



# College Readiness

Basic information to help you start your search



# Why go to college?



- It can help you get a job in the field of your choice that will give you much better pay than one without a college degree.
- It can help you gain new knowledge and better your personality as a whole, as well as increasing your understanding of the world around you.
- It can improve your discipline and prepare you for your future career.
- It can help you find your direction if you feel like you don't know what you want to do with your life.
- You are surrounded by new people and new information that could give you an endless supply of new knowledge.
- You will reap the benefits of going to college even after you've left via alumni benefits.

# What to consider when looking for colleges:

- Size: population and acreage
- Acceptance rate, average GPA, and SAT/ACT scores
- Local climate
- Public or Private
- Distance from home
- Setting: Urban, Suburban, or Small
- Single gender or coed
- Majors offered
- Student to teacher ratio
- Other things important to you (environmental friendliness, religion, sports, diversity, etc...)

# Making a College List and Visiting

## Campuses:

- Once you have researched an array of colleges and found the ones that suit your needs, it's important to make a list of your favorites.
- There are many different ways to do this, from creating a document that organizes colleges and contains information that is important to you, to using a website that assists your college search, such as [collegeview.com](https://collegeview.com).
- You should include schools that are expected, 50/50, and a reach.
- Once you have a list of schools you're interested in, you should plan trips to them if you can afford it.
- Visiting a campus shows the college that you are interested in them, and makes them more likely to admit you since you're more likely to attend.
- You should schedule a tour ahead of time, see if you can plan an interview (J&S only), and see if you could spend the night in a dorm.

# Important websites and books to find college information:

## Websites:

- [californiacolleges.edu](http://californiacolleges.edu)
- [petersons.com](http://petersons.com)
- [csumentor.edu](http://csumentor.edu) - create account that can be used to research and apply to csu colleges.
- [degrees.calstate.edu](http://degrees.calstate.edu)
- [universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu)
- [ctcl.org](http://ctcl.org)

## Books:

- Colleges that Change Lives - Lauren Pope
- Fiske Guide to Colleges - Edward B. Fiske
- The Hidden Ivies - Howard Greene

# Top Ten Things Colleges Look For:

1. A high school transcript that shows academically challenging curriculum.
2. Grades that show strong effort & an upward trend.
3. Solid scores on the SAT or ACT.
4. Passionate involvement in a few activities.
5. Community service that shows evidence of being a contributor.
6. Out of school experiences that illustrate responsibility, dedication, & development in areas of interest.
7. A well written essay or personal statement.
8. Positive letters of recommendation.
9. Additional recommendations from adults who know the student well.
10. Anything that makes the student stand out from other applicants.