

1. Location and Size: Things to Consider

As you begin the college search process:

You should consider small schools if:

- You like being with people who share your interests and/or have a lot in common with you.
- You are seeking smaller classes where there is lots of discussion and the opportunity to know and interact closely with your professors.
- You enjoy knowing a lot of people in your community and the feeling of being “a big fish in a small pond.”
- You want a place where everything is within easy access (classrooms, dorms, cafeteria, library).

You should consider larger schools if:

- You like getting lost in a crowd.
- You are seeking diversity and like being around many types of people.
- You prefer listening to lectures rather than participating in class.
- You are independent and able to negotiate your way without a lot of handholding and support.
- You want a place where there is lots of school spirit and sporting events that attract a high percentage of the population.

You should consider schools that are close to home if:

- Your parents want you to be close to home.
- You want to see your family every few weeks and be within a few hours drive from home.
- You enjoy the climate of New England - four distinct seasons, cold winters and warm summers.
- You want to live at home and commute to school during your college years.

You should consider schools that are further away if:

- You want to experience life in another part of the country (or the world).
- You are comfortable seeing your family only two or three times a year.
- You want an environment where the weather is more consistent throughout the year. A place where you can swim and play tennis year round; a place where the ski season runs from October to May.
- You have sufficient funds to pay for getting to and from school.

You should consider more rural or suburban schools if:

- You are seeking a school with a distinct campus and/or quad area where people hang out during their free time.
- You enjoy being outdoors and having access to activities like hiking, rock climbing, skiing, etc.
- You are satisfied with the available facilities and do not need frequent access to a variety of services like shopping centers, restaurants, theaters, etc.

You should consider urban schools if:

- You thrive on a busy lifestyle and want to explore beyond the campus.
- You enjoy being in the city and having access to shopping, museums, theater, clubs, restaurants, etc.
- You are seeking a variety of internship opportunities
- You want to be involved in service activities geared toward urban populations.

2. Personal Characteristics and Learning Style

Your response to the following statements about your personal characteristics will help clarify your preferences as you investigate colleges:

I am likely to study for the number of hours necessary to get a good grade in my favorite subject.

Yes _____ No _____

I am likely to study for the number of hours necessary to get a good grade in my least favorite subject.

Yes _____ No _____

I consider good grades in college to be very important to me. Yes _____ No _____

I enjoy discussing ideas. Yes _____ No _____

I function well academically without a lot of structure from my teachers. Yes _____ No _____

I function well socially without the structure of organized activities. Yes _____ No _____

I function well under pressure. Yes _____ No _____

I consider myself fairly typical of today's high school student. Yes _____ No _____

I consider myself unique. Yes _____ No _____

I appreciate diversity in others. Yes _____ No _____

I am most comfortable with a well-defined task. Yes _____ No _____

I am very likely to accept new challenges. Yes _____ No _____

I am a loner. Yes _____ No _____

I am a joiner. Yes _____ No _____

I am intense and always on the go. Yes _____ No _____

I am "laid-back." Yes _____ No _____

I prefer a competitive environment where most students are academically the same as or better than I am.

Yes _____ No _____

I prefer to attend a college where I will rank among the highest of the admitted students.

Yes _____ No _____

3. Important Characteristics: Yours and Your Colleges'

Based on your responses to the Part 1 about your preferred Location and Size, circle the choices that represent your preferences for:

Location:

Geographical Region	Northeast
	Southeast
	Midwest
	West

Campus Setting	Urban
	Suburban
	Rural

Size:

Enrollment	under 1,000 (WHS enrollment is approximately 800 students)
	1,000 - 3,000
	3,000 - 8,000
	8,000 - 20,000
	over 20,000

Next, look at your Part 2 responses to your Personal Characteristics and Learning Styles. These statements should give you some idea of yourself and the type of college environment in which you would be most comfortable.

Use the space below to brainstorm things you would find on your ideal college campus.
(physical appearance, diversity of student body, available majors, activities and opportunities)

Sharing this with your family is a great way to start a discussion about your family's needs, preferences and priorities in the college process.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____
