# How to Build a College List

The next step in your academic career is deciding where to apply to and attend college. By applying to a range of colleges, you can expand your opportunities and increase your likelihood of success. We can help.

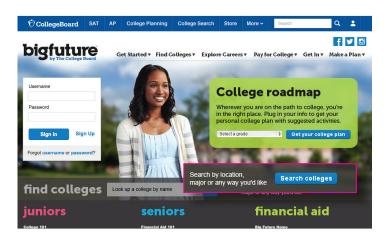
#### CREATE A FREE COLLEGE BOARD ACCOUNT

Visit **bigfuture.org** and sign up for an account. You can register for exams, get test scores, find colleges, and learn about financial aid and more with this account.



#### **2** CLICK ON SEARCH COLLEGES

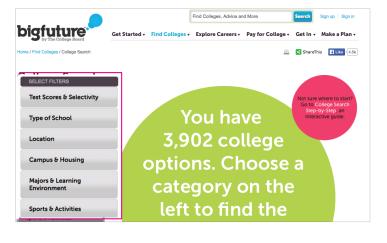
There's no magic formula for choosing a college. Use this tool to find the right colleges for you. Search by type, size, location, majors, cost, and more.





#### CHOOSE A FILTER TO GET STARTED

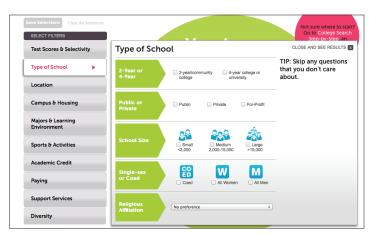
Start with one that's important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/ financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.





#### 4 SELECT YOUR PREFERENCES AND GET GUIDANCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Review your options and answer the questions. You'll get tips and advice as well as videos from college planning experts and college students to help you understand your choices.



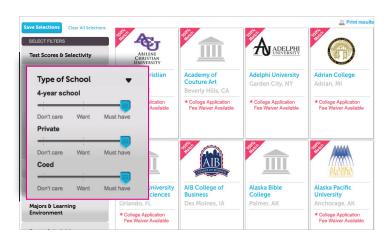
#### **5** GET INSTANT COLLEGE MATCHES

As you make your selections, the number of matches is updated. The more options you select, the more refined your list of matches, which appears behind the question window, becomes. Your preferences are summarized to the left of your list, so you always know what you're searching.



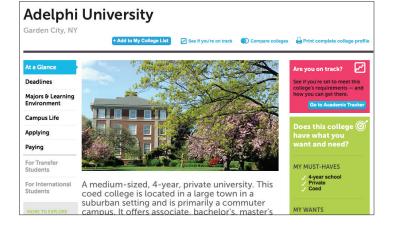
#### **6** PRIORITIZE YOUR PREFERENCES

Start with the preferences that are important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.



#### **CHOOSE A COLLEGE TO EXPLORE**

Click on a college to learn more about the school. On the "At a Glance" page, you'll get an overview of the school and a map showing its location. The box to the right shows you whether the college matches your college preferences. If there's a check mark, the college matches.



#### 8 GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Browse the topics on the left menu — such as "Majors & Learning Environment," "Paying," or "Campus Life." Tabs within each section offer even more specific information.

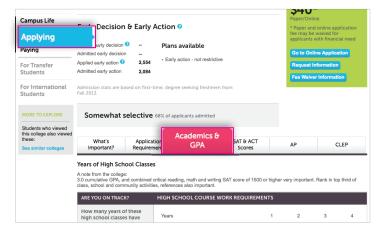
At a Glance	Medium-sized scho	5,040			
Deadlines	First-time degree-seeking freshmen	918	Commuter Campus Suburban Setting		
	Degree-seeking undergrads	5,000			
Majors & Learning Environment	Graduate enrollment	2,605	Lar	Large Town	
Campus Life	🐂 ្ Geographic Location		★ Unique Facilities		
Applying	20 miles from New York City.	speech and hearing center, science library, observatory, arboretum, Center for Health Innovation			
Paying	Contract of the second		Activities	C	Current Carrier
For Transfer Students	Student Body Hou	sing	Activities	Sports	Support Service
For International Students	Visiting a college can give you a feel for life on campus. Many students say that a college's size, location and campus "personality" were major factors in thair find individe. A college's student body is an imperiuting and that equation. Ask yourself these questions: Are you interstead in being part of a driverse community with people from many different backgrounds? Do you want to be around students who are interested in sports, studying, politics or something else?				
MORE TO EXPLORE					
Students who viewed this college also viewed these: See similar colleges	23	/Ethnicit	<b>y</b> 53% White ——		
	All students				-4% Non-Resident Alien -2% Two or more races

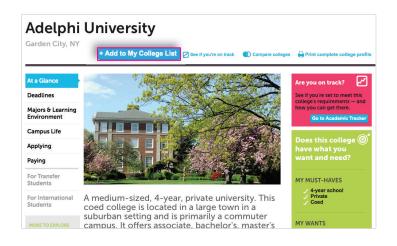
#### 9 SEE IF YOU'RE ACADEMICALLY ON TRACK FOR THE COLLEGE

Click on the "Applying" section and the "Academics" tab there. It shows the high school course work required by this college. Enter how many years of each subject you've taken, and the chart will instantly update to show if you're academically on track or need to adjust your plan. Also in the "Applying" section, you can see how your grades, class rank, and test scores stack up to those of students accepted at this school.

#### **10** ADD THE COLLEGE TO YOUR FAVORITES LIST

Click the "Add to My College List" button located next to the college name.





## Be sure to apply to at least four colleges. Why Apply to 4 or More<sup>™</sup>?

1

#### It can save you money

Every college offers different scholarships and financial aid packages that can help you pay for college. Apply to at least four colleges so that you can compare and determine which is the best option for you.

2

### It increases your odds of getting in

If you apply to only one or two colleges, you risk not getting into either school. If you apply to at least four, you have a much better chance of being admitted.



## A good fit makes a difference

Students who apply to at least four colleges increase their chances of finding a good academic, social, and financial fit. And a good fit matters because it will influence your overall college experience.

Don't forget that the FAFSA opens Oct. 1. You'll need to complete this form to apply for financial aid.

Visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org** for more information.

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