ I prefer to see the sun year-round ☐ I prefer to experience all four seasons	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
What size college do you prefer? ☐ Small (< 2,500) ☐ Medium (< 10,000) ☐ Large (< 20,000) ☐ Very Large (> 20,000)	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
What are your housing preferences? ☐ Live off campus after freshman year ☐ Live on campus for all four years	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
How diverse a campus do you want? ☐ Very diverse ☐ Moderately diverse	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Do you want a campus with a special focus? ☐ Religious ☐ Women only ☐ Military Academy	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important

YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH | *What else are you looking for in a college?*

Your Preferences	How important is this factor?
Are there specific majors or courses that you want a college to offer? 	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Which classroom environment do you prefer? ☐ Small classes (< 20 students) ☐ Large classes (> 150 students) ☐ A mix of class sizes	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Are there any special learning opportunities you are looking for? ☐ Core Curriculum ☐ Open Curriculum ☐ Honors Programs ☐ Study Abroad ☐ Undergraduate Science Research ☐ Internships ☐ Co-ops	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
What kind of intellectual environment do you prefer? ☐ Very rigorous ☐ Midrange ☐ Less intense	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
How important is it for you to apply to a top-ranked college? ☐ Top 15 ☐ Top 25 ☐ Top 50 ☐ Top 100	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
Are there particular extracurricular activities or special facilities you're looking for? 	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
How are you planning to participate in sports in college? ☐ Division I ☐ Division II ☐ Division III ☐ Club/Intramural Sports	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important
How important is the availability of scholarships? ☐ Merit ☐ Need-based	☐ Very Important ☐ Somewhat Important

YOUR COLLEGE LIST | *Admission Stats, Application Requirements & Deadlines*

College or University	Location	Undergraduate Enrollment	Admission Rate	Average GPA of Admitted Students	Average SAT/ACT Score of Admitted Students
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered
					☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Considered

YOUR COLLEGE LIST | Admission Stats, Application Requirements & Deadlines

Majors Offered	Early Application Deadline	Regular Decision Deadline	Scholarship Deadline	Teacher Recommendations Required	Optional Supplemental Materials	Annual Cost of Attendance (Tuition + Room & Board)
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	
				☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2	☐ Portfolio ☐ Interview ☐ Video Introduction	



Elite Educational Institute Locations

Northern California

Cupertino

(408) 973-8966 • cupertino@eliteprep.com

Fremont

(510) 979-0808 • fremont@eliteprep.com

San Jose

(408) 266-3838 • sanjose@eliteprep.com

San Ramon

(925) 234-9853 • sanramon@eliteprep.com

Southern California

Arcadia

(626) 287-1245 • arcadia@eliteprep.com

Cerritos

(562) 403-7252 • cerritos@eliteprep.com

Fullerton

(714) 525-6611 • fullerton@eliteprep.com

Irvine-Newport Beach

(949) 252-9124 • irvine@eliteprep.com

Irvine-Northwood

(949) 654-8523 • northwood@eliteprep.com

La Crescenta

(818) 236-3872 • lacrescenta@eliteprep.com

Los Angeles

(213) 365-8008 • losangeles@eliteprep.com

Northridge

(818) 831-4422 • northridge@eliteprep.com

Rowland Heights

(909) 444-0876 • rowlandheights@eliteprep.com

San Diego

(858) 720-0808 • sandiego@eliteprep.com

Thousand Oaks

(805) 778-1177 • thousandoaks@eliteprep.com

Torrance

(310) 378-4171 • torrance@eliteprep.com

West LA

(310) 470-4340 • westla@eliteprep.com

Georgia

Suwanee

(470) 253-1004 • suwanee@eliteprep.com

Nevada

Henderson

(702) 859-4881 • henderson@eliteprep.com

Las Vegas

(702) 800-7577 • lasvegas@eliteprep.com

Texas

Austin

(737) 220-1911 • austin@eliteprep.com

Flower Mound

(469) 943-2692 • flowermound@eliteprep.com

Houston

(281) 392-8958 • houston@eliteprep.com

Plano

(972) 306-3200 • plano@eliteprep.com

Southlake

(817) 752-9088 • southlake@eliteprep.com

Virginia

Chantilly

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Fairfax

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