

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

How to Strengthen Your College List

Before you start your applications, strengthen your list to include three reach colleges, two match colleges, and one safety college to ensure you apply to a balanced list of schools that match your academic abilities. Strengthen your list on bigfuture.org, and you can earn an entry for the \$500 Strengthen scholarship.

Use your SAT or ACT score to sort colleges on your list into these three categories:

Reach college: Your SAT or ACT score is lower than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

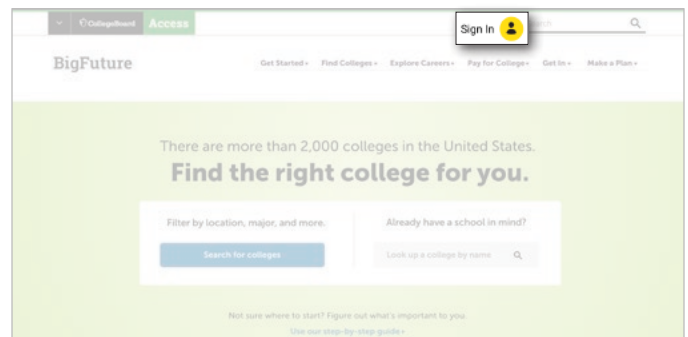
Match college: Your SAT or ACT score is solidly in the same score range as last year's freshman class.

Safety college: Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

As you finalize your application list, make sure to look at factors such as location, cost, size, and majors offered. These other factors can help you determine what colleges are a good overall social, financial, and academic fit for you.

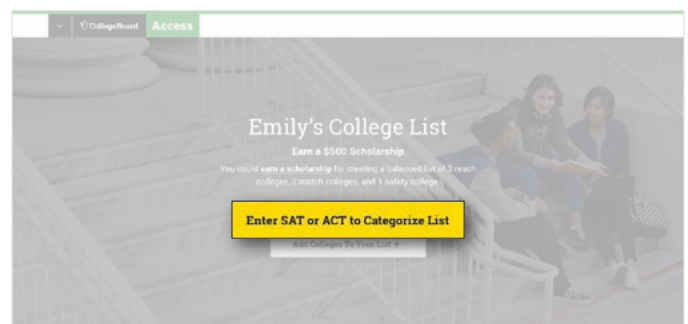
1 SIGN IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT

Visit bigfuture.org to sign in and view your list.



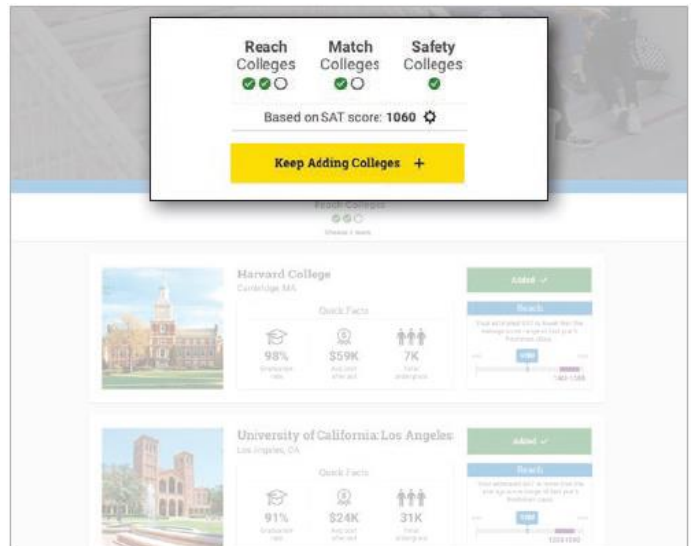
2 ENTER AN SAT OR ACT SCORE

Enter your most recent SAT or ACT score—or estimate your score if you don't have one—to update your list to categorize your colleges as reach, match, and safety. If we have your score, it will appear here.



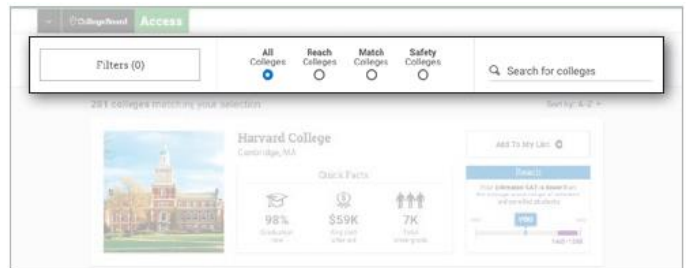
3 VIEW YOUR LIST

See how your colleges fall within the reach, match, and safety categories. The Quick Facts and reach, match, and safety designation on the college cards can help you determine which colleges might be a good financial, academic, and personal fit for you. The tracker indicates your progress toward the Strengthen scholarship. Click on **Keep Adding Colleges** (or **Add Colleges to Your List** if you haven't added any colleges) to add more to your list.



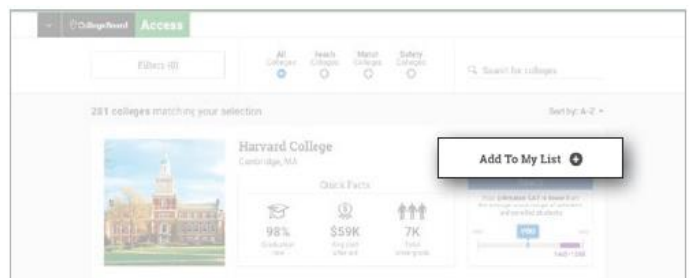
4 SEARCH COLLEGES

Search for colleges based on what's important to you. Find reach, match, and safety colleges, and filter based on type of school, location, or school size. You can also sort by cost and graduation rate or enter a college by name.



5 ADD COLLEGES TO YOUR LIST

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



6 REVIEW YOUR LIST

Make sure you've included at least six colleges—three reach, two match, and one safety—to meet the Strengthen requirements. Once you have all six, the tracker will indicate that you've earned an entry in the scholarship drawing. Return to opportunity.collegeboard.org to see your earned entry.

Don't forget to share your list with your parent/guardian, school counselor and/or teacher to ask for their feedback.

