

Student Key College Criteria

WORK SHEET

In order to determine, "What am I looking for in a college?" you will be asked to consider a few questions. You will then prioritize several key characteristics to develop the criteria for your college list. This exercise will give you the basis for making a good college match.

Student Name:

Date:

How important are the following features of a school? (You can add comments below each feature)

	VERY IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT	
	*****	****	***	**	*
ACCESSIBLE TEACHERS	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
SMALL CLASSES	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
DISCUSSION-ORIENTED CLASSES	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
WIDE VARIETY OF CLASSES IN SEVERAL CAREER FIELDS	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
STRONG RELIGIOUS LIFE	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
A SCHOOL WITH "PRESTIGE"	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
LOCATED NEAR A MAJOR CITY	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					
CLOSE TO HOME	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
COMMENTS:					

What aspects of a college are most important to you?

- ☐ Majors Offered
- ☐ Reputation
- ☐ Size
- ☐ Distance from Home
- ☐ Chances of Getting in

What category of school best describes your college education plans?

- ☐ Ivy League
- ☐ Private College
- ☐ Public College/ University
- ☐ Community College
- ☐ Trade School

What is your greatest concern in the college transition?

- ☐ Finding a college that best fits my needs
- ☐ Finding my major
- ☐ Leaving home
- ☐ Paying for college
- ☐ Getting into my first-choice school

What size school do you prefer?

- ☐ Small (Less than 3,000 Students)
- ☐ Medium (3,000 to 10,000 Students)
- ☐ Large (10,000 to 25,000 Students)
- ☐ X-Large (25,000+ Students)

List activities that interest you here:

Is the political atmosphere on campus important to you?

How important is climate or topography? Do you love rainy weather or dislike it? Do you want to be near forests or cities or beaches or mountains?

Check the qualities that describe the kind of people you would like to go to school with:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ RELAXED | ☐ OUTDOORSY | ☐ OPINIONATED |
| ☐ AMBITIOUS | ☐ CREATIVE | ☐ ARTSY |
| ☐ CONSERVATIVE | ☐ SERIOUS | ☐ SOCIAL |
| ☐ LIBERAL | ☐ INVOLVED | ☐ ENTREPRENEURIAL |
| ☐ FASHIONABLE | ☐ OPEN-MINDED | ☐ SUPPORTIVE |
| ☐ SPONTANEOUS | ☐ CARING | ☐ PRACTICAL |
| ☐ DARING | ☐ GOOD VALUES | ☐ SPIRITED |
| ☐ ACCEPTING | ☐ CAREER-ORIENTED | ☐ FUN |

Are there any particular activities, attributes, or resources you are looking for?

- ☐ Test Optional
- ☐ Accelerated Program
- ☐ 5 Year Masters Program (3+2 or 4+1)
- ☐ GAP Year
- ☐ Study Abroad Programs
- ☐ ROTC
- ☐ Co-op Programs
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Use this section to keep notes and thoughts on any colleges you have already visited or explored. Carefully consider which factors made the college stand out for you or discouraged you from wanting to attend:

Now, put it all together...

Look back over your answers and notes to create a prioritized list of the most important criteria to YOU when choosing a college. This list will help narrow down the thousands of accredited colleges in the United States or beyond by focusing on the factors that are most important to you in a college campus.

KEY CRITERIA LIST IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE:
Most important to least important

	KEY CRITERIA	NOTES
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		