

Choosing a College Criteria - Cut out the squares and place them in order of importance on the numbered grid. Everyone who is involved in the college selection process should do this on their own. All family members get together and compare their results. Often times, priorities will differ between the student and the parents. That is okay. The idea behind this exercise is to get all the stakeholders talking about the college selection process.

<p>Academic Atmosphere: Do I prefer to work hard and compete with the best, or do I prefer to earn respectable grades without great pressure? What kind of atmosphere is best for me – challenging, intense, relaxed, supportive?</p>	<p>Academic Programs: A specialized professional school or a broad liberal arts program? Must I choose a major to be admitted? Study Abroad, ROTC, Honors Seminars for freshman? State of the art facilities?</p>	<p>Social Atmosphere: Am I seeking a residential or “commuter” college? Small, close-knit community where the college is the center of the community or a large, diverse university? Political or non-political? Strong Greek system? A party or studious atmosphere?</p>	<p>Cost: Is cost a major factor? Interested in public or private? (Remember: don’t rule out a private college due to cost as you may qualify for financial aid or scholarships.)</p>
<p>Geographic Location: How important is it to be close to a particular environment – ocean, skiing, etc.? Does climate matter – warm, cold, rain? Is college a time for travel or do I need to stay close to home?</p>	<p>Size of College: <u>Small:</u> up to 2,500 <u>Medium:</u> up to 12,500 <u>Large:</u> up to 20,000 <u>Very Large:</u> over 20,000 Do I want to know my professors and advisors on a first name basis or do I prefer more distance?</p>	<p>Sports: Are intercollegiate athletics important? Division I? Are athletic scholarships offered? Can I play? How much? Are intramural sports more important than “super-star” sports?</p>	<p>Housing: Is housing guaranteed? Is off-campus housing necessary? If so, how available and affordable? Is there an active campus housing agency?</p>
<p>Religious Orientation: Would I benefit from a college with a strong ethical/religious value? Is chapel required or perhaps a required religious class?</p>	<p>Extra-Curricular: Is it important that there are good opportunities in drama, journalism, debate, radio, TV, politics, ethnic culture clubs? What are the chances for me to get involved in my favorite organization?</p>	<p>Student Body: With whom will I be attending college: Single sex or coed? Diverse or homogenous? Am I seeking the identity and support of an ethnic population? Regional or international population?</p>	<p>Surrounding Community: Small town, megalopolis, close but not in a major metropolitan area? Fast, serene, culturally stimulating, natural beauty, ethnic diversity?</p>

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