

# How to Build a College List

**Grade levels:** 9th—12th grade

**Time required:** 20 minutes



## Materials needed:

- A computer with Internet access.
- Access to this URL: <http://bigfuture.org/college-search>
- (Optional) An email address to create a free College Board account or get login help.



## Student objectives:

- Successfully perform a college search.
- Research at least one college.
- Successfully create and save a list of colleges.



## Tips before you begin:

1. To save time, help students create an account or log in to an existing account before they start.
2. Students can view and interact with college search without logging in, but they need to be signed in to save a search or more than 3 colleges to a list.



## Classroom discussion topics (optional):

1. Have students describe what they picture when they picture a college, and how that can become college search criteria.
2. Discuss students' experience with colleges—for example, if they've visited one on their own, or a friend or relative at college.
3. Encourage students to share information they found—for example, if something surprised or interested them about a particular college.

Find more lesson plans and other resources to help your students find their path to college at [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org).

## Alignment with Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling:

- 1. College Aspirations
- 2. Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness
- 3. Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement
- 4. College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes
- 5. College and Career Assessments
- 6. College Affordability Planning
- 7. College and Career Admission Processes
- 8. Transition from High School Graduation to College Enrollment

Learn more about the eight components and NOSCA (National Office for School Counselor Advocacy): [nosca.collegeboard.org](http://nosca.collegeboard.org)

## Frequently asked questions

### What is BigFuture?

BigFuture by the College Board is a free comprehensive website with a step-by-step approach that improves the college planning process for students, families and educators. Students and educators collaborated to create the interactive tools and media that guide students as they find, afford and enroll in a college that's a right for them.

Visit [bigfuture.org](http://bigfuture.org).

### Why use BigFuture's College Search?

BigFuture's College Search is free. Unlike other college planning sites, students will also not see any ads. It contains trusted information and is the only college search with integrated guidance from experts and real students for every step of the process—helping student and families make informed choices.

### I used to use the old College Search – how is this different or better?

The new College Search has the criteria and data you've come to trust. But it has been rebuilt to better guide students, provide more meaningful college information, and facilitate better college matches. We believe you'll see that it is a much more modern, guiding experience that speaks to students.

### Where does the college information come from?

Most of the college information comes from colleges themselves, via the College Board's own Annual Survey of Colleges. Information is verified by editors, and updated on a daily basis as necessary.

### How can my students share their college search with me?

Students can print their college search results and their college list to share it with you and their family.

### Can my students and I use the same College Board log in we already have?

Yes. You can use the same user name and password across all College Board sites.