Factors to look @ when looking for Your College:

Make sure that it has your career/major interest: Look at the majors carefully and make sure that it has that area of interest that you are considering. Even if you don’t have an idea of what you may want to major in, write down areas of study that MAY be of interest and make sure they offer it!! There is nothing worse than going to a university or college that doesn’t have what you may want to study.

How far is it from Home? Yes some of us wanted to get far away from home, only to realize that we missed it. Look at the cost of traveling home and time it will take to get home if you suddenly need to be there.

Focus on who you are and what you like? Do you like big cities or smaller town setting? Cold or Warm climates? Campus size? Student organizations and sports programs?

Look all the following options so you can make sure you have a better way of looking at colleges:

- Public versus private
- Two-year versus four-year
- Single-sex versus coed
- Liberal arts and sciences versus comprehensive universities
- Size: small, medium or large
- Location: urban, suburban, rural, out of state, in state or international
- Academic offerings
- Majors
- Faculty, especially in desired field
- Academic skills enhancement
- Residential and social life
- Student organizations and activities
- Athletics and recreational sports (varsity, intramural and club)
- Community service organizations
- Personal and career counseling
- Extracurricular activities
- Personal attention available
- Diversity of student body
- Religious affiliation

Obtained from College GreenLight.com
Build a list of schools

**Use the following criteria to create a list of schools:** Look at Four different schools that are you Match, Reach, Safety and Dream schools:

A *match* school is one where your academic credentials fall well within (or even exceed) the school's range for the average freshman. There are no guarantees, but it's not unreasonable to be accepted to several of your match schools.

A *reach* school is one where your academic credentials fall below the school's range for the average freshman. Reach schools are long–shots, but they should still be possible. If you have a 2.0 GPA, Harvard is not a reach school–it's a dream.

A *safety* school is one where your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the average freshman. You can be reasonably certain that you will be admitted to your safety schools.

Apply to a few schools from each category (many applicants apply to around three reach schools, three match schools and two safety schools). Separating them will help you manage your expectations throughout the admissions process. And it will ensure that you set ambitious goals and give yourself some back–up options.

**What about the Dream school?** A dream school is one that is beyond your test scores, your GPA and extra-curricular activities and maybe just a little more than you can afford RIGHT NOW. If you have your heart set on going to your dream school it will take even more time and efforts to not only work on the admission requirements but more importantly the scholarship/financial aid requirements.

*Keep in mind that you can change your mind as you learn the ins and outs of college and life in general. One school is not a perfect fit, go with your inner instinct and don’t be afraid to look at a DREAM school more carefully. If you can reach that dream school with your academics then look at the scholarships and start working on gaining the money to go to your dream school.*

**List the following schools/universities that you researched and answer as honestly as you can to the two columns.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety (S), Dream (D) or Reach (R)</th>
<th>Colleges and Universities</th>
<th>Why I’m Interested</th>
<th>My Chances of Getting In</th>
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