



CONGRATULATIONS

on your great performance on the PSAT/NMSQT[®], Lucy

We know there's a lot to consider when choosing a college — this brochure will help you get started. It's full of everything you need to keep the momentum going.

Inside, you'll find lots of quick tips on:



Finding the Right College for You



How to Build a College List



Make the Most of Your Summer

What's In Here and What to Do

**how to
use your
starter list**

start here

PERSONALIZED STARTER
LIST FOR YOU

**search and
build your
college list**

LEARN HOW TO EXPLORE
COLLEGES AND SAVE A
COLLEGE LIST ON BIGFUTURE

**make
the most
of your
summer**

USE THIS CHECKLIST
TO STAY ON TRACK

How to Use Your Starter List

You performed well on the PSAT/NMSQT®, so you have a lot of options. Students who live near you and share your strong academic record graduated from the colleges listed on your starter list. We want you to find a college where you'll be just as successful, so we created a **personalized starter college list just for YOU**. Consider using the list of schools on the next page as a starting point for exploring colleges that will maximize your chances of success.

There is a lot of information on this list, so think about the following when reviewing your list.

- Look at the **graduation rates** to see if most students graduate in four or six years
- Look at **how much you are likely to pay** to attend this school, depending on family income
- Look at the **city and state**, and consider city size and distance from home
- Think about **who to discuss this list with** — school counselor, parents, friends — and get feedback on other college options you should consider
- Log in to or create your **college planning account at bigfuture.org** to explore more college options



Would you like to chat with someone about your list?

Check out the back of this booklet for a list of topics to discuss with a school counselor or other trusted adviser.

Start Here, Lucy!

COLLEGE	LOCATION	GRADUATION RATE ¹	
		FOUR-YEAR	SIX-YEAR
Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland, OH	65%	80%
Duke University	Durham, NC	87%	94%
Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	59%	83%
Yale University	New Haven, CT	90%	98%
Cornell University	Ithaca, NY	87%	93%
University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame, IN	90%	95%
Georgetown University	Washington, DC	88%	92%
Washington University in St. Louis	Saint Louis, MO	88%	94%
Harvard College	Cambridge, MA	87%	97%
Northwestern University	Evanston, IL	86%	94%
Swarthmore College	Swarthmore, PA	89%	93%
Kenyon College	Gambier, OH	86%	89%

1. Graduation rate data as well as the 25th and 75th percentiles of enrolled students' test scores are for the 2013-14 school year and come from the U.S. Department of Education.
2. Annual cost of attendance includes the full cost of tuition, fees, books, housing, food, and other expenses reported by colleges in the 2014-15 school year in the *Annual Survey of Colleges*. These costs are customized for you based on your home state.

This is your personalized starter college list.

Students who live near you and share your strong academic record graduated from the colleges listed below. Use this to “jump-start” your college search — [start here and then think big!](#)

MIDDLE 50% TEST SCORES			FULL PRICE ANNUAL COST OF ATTENDANCE ²	WHAT YOU'LL LIKELY PAY ANNUALLY (“NET PRICE”) ³		
SAT CRITICAL READING	SAT MATH	ACT		BASED ON FAMILY INCOME		
				\$0–\$30K	\$30K–\$48K	\$48K–\$75K
600–720	670–760	29–33	\$60,084	\$16,325	\$21,690	\$25,740
670–760	690–790	30–34	\$64,653	\$7,463	\$5,981	\$15,430
540–660	610–720	27–31	\$23,589	\$9,491	\$11,566	\$16,048
700–800	710–790	32–35	\$63,920	\$8,185	\$8,295	\$7,477
640–740	680–780	30–34	\$63,564	\$9,759	\$11,242	\$17,952
660–750	680–770	32–34	\$62,461	\$13,157	\$11,070	\$17,919
650–750	660–750	29–33	\$64,540	\$10,987	\$11,841	\$17,115
700–760	720–790	32–34	\$65,142	\$8,400	\$12,616	\$19,813
700–800	710–800	32–35	\$62,150	\$4,245	\$3,243	\$5,888
690–760	700–790	31–34	\$65,844	\$17,144	\$16,706	\$19,394
680–760	670–770	31–34	\$62,431	\$11,564	\$15,332	\$19,402
630–720	600–690	28–32	\$62,140	\$9,170	\$10,905	\$11,639

3. Net price — or what you’ll likely pay — is estimated for 2014-15 using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Net price is the annual amount left after grants and scholarships, which can usually be managed by a combination of family resources, earnings from a campus job, and low interest rate loans.

– Data from other sources and different school years will be slightly different, so remember that the best source of information is each college’s website.

Search and Build Your College List

The next step in your academic career is deciding where to apply to and attend college. Students like you who find a college that is a good fit for them typically apply to four to eight colleges.

When looking at colleges, consider the following:

ACADEMICS

What are the **average SAT® scores and GPAs of students admitted to the school?** Apply to colleges that are a good academic fit for you — whether they are a safe bet or a little out of reach.

GRADUATION RATE

Do most students graduate in four years? If not, why not?

SIZE

Do you want a smaller campus with smaller class sizes or a larger school with a wider variety of programs, such as a state university?

LOCATION

Do you prefer a big city, suburb, or small town?



NET PRICE

High posted prices do not necessarily equal high net prices for students and families. **Many colleges offer substantial financial aid awards to students with financial need**, so don't be deterred too much by high sticker prices when deciding where to apply to college.

MAJORS

Does the college offer a variety of majors that interest you?



SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Does the school offer tutoring, cultural events, academic and financial aid counseling, or other support programs for you?

What the College Board can do for you:

By using bigfuture.org for your college search this summer, **we can provide you with personalized feedback on your choices.** Students who create a college list in BigFuture™ by August 30 will receive a personalized college application checklist this fall.

1 CREATE A FREE BIGFUTURE ACCOUNT

Visit bigfuture.org and sign up for a FREE account, or sign in with your existing College Board account.



2 CLICK ON SEARCH COLLEGES BUTTON

Use this tool to find the right colleges for you. You can start by using similar filters that were used to create your starter college list, such as **test scores, locations, and paying.**



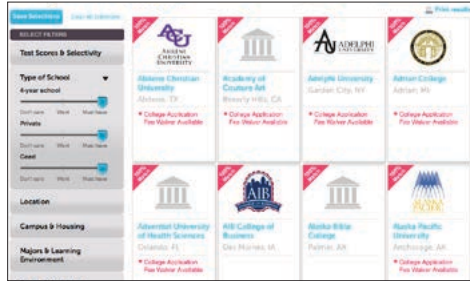
3 CHOOSE ADDITIONAL FILTERS

Add filters that are important to you — type of school, majors, support services, or campus diversity.



4 EXPLORE COLLEGES

As you make your selections, the number of colleges that match your search is updated. The more options you select, the more refined your list of colleges becomes. Click on a college to learn more about it.

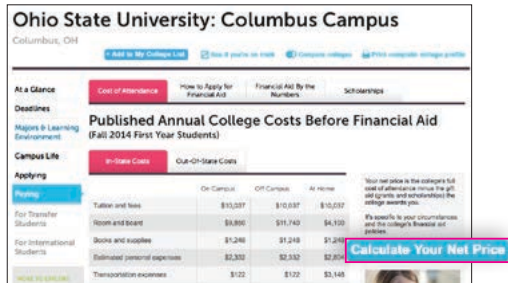


5 GET DETAILS ABOUT SPECIFIC SCHOOLS

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 preferences with a check mark.



The left menu provides additional topics you can explore about the school, including a “Calculate Your Net Price” link to the college’s official net price calculator where you can generate the most personalized estimate of what you’re likely to pay.



6 ADD TO YOUR COLLEGE LIST

Click the “Add to My College List” button located next to the college name to add this to your list of favorites to consider for application.

Ohio State University: Columbus Campus

Columbus, OH

Add to My College List

Are you on track? See if you're set to meet this college's requirements - and how you can get there. [Go to Academic Tracker](#)

Not Ready? Does this college have what you want and need? [Go to College Search](#)

- Go to [College Search](#)
- Identify what's important
- Check back to see how this college compares

A large, 4-year, public university. This coed college is located in a very large city in an urban setting and is primarily a residential campus. It offers certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's

7 RECEIVE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

If you create a college list in BigFuture by August 30, the **College Board** will send you an application checklist in the fall to keep you on track with deadlines.

Save Selections

Test Scores & Selectivity

Type of School
4-year school

Private

Cost

Location

Campus & Housing

Majors & Learning Environment

Arizona Christian University
Address: TX
College Application Fee: Not Available

Academy of Art University
Address: HI, CA
College Application Fee: Not Available

Adelphi University
Address: NY
College Application Fee: Not Available

Adrian College
Address: MI
College Application Fee: Not Available

Adventist University of Health Sciences
Address: IL
College Application Fee: Not Available

Ball State University
Address: IN
College Application Fee: Not Available

Ball State University
Address: IN
College Application Fee: Not Available

Make the Most of Your Summer

Make sure you're not behind in September by following this checklist over the summer to complete the important tasks to keep you on track.

Lucy's Summer Checklist

- Review your personalized starter college list** included on pages 2 and 3.
- Create a college list on bigfuture.org** to more deeply explore colleges and your personal priorities that will support your college decision.
- Visit some local or convenient colleges.** Large and small, public and private — a visit to a college campus can help you decide if that type of college is right for you. Many schools offer virtual tours that you can view from anywhere.
- Talk to college students and graduates** in your community and who you know to learn more about their experiences.
- Set up your college visits.** Many colleges hold open houses and offer group tours. Check on bigfuture.org to learn how to organize a visit to the campus and to find a campus checklist with helpful questions to ask.
- Save your college list on bigfuture.org by August 30 to receive feedback and direction from the College Board.**
- Review your list with your school counselor or other adviser** to get feedback from someone who knows you and your academic background.
- BONUS: Receive more personalized guidance from the College Board** in the fall on how to refine and finalize your college list, create an application plan, and more.



It may seem like there is a lot of work in applying to college, but you've already completed some really important steps. It may be helpful for you to discuss what's next with your school counselor or other trusted advisers. Here are some questions and topics you might find helpful:

- Are there other colleges you think I should consider?
- What colleges do other kids from our school attend? Do they complete their degrees there?
- Are there any college fairs at this school or nearby?
- Are there any colleges nearby that you would recommend I visit?
- Can you put me in touch with recent grads who currently attend the colleges on my starter list?
- Can you put me in touch with any alumni who have attended the colleges on my list or with other colleges that might be a fit for me?
- Any other suggestions you have for activities over the summer?

