

Selecting the Right School for You

Finding the right school is an important step in getting the best education for you. Answer these questions for each school you are considering. Review criteria that are most important to you and your future. Which schools are the best fit?

Academics and Career Direction

Does the school have the academic programs that will help you meet your career goal?

What optional programs are important to you (study abroad, internships, research projects, learning groups)?

Does the school have a job placement office? What kind of track record does it have for helping students find jobs in their career?

What is the student-to-faculty ratio?

Does the school have mentoring or tutoring programs, if you need help or want to volunteer?

What percentage of freshmen return for a second year?

Does the school have a high percentage of freshmen who graduate from the school?

Are the extracurricular programs useful for your interests and career direction?

General Environment

What size school are you most comfortable with (small, medium, large)?

What geographic location do you prefer?

How far do you want to be from home? Do most students go home for the weekend ("suitcase school")? Will you be lonely if you stay over weekends and holidays?

Do you want an urban, suburban, or rural setting?

Is the security on campus adequate?

Does the school have the diversity and student body reputation that fits with your personality?

Are the on-campus housing and meal plans satisfactory?

Are the athletic programs appropriate for your needs?

Cost and Financial Aid

What are the admissions requirements? Do you fit their profile?

What is the cost of attendance? Include tuition, fees, books, housing, meals, and personal expenses.

What types of financial aid awards, merit scholarships, etc. does the school offer?

Does the school have work/study programs in your major that reduce your cost as well as prepare you for your chosen career?

What percentage of students receive financial aid?

What is the average financial aid award?

Does the school offer discounts if more than one sibling from a family attends?

How do scholarships affect financial aid? No reduction? Reduce grants? Reduce loans?

Does the school offer job boards and/or internships that provide earning opportunities in your major?