

ACCESS Fit Factors

Consider these factors and find colleges that are the right fit for you.

Each college and university is unique — like you. Below are some questions to ask as you consider colleges.

Accessibility

CAMPUS LOCATION

Is the campus in a rural, suburban, or urban setting?

CAMPUS SIZE

How many students are at this school? Do you want a small or big college?

FACULTY & STAFF

How easy and common is it to connect one-on-one with faculty and staff?

Culture/Climate

CAMPUS LIFE

What student activities are available? Is there a large proportion of minority students? Is it a minority-serving institution?

TEST SCORES & GPA

How do your test scores and GPA compare to those of enrolled students?

GRADUATION & RETENTION

How do your test scores and GPA compare to those of enrolled students? Do most students graduate on time?

Cost \$

ACTUAL COSTS

How much would you pay to go to the school? Free net price calculators can help estimate financial aid you may receive.

FINANCIAL AID

Have you used the FAFSA forecaster to estimate your aid? Average aid (2017–2018)

- \$14,790 to pay for college
- \$8,970 of this came from grants

Employable Majors

What does the college provide in terms of programs tied to industry demands and career opportunities? Internships?

The College Board. (2018). Trends in Student Aid. <https://trends.collegeboard.org/student-aid/highlights>.

Smith, J. (2013). The effect of college applications on enrollment. *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 14(1), 151-188.

Adapted from *Finding the Fit*: a college selection toolkit produced by Abt Associates for students, counselors and parents.

Student Support Services

How involved and supportive are alumni?

What campus support services are available? Important services to consider:

- First Year Supports
- Academic Supports and Advising
- Counseling Services
- Financial Aid
- Residential Life

Target Four or More Colleges

1 or more SAFETY Colleges that will almost certainly admit you

1 or more MATCH Colleges that are likely to admit you

1 or more STRETCH Colleges that will consider you and might admit you

Applying to 2 four-year colleges instead of just 1 increases your chance of enrolling by 40%.

Applying to more than 2 four-year colleges increases your chances even more.