

Qualities to Consider When Selecting a College



Location

- a. Local
- b. In State
- c. Regional
- d. National
- e. International

Ask Yourself

1. *Is distance from home a deciding factor? Consider types of travel necessary.*
2. *Do I enjoy all climates? Am I looking to avoid or seek out a specific climate/region?*
3. *All regions of the country differ slightly in pace and personality - where have I travelled / what have my observations been?*

Size

- a. Small: 1-2 K
- b. Medium: 5-15 K
- c. Large: 15-25 K
- d. Very Large: 30+ K

Ask yourself

1. *Do I like being somewhere where I know everyone? Do I enjoy big settings and large groups of people?*
2. *What is the best fit for my personal needs?*
3. *Does this affect Class Size, Student to Faculty Ratio, Course Availability*

Consider

1. *You can find what you are looking for in many different settings.*
2. *Small school does not always equal small class size.*
3. *Size of student body is relevant to size of campus and distance to class/meals/activities*
4. *If a University setting - how many Graduate Students*

Campus Setting

a. Urban: Managing Big City Life

- i. Open / Closed Campus (NYU vs Columbia)
- ii. Access to Internships-Networking
- iii. More Diverse Social/Cultural Activities
- iv. Off Campus Events may be the center of social life.

a. Rural: Country Setting

- i. May Increase Closeness of the Student Body/School Community
- ii. Access to Outdoor Activities
- iii. Social Life may be centered around the campus

a. Suburban: Best of Both Worlds?

Type of School

a. College vs University

- i. College: Focus on Undergraduate Ed
- ii. University: Many Colleges Under one Umbrella - Big Athletics - Potential for more offerings

b. Public vs Private: Debunk the Myth

- i. Primary difference is how they are funded
- ii. Consider Schools Mission & Academic Offerings

c. Religious Affiliation

- i. Three Varying Levels:
 - 1. ie. Trinity College - Boston College - Liberty U

d. 4 Year vs 2 Year

- i. Degree Types: Bachelors, Associates, Graduate

Academic Environment

a. What is the Colleges Mission - Philosophy

i. <https://www.nyu.edu/about.html>

ii. <https://www.trincoll.edu/abouttrinity/mission-vision/mission-statement/>

Consider:

1. *The Competitiveness of the Student Body.*

Ask Yourself

1. *What Support Services are Available?*

Academic Offerings

a. Liberal Arts Education:

- i. Develops Skills that Translate to a Wide Variety of Topics
- ii. Encourages Challenging Beliefs & Critical Thinking
- iii. Focus on learning and thinking - not training

b. Professional Schools:

- i. Educate More Specifically in One Topic
- ii. Prepare for Entry into a Career Field
- iii. Examples include Business, Engineering, & Nursing

c. Technical Education:

- i. Specific Career Focus with emphasis on Licensure/Certification

Consider:

1. Individual Schools May vary significantly and possibly incorporate parts of each category.

Student Body

- a. What is Important to the Student Body?
 - i. Arts or Music
 - ii. Athletics/School Spirit
 - iii. Politics
 - iv. Community Involvement
- b. Look for Student Profiles
 - ie. <https://www.bu.edu/admissions/admitted/bu2024/>

Ask Yourself

1. *How can I observe the student body?*
2. *Do I know anyone who attends?*
3. *What Social Offerings/Activities do the students pursue?*

Student Life

a. Clubs & Activities

a. Athletics

i. Club, Intramural, Varsity

a. Greek Life or House Systems

Ask Yourself

1. *What Passions do I have that I am looking to fulfill?*
2. *What Activities do I currently do - am I hoping to continue in college?*

Cost & Financial Aid

- a. Tuition:
 - i. Public
 - 1. State Resident vs Non-Resident
 - ii. Private
- b. SUNY & CUNY Systems
 - i. SUNY: 3 Flagship Universities & 64 Campuses Total
 - ii. CUNY: 11 Senior Colleges & Macaulay Honors Program
- c. Scholarship
 - i. Based on Academics or Special Talents
- d. Need Based Financial Aid
 - i. Family Must Fill Out FAFSA Form

Big Name vs Best Fit

a. Must Consider the Following

i. How much do I value the Schools Brand?

i. What are my individual/family Needs and Wants?

What Qualities Will You Consider?

- Location
- Size
- Campus Setting
- Type of School
- Academic Environment
- Academic Offerings
- Student Body
- Student Life
- Cost of Attendance
- School Brand - Individual Needs

Testing Calendar - SAT

SAT/SUBJECT TEST CALENDAR

Register at <http://collegeboard.org> – The Cold Spring Harbor code is: **331437**.

Information for students with disabilities: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/for-student-with-disabilities>.

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE*
August 29, 2020	July 31, 2020
September 26, 2020 (CSH)	August 26, 2020
October 3, 2020 (CSH)	September 4, 2020
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021
June 5, 2021 (CSH)	May 6, 2021

Testing Calendar - ACT

ACT CALENDAR

Register at <http://www.actstudent.org/> - the Cold Spring Harbor code is: **331437**.

Information for students with disabilities: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/>.

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE*
September 12, 2020 (CSH) September 13, 2020 September, 19, 2020	August 28, 2020
October 10, 2020 October 17, 2020 October 24, 2020 October 25, 2020	September 17, 2020
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021
April 17, 2021 (CSH)	March 12, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021
July 17, 2021 (Not in NYS)	June 18, 2021

*Also denotes **least expensive** registration deadline.