

COLLEGE COACH

CHECKLIST

This checklist summarizes the College Coach video “The Top Three Factors in Your College Search.” You can use it to outline how you want to approach the factors of location, size and affordability while looking at colleges.

LET’S GET STARTED!

LOCATION

Do you want to step outside your comfort zone in a new city or state?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you want to stay close to home?

If yes, how close? What region or country do you want to stay in?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you prefer a more rural, relaxed setting or the fast-paced excitement of a big city?

☐ Rural ☐ City ☐ In Between

What activities or amenities are most important to you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Entertainment — clubs or live music
- ☐ A wide variety of quality food options
- ☐ Arts, such as theaters or galleries
- ☐ Professional sports
- ☐ Hiking and other outdoor activities
- ☐ Landmarks and sightseeing

Do you already have some colleges or cities/towns in mind where you’d like to study? Cool! You can list them here and include some notes about why you’re considering that location. When you do your research, make sure to check if that location offers a lot of internship or job opportunities that are in line with what you’d like to study.

Location

Notes

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?



PRO TIP

Explore the parking and transportation options available through the college or city/town you’re interested in.

SIZE

What would you prefer?

- ☐ A bustling campus with a large student body
- ☐ A quiet, intimate feeling campus with a smaller student body

Is your ideal campus...

- ☐ A large campus that spans acres
- ☐ A smaller, more easily walkable campus

What type of classroom environment would you learn best in?

- ☐ A large lecture hall with 100+ students
- ☐ A mid-size class of 30-40+ students
- ☐ A small classroom with under 20 students

HOW BIG OR SMALL IS YOUR IDEAL COLLEGE?



PRO TIP

Try to find the average student-to-faculty ratio of the college/university you’re interested in so you can determine what class sizes you can expect. Some schools even have program-specific ratios — see if you can find one for your program!

AFFORDABILITY

Maybe you know the answer to this one, or you may need to check in with your parent or guardian, but how important is affordability to your college search?

- ☐ Very important – it will determine which college I go to
- ☐ Somewhat important – I will plan and budget to afford my choice
- ☐ Not that important – cost won’t be a deciding factor for me

Let’s use this section to talk scholarships. There are so many scholarships out there to apply for! Check in with your current school, your community, any organizations you’re affiliated with, and your chosen college/university to see if they offer scholarships that you’d be eligible for. Use this section to keep track of what scholarships you’d like to apply for.

Scholarships (ex. DECA, athletics, community)

Requirements (eligibility, documents needed, etc.)

HOW WILL TUITION IMPACT YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?



PRO TIP

PRO TIP FROM THE COLLEGE COACH:

The most important step when it comes to financing your education is to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This will determine how much federal financial aid you are eligible to receive, which will greatly impact your financial plans.

Visit studentaid.gov to get started!

COLLEGE COACH RECOMMENDS:

Try College Scorecard! You can search any college to find admissions, academic, and financial information that will help you make an informed decision.

collegescorecard.ed.gov