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.



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

- [ ] 1.) What electives are available?
- [ ] 2.) How do you handle children who are gifted in one content area only?
- [ ] 3.) Does the school offer an AVID program?
- [ ] 4.) What are the enrollment dates?
- [ ] 5.) What is the cut-off for summer school or enrichment program enrollment?
- [ ] 6.) What are the requirments for advanced classes?
- [ ] 7.) How do I set up a meeting for Special Education services?
- [ ] 8.) How do I contact the School Liaison Officer?
- [ ] 9.) What extra-curricular activities are offered and when is the deadline to sign up?
- [ ] 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?
- [ ] 24.) Are the professors kind or approachable? Have you checked some professor ratings on sites like ratemyprofessors.com or asked current students?
- [ ] 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?

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