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# Choosing a College

## Think about what you want in a college

- Where would you like to go to college? Do you want to be close to home or far from home? In a city, a suburb or a rural area?
- Is racial, economic, religious, etc. diversity important to you? Check the diversity break down of colleges you apply to.

## Make a list.

- After thinking about the factors above, make a list of pros and cons for each school.
- Try to judge colleges based on what they offer and what you want, not the design of their website or brochure.

## Helpful college search tools:

- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- [www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org)
- [www.going2college.org](http://www.going2college.org)
- <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/>
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

## Things to do and ask:

- Ask college administrators and current students about the types of support structures in place for new students, so you don't fall through the cracks.
- Ask for contact info from current students so you can talk with them and find out what the school is really like.
- Talk to admission counselor about what you can do to improve your chances of getting in.
- What percentage of students receives financial aid, and what is the average amount they receive? Ask financial aid officers if the college offers scholarships.
- What are the college's academic requirements for admission? Test scores? Grade Point Average (GPA)? Courses?
- Apply to some colleges that are very likely to accept you, some that you will probably get into and some that are less likely to accept you. This increases your chances of being accepted somewhere, but also allows you to apply to colleges that are more likely to challenge you academically.

## PhillyGoes2College

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