

Factors to Consider in Choosing a College

1. ACADEMIC PACE

Intense
Relaxed
Medium

2. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Core Curriculum
Distribution Requirements
No Required Courses
Grades Optional

3. ATMOSPHERE

Laid-back
Intellectual
Social
Actively involved with concerns outside college

4. ATHLETIC FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

State-of-the-Art Facilities
NCAA Division I
NCAA Division II
NCAA Division III
NAIA
Intramural Sports
Clubs

5. CAMPUS

Compact (small)
Spread out (large)
Modern Buildings
Traditional Architecture
Central Meeting Place
Part of Community
Not involved with Community/Town

6. COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Outreach Programs

7. COST

Need-Based Aid
Merit Scholarships
Loans
Work-Study Options

8. FACULTY-STUDENT RELATIONS

Very Close (lunches, teas, outings)
Moderately Close (know students' names)
Impersonal
Faculty Student Research Opportunities
Academic Advisors

9. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Northeast
Southeast
Midwest
Northwest
San Francisco Bay Area
Los Angeles Area
San Diego Area
Canada
Overseas
Other

10. OTHER LOCATION

Urban
Suburban
Country
Near Ocean
Near Mountains
Near Desert
Near Cultural Center

11. INTERNSHIPS

Paid
Volunteer
Available in Community
Off-Campus, Out of State, Through Alumni

12. **MAJORS**

Business
Drama/dance/film/music/art, etc
Humanities
Engineering
Science
Social Science
Liberal Arts
Others

13. **PRESTIGE**

Well-known to Friends, Family
Recommended by *US News* & Other Guides

14. **PROMINENT FACULTY**

Famous Alumni
Award winning faculty

15. **RELIGIOUS TRADITION**

Jesuit, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, etc.
Required Chapel
Required Religion Course
Many Students of Same Religious Beliefs
No Religious Affiliation

16. **SAFETY**

Tight Security on Campus
Relatively Crime-Free Area

17. **SCHOOL SPIRIT**

Many Activities on Weekends
Not Many Planned Activities
Most Students Live On Campus
Winter Carnivals, Pep Rallies
Low-Key

18. **SIZE**

Small (under 3,000)
Medium (3,000 – 15,000)
Large (over 15,000)

19. **SOCIAL LIFE**

Fraternities, sororities
Theme Houses
“Suitcase School” (Most students go home on weekends)

20. **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Double Degrees
Exchange Programs with Other Campuses
Honor Code
Academic Support

21. **STUDENT BODY**

Homogeneous
Diverse
Single Sex (all male, all female)
Liberal/Conservative
Tolerant of Various Lifestyles
Involved/Uninvolved (in issues off-campus)
Historically Black Colleges/Universities
Latino serving college
Graduate Population

22. **STUDY ABROAD or OFF-CAMPUS**

Encouraged
Discouraged
College Has Own Campus Abroad
Group or Individual Programs
Required

23. **TEACHING STYLE**

Primarily Lecture
Ordinarily Discussion/Seminar
Hands-on (project-based, labs, etc.)

24. **WEATHER**

Warm
Cold
Rainy
Sunny
Snow
Grey Skies

25. **DISABILITY SERVICES**

Structured programs
Coordinated services
Basic services

26. **YOUR CHOICE**

Something Else Really Important to Me!!

Filling Out the Important Factors Chart

Bring the filled out chart to your meeting with Ilene.

Read carefully the attached Factors to Consider in Choosing a College. For each factor, decide whether it is Very Important to you, Somewhat Important, or Not Important in choosing a college. If it is Very Important, write the bold title in the Very Important column on the chart.

For example, if having a relaxed Academic Pace is Very Important to you, write “Academic Pace - Relaxed” in the first column of the chart. If Academic Requirements are Somewhat Important and you are interested in a Core Curriculum, write “Academic Requirements – Core Curriculum” in the second column under “Somewhat Important”.

The more information you bring to our meeting, the better list of colleges I will be able to give you to investigate.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at Ilene@envisionacademy.org or stop by to see me at lunchtime in the atrium or after school in the College Center, Room 304. I am not at school on most Fridays.

Name _____ **SAMPLE CHART** _____

Very Important To Me	Moderately Important To Me	Not Important To Me
Academic Pace - Medium	Atmosphere – actively involved	Athletic Facilities
Distribution Requirements	Campus – central meeting place	Internships
Cost – need based aid	Community Service	Prestige
Faculty-student relationships Moderately close	Other location – urban, suburban	Special programs
Geographic location California	Majors - wide variety	Weather
Size - small	Religious tradition – no religious affiliation	
Social life – not a suitcase school	Safety	
Student body - diverse	School spirit – many activities	
Study abroad - encouraged	Disability services - basic	

