

How to Build a Solid College List

Building a college list can be daunting. Use the following checklist to get started.



LOCATION AND SIZE. Do you prefer the hustle and bustle of the city or are you looking for a more traditional campus with lots of green space? In regard to the size of the school, consider not only the campus but also class size.

MAJORS/MINORS. Does the college have areas of study that interest you, and also interesting options if you change your mind?

CAMPUS LIFE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. Consider your must-haves for campus life — such as Greek life, business clubs, service opportunities, study abroad options, diversity and inclusion resources — then explore college websites and social media channels like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to find out more from current students and alumni.

ATHLETICS. Whether you plan to play or not, athletics is a big part of school spirit.

FOOD/DORMS. Do you plan to live on campus? Is housing guaranteed? What kind of meal options are available?

COST. Affording college is a huge concern for students and their families. Compare the tuition and fees for state versus private institutions — but remember that financial aid may offset some of the cost. (Don't base your list solely on sticker price.)

ACCEPTANCE RATE. It's a good idea to balance your list with a mix of "safety/back up," "likely/target" and "reach/dream" schools.



For more tips on the college admission process, visit us at:

bentley.edu/admission-tips