How to Build a College List

The next step in your academic career is exploring colleges and finding what’s right for you. We can help.

1. 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. SEARCH COLLEGES BY LOCATIONS, MAJORS, AND MORE

Use this tool to find the right college for you. Search by type, size, location, majors, cost, and more.

3. 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 ON EVERY STEP**

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 YOUR SEARCH RESULTS**

Your list, which appears behind the filters, automatically updates as you make selections. You can refine your list by selecting more options. Your choices appear to the left of your list, so you always know what you’re searching.

**6 CHOOSE A COLLEGE TO EXPLORE**

Click on a college to learn more about the school. On the At a Glance page, you’ll get quick facts about the school.

**7 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.
**SEE IF YOU’RE ACADEMICALLY ON TRACK**

Academics and GPA, while important, are just a few factors colleges consider when they look at your application. Keep this in mind as you search, and think about what could be a good academic, social, and financial fit. Click on the **Applying** section and the **Academics** tab to see the high school coursework required by this college. Also in this section, you can see how your grades, class rank, and test scores compare with those of admitted students.

**ADD THE COLLEGE TO YOUR LIST**

Click the **Add to My List** button to add this college to your list.

**EXPLORE MORE COLLEGES**

On the right side of the page, you can see who else has viewed this college and others like it. Click the icon above the college’s name to add to your list, or click the **X** button to remove and view a new one in its place.

Build a list of six or more colleges to improve your chances of finding a college that is a good fit for you.

Visit [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org) for more information.