

College Evaluation & Comparison Worksheet	College 1	College 2	College 3
Size: Enrollment Physical size of campus			
Environment: School setting (urban, rural) Location Distance from home Surrounding Area			
Admission requirements: Deadlines Required Tests Average scores Other requirements			
Academics: Is your major offered? Reputation of program Average class size Availability of profs			
Expenses: Tuition Estimated total budget			
Financial Aid: Required forms Scholarships/Grants			
Housing: Residence halls Food / Meal Plans			
Career Services: Internship opportunities Job placement			
Athletics Impressions: Facilities Program Players Your chance for success			
Coaching Staff Impressions: Head Coach Assistant Coaches			

WHAT TYPE OF COLLEGE ARE YOU LOOKING FOR

CRITERIA	WILL DEFINITELY CONSIDER	WILL DEFINATLEY NOT CONSIDER	WILL MAYBE CONSIDER
LOCATION			
North			
South			
East			
West			
City			
Suburban			
Rural			
CAMPUS SIZE			
Very Large 25,000 & Higher			
Large 10,000 - 24,000			
Medium 3,000 - 9,000			
Small Under 3,000			
ACADEMICS			
Public			
Private			
College			
University			
Specific Major or Minor			
FACILITIES			
Guaranteed Housing			
Single Sex Dorms			
Co-ed Dorms			
Alcohol & Drug Free Dorms			
Off-Campus Housing			
Fraternities & Sororities			
STUDENTS			
Single Sex vs. Co-Ed			
Large In-State Population			
Large Out-of-State Population			
Religious Affiliation			
Ethnic Diversity			
SPECIAL PROGRAMS			
Internships Available			
Honors Program			
Co-op Education			
Study Abroad			
Student Designed Majors			

Visiting College Campuses

College tours are an important part of the college application process. Here are some suggestions to help you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

* **Start by having your teen do "virtual" tours of the colleges she is interested in.** Checking out the website is a great starting point and will help your daughter rule a college in or out. Some websites even have student blogs that offer a unique insider's view. Various criteria should be considered including how competitive the school is, location (urban, suburban, or rural), proximity to home, religious affiliation, single-sex institution, and the size of the school.

* **Once your teen has narrowed down the list of prospective schools,** find out each one's policy regarding information sessions and campus tours and at what times and days of the week they are offered. Many schools require advance registration either by email or by phone. Let your son or daughter make the appointments - this helps them take ownership of the process. If a school conducts interviews, have him or her schedule that also. (Be sure to dress appropriately for an interview.)

* **Organize the itinerary.** Limit yourself to visiting not more than two colleges on the same day - more than that can be overwhelming. Allow time to visit the surrounding area since that too will be a part of your child's college experience.

* **Leave much younger siblings behind if at all possible.** Make other arrangements for your younger children who may grow fidgety during information sessions and may not be able to keep up with the often brisk pace of campus tours.

* **Brainstorm with your son or daughter about questions** they may want to ask the admissions personnel or the campus tour guides. Encourage your teen to take notes during the information session.

* **Parents, try to take a back seat.** Let your son introduce himself to the college admissions rep and ask questions after the information session. If your son is having an interview with the admissions office, let him be the one to check in with the receptionist.

* **Be curious. Explore the campus after the tour is over.** Check out the student union or have coffee at a campus café. Walk over to the playing fields or stadium. Stop by the academic department that interests you. Strike up a conversation with a student (even if it is just to ask directions) so that you can open the door to asking him about his major, whether he lives on or off-campus, the social life on campus, athletics, the neighboring community, etc.

* **Last, but not least, have fun!** These road trips present a unique opportunity to bond with your teen as she considers her options and faces important decisions about her future.