The 25-question checklist for choosing a college

Sometimes, it's not enough to just pick a major and then go to a college that offers it. Not in the U.S., anyway. There are plenty of great schools here, with unique offerings that surpass mere academics, just waiting for you to find them.



- [ ] 1.) Is the city or town that the college is located in one that you'd like living in? Or has location never been something that's negatively affected your day-to-day life?
- [ ] 2.) Is dorm life, as portrayed on a school's website or seen during your campus visit, the experience you're looking for?
- [ ] 3.) Does the school have the major you want and is the program sufficient? If not, is there a similar major offered?
- [ ] 4.) Is it a city that will have internships in your field or will you have to travel for that experience?
- [ ] 25.) Can you imagine going to any other school more than this one? Or does this one just feel right? How important do you regard your feelings vs. logic?
- [ ] 5.) Is it a social campus, a commuter campus or a quiet campus? Which do you prefer, and are you willing to compromise on this point?
- [ ] 6.) Is the school within your price range or worth going into debt over? Are they offering you scholarships or grants if you go there?
- [ ] 7.) Is the campus visually pleasant and a place you'd be okay spending a good chunk of your time on?
- [ ] 8.) If you end up landing a great job in town before or right after graduating, would you be okay living there? Same question for if you get married or meet the love of your life.
- [ ] 9.) What's the weather like there? Is there a lot of one kind of weather, like snow or rain, that you love or can't stand?
- [ ] 10.) Are the professors at the school renowned in their fields? Do they have doctorate degrees or books published? Do you care?
- [ ] 11.) How well does the school rank academically? Are you in a field where that matters at all?
- [ ] 12.) Has the school had significant price hikes from year to year, making it difficult to gauge how much it'd cost to attend

for four years?

- [ ] 13.) Are the students at the college happy? Have you researched that or asked around, perhaps by emailing current students?
- [ ] 14.) Does the school have any interesting electives you'd like to take, such as philosophy of film or yoga?
- [ ] 15.) Are there any infringing rules the school places on students even off campus, such as no drinking or smoking, that you'd inevitably rebel against or despise?
- [ ] 16.) Does the cost of living in the city sound reasonable for a college student? (Remember, unless you're living off financial aid in the dorms, you'll likely move off campus for most of your years there).
- [ ] 17.) Is the school a weekend trip's distance away from home? Does it matter to you how far away from home it is?
- [ ] 18.) Do you have any friends or acquaintances attending the school or living in the city? Or does it sound more exciting to you to go knowing no-one?
- [ ] 19.) Is there a line of successful alumni from the school? Have you browsed through the college's alumni magazine or checked the alumni section of the website?
- [ ] 20.) Is the school located within a reasonable day's drive to other thriving cities? This could be a consideration if, during your junior and senior years, you can apply for internships and jobs there and be able to drive there and back within the same day for interviews.
- [ ] 21.) Is there a good scene for whatever niche group you're part of, such as a Christian club on campus or a libertarian group? If not, how about in the city?
- [ ] 22.) Does the college have big or small classes or both? Which do you prefer or think you'd prefer?
- [ ] 23.) Is the campus big or small? Can you reasonably walk from class to class in a decent length of time or would it be better to bike or bus?

HERE IS AN ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST OF 25 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE DECIDING ON A COLLEGE.

- [ ] 24.) Are the professors kind or approachable? Have you checked some professor ratings on sites like ratemyprofessors.com or asked current students?

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