



# YOUR BEST FIT COLLEGE

## The Perfect College:

There are no perfect colleges. The college admission process is all about fit. The more you know about yourself and the more you know about the college you select, the better the fit will be. You are in control. When it comes to deciding where to apply, you have full control.

## College Homework:

In order to successfully choose “Your Best Fit College” you must know what works best for **YOU**. You must also learn as much as you can about the colleges you are planning on applying to. This is called “College Homework”. Doing your “College Homework” helps you create a list of colleges that are best for you.

## Things To Consider About Yourself:

- What are my academic interests?
- What are my career interests?
- What kind of student am I?
- How do I learn best?
- Do I need educational support services (tutoring, language help, IEP support)?
- What are the activities outside of the classroom that matter to me?
- How important is attending a well known college to me?
- What kind of social and cultural environment will I like and do best in?
- Where do I want to live for the next four years?

## Things To Consider About Your Academic History:

- What is my GPA? Is it competitive?
- What are my SAT/ACT scores, is it competitive ?
- What’s my transcript trend - consistent- upward- downward - up & down grades?
- How do I learn best?
- What activities and leadership do I participate in (school- home- community)?

## What Type of College Will Suit Me Best?

- **For Profit Colleges** - are private schools run by businesses
- **Public Colleges and Universities (4 Year)** - receive funding from tuition and

endowments, but the larger part of their funding comes from state or local taxes. Most public postsecondary schools are state-run, which lowers the tuition for in-state students.

- **Private Colleges and Universities (4 Year)** - receive funding primarily from student tuition and endowments.
- **Liberal Arts Colleges (4 Year)** – are private schools where undergraduate education is the primary, and often the only focus of liberal arts colleges.
- **Colleges That Change Lives** is a small group of less well-known colleges known for their life-changing success with students.
- **Pre-Professional Colleges (4 Year)** - A pre-professional education will **train you for a specific career**. There are many pre-professional programs, but the most common include pre-med, pre-law, pre-pharmacist and engineering
- **Research Universities (4 Year)** - The prime mission of private and state flagship research universities is to **generate research and produce graduate students**

### Factors To Help You Pick Your College

- Costs - Merit Aid, Scholarships, Financial Aid
- Retention & Graduation Rates
- S-T-R College List: (Safety/Likely School - Reach School - Target School)
- Major
- Size
- Location (city, suburban, rural)
- Student Support Services (tutoring, disability support, counseling)
- Career Opportunities (networking, internships, fellowships)
- Diversity (ethnic makeup)
- Academic Environment (rigorous?, relaxed?, competitive?)
- Campus Culture
- The Right Feel
- Specialized Focus (HBCU, Single Gender College, Career Focus, Religion)
- Extracurricular Activities & Clubs