



# College Selection Questionnaire

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PSAT SCORES Reading and Writing: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT SCORES SAT I Combined: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading and Writing: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT SCORES ACT Composite: \_\_\_\_\_  
English: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Science: \_\_\_\_\_ Writing: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT TEST SCORES English: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Science: \_\_\_\_\_ Writing: \_\_\_\_\_

AP SCORES English: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Science: \_\_\_\_\_ Writing: \_\_\_\_\_

CUMULATIVE GPA Weighted \_\_\_\_\_ Unweighted \_\_\_\_\_

Likely College Major/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges already interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

## DESIRED COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

Fill in as many of your preferences as you are aware right now. Don't worry if you don't know; simply give it your best guess.

### 1. PHYSICAL LOCATION

Please circle the Regions, Divisions or Individual States that interest you and cross-out those that don't.

#### NORTHEAST REGION

##### New England

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

##### Middle Atlantic

New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

#### MIDWEST REGION

##### East Central

Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin

##### Middle Atlantic

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri,  
Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

#### SOUTH REGION

##### East Central

Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee

##### West Central

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

##### South Central

Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida,  
Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina,  
South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia

#### WEST REGION

##### Mountain

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana,  
Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

##### Pacific

Alaska, California, Hawaii,  
Oregon, Washington

## 2. TOPOGRAPHY AND WEATHER

**A. Landscape and Environment:** Please circle those you want to be in or near, and ~~cross-out~~ those you want to avoid.

Beaches                      Mountains                      Deserts                      Plains                      Lakes                      Rivers

**B. Weather:** Please circle those that you like and ~~cross-out~~ those that you want to avoid.

Sunny                      Rainy                      Snowy                      Windy                      Four Distinct Seasons  
Hot                      Humid                      Moderate                      Cool                      Cold

## 3. NEARBY COMMUNITY

Which environments do you prefer? Please circle those that interest you and ~~cross-out~~ those you want to avoid.

MAJOR CITY                      SUBURBAN                      COLLEGE TOWN                      RURAL                      SMALL TOWN

Colleges in **urban areas** are surrounded by large buildings and apartments/condominiums, and are filled activity, including community involvement, employment/internship, cultural, and social opportunities. Shopping and restaurants are always close at hand. Sometimes safety is an issue, but many schools such as USC and Columbia offer escort services, as well as security-conscious dorms. If a fast paced, city living is your “thing,” then an urban campus is probably a good choice.

Colleges located in **suburban areas** of such cities as Washington DC, St. Louis, Santa Barbara and Portland, Oregon are in residential neighborhoods filled with single family homes. They often have access to urban areas through a short commute, but are not in the middle of the city. The lifestyle is often slower than the city, but restaurants, shops and movie theaters are usually not far away. Suburban areas can be upscale, but they can also be in poor areas.

**College towns** such as Ann Arbor, Michigan, Boulder, Colorado, and Hanover, New Hampshire are very special places. The entire town, including people and businesses, revolves around the needs, wants and desires of students, faculty, staff and their families. Some students like these towns so much that they find all kinds of excuses for staying on after graduation; some never leave.

**Rural locations** offer special attractions for certain students. If you like access to the outdoors, sports such as hiking, skiing, and bicycling; peaceful, beautiful settings, and a sense of getting away from it all, then going to a college in a rural setting may be just the thing for you. Safety is not something you usually have to worry about. Good shopping and other city resources do not abound. However, if cultural resources are important, don't count out colleges in rural locations; frequently they bring in to their campuses and communities the best of what is available in the country.

## 4. CITIES YOU WOULD LOVE TO BE IN OR NEAR

What are your favorite cities?

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## 5. HOW FAR OR CLOSE TO HOME DO YOU WANT TO BE

Circle the distance you prefer having between your college and your home.

**CLOSE**

1-4 hour drive

**PRETTY CLOSE**

Long car/short plane ride

**MODERATE**

2-3 hour plane ride

**FAR AWAY**

5+ hour plane ride

**DOESN'T**

**MATTER**

## 6. RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC ORIENTATION OF COLLEGE

Please identify if either religious orientation or ethnic make-up of a college is important to you.

**A. Religious orientation** \_\_\_\_\_  Important  Not important

(e.g., do you prefer a Christian, Catholic, Jewish or other religiously oriented college, or one with a large population of students with that orientation)

**B. Ethnic make-up of students/faculty** \_\_\_\_\_  Important  Not important

(e.g., prefer a campus at which there is a good number of Hispanic, African-American, Native American, Asian, Arab, students and/or faculty)

## 7. KIND OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Which kind of colleges or universities would you like to attend? Please circle all the categories in which you are interested.

- Small, Private Liberal Arts Colleges**  
(Amherst, Colorado College, Eckerd, Juniata, Oberlin, Occidental, Vassar, Middlebury, Pomona, Kenyon)
- Ivy League Colleges**  
(Brown, Cornell, Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania, Yale)
- Moderate to Large Private Universities**  
(Emory, University of Chicago, Duke, George Washington, Miami of Ohio, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Stanford University, Texas Christian, University of Miami, Villanova University)
- Flagship State Universities**  
(University of Indiana, UC Berkeley, University of Iowa, University of Massachusetts, University of Ohio, University of Vermont, University of Michigan, University of Washington)
- Regional Public Universities**  
(Cal State Sonoma, Bowling Green State, Florida State, Mississippi State University, Northern Arizona University, Penn State, Washington State, Cal Poly)
- Science and Engineering Colleges**  
(Cal Tech, MIT, Harvey Mudd, MIT, Colorado School of Mines, Cooper Union, Lehigh, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Georgia Tech, Texas A & M)
- Military Academies**  
(Air Force Academy, The Citadel, Merchant Marine Academy, Naval Academy, West Point)
- Specialized Art, Music, Architecture Schools**  
(Art Center College of Design, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Berklee College of Music, Julliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts, Parsons School of Art & Design, Ringling School of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design)
- Single Sex Colleges**  
(Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Deep Springs College, Mt. Holyoke College, Hampden-Sydney College, Mills College, Mississippi University for Women, Morehouse College, Wellesley College)

## 8. SIZE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

What size are you looking for in a student body? Please circle all that interest you.

### 1000 OR LESS

E.g. Bennington, Mills, Pitzer,  
Marlboro

### 1000-2000

E.g. Haverford, Macalester,  
Swarthmore

### 2000-5000

E.g. Carleton, Middlebury, Smith,  
Rice, Evergreen State

### 5000-10,000

E.g. Yale, Villanova,  
Wake Forest

### 10,000-20,000

E.g. UVA, Yale, Miami,  
Utah, Howard

### OVER 20,000

E.g. Ohio State, Texas, UCLA,  
Georgia, Wisconsin

**Schools with enrollments 5000 and below** are much more likely to offer small classes taught by involved, accessible professors, a real sense of community, attention to you as a whole person, and better access to activities. Smaller colleges also often have better records for getting their undergraduates into graduate schools. The downside of attending a small college is a smaller number and variety of courses and activities, and sometimes students feel that their social spheres are limited after a couple of years. Students who seek personal connection and involvement are likely to feel more at home at a small college.

**Schools with over 10,000 students** are more likely to offer an abundance of undergraduate classes and majors. At large colleges, there are more activities and organizations in which to get involved. Some of the downsides include many classes with 200-1000 students, limited access to certain courses, activities, and Varsity sports teams. Often the focus of a large university is more on research and graduate students than undergraduates. Students who like to be anonymous in a setting, who are self-starters and can take care of themselves without much support are likely to feel at home at a larger campus.

## 9. GENERAL CAMPUS ATMOSPHERE AND PERSONALITY

Please check the boxes next to all the characteristics that are important for you and cross-out any that you want to avoid.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectually oriented                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tight-knit community of students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Techie-oriented                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports-are-big school            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and performing arts oriented                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Party school                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoorsy (lots of runners, skiers, hikers, bikers) | <input type="checkbox"/> Big fraternity/sorority presence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly, happy atmosphere                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformist, individualistic  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down-to-earth, not pretentious                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling of family                |

## 10. TYPE OF CURRICULUM

Please check the boxes next to the curriculum and program choices that are important to you.

- A set of courses required of all undergraduates
- Some course requirements, but with flexibility
- Few course requirements
- Opportunity for student-created majors
- Availability of double majors

## 11. ACADEMICS

Please check the boxes next to each characteristic that is important to you.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in major: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on undergraduate teaching   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National academic reputation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Large classes in lecture halls with smaller discussion groups (hundreds to 1000 students) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vast number of majors and classes                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Small classes (25+ or - students)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very competitive, challenging academic climate                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis is on learning for learning's sake rather than on grades                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good study abroad program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Classes taught by professors rather than graduate teaching assistants                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent academic advising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Good services for learning disabled students  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding record for getting undergraduates into graduate schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Abundant internship opportunities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive, available, involved professors                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for undergraduate research  |

## 12. STUDENTS

What kind of people do you want in the student body of the college you attend? Please check the boxes next to each category of people that you want to be around and mix with and ~~cross-out~~ any that you want to avoid.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnically diverse                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal students                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geographically diverse (different regions of the US) | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate students                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Many international students                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative students                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Really smart   | <input type="checkbox"/> Politically active                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career-oriented                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and fitness conscious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Techie/science oriented                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Very social                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free-spirited, unconventional                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoorsy                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive of LGBT students                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Preppy                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community service oriented                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lovers of ideas and good discussions |

## 13. CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES

Please check the boxes next to each category that you want from a campus and ~~cross-out~~ any that you want to avoid.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very safe environment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Good public transportation                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautiful, well kept campus       | <input type="checkbox"/> Near an airport (to easily fly home)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast-paced lifestyle              | <input type="checkbox"/> Most students live on campus                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately paced lifestyle        | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of good dining halls, eating places   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet, peaceful lifestyle         | <input type="checkbox"/> Open, excellent well-stocked libraries        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spacious, well-maintained housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Nearby neighborhood/town is good for students |

### 14. ATHLETICS

Check the boxes next to any that are of interest to you.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division I competitive sports for yourself   | <input type="checkbox"/> Intramural sports available to you   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division II competitive sports for yourself  | <input type="checkbox"/> Big sports school with NCAA Division I football and basketball to watch as a spectator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division III competitive sports for yourself | <input type="checkbox"/> Gym and workout facilities   |

### 15. FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

### 16. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT?

Is there anything else that you want in a college not covered by the above?

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### 17. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO AVOID?

Is there anything else that you want not covered by the above?

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### 18. THE SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS

Please list the seven most important things you are looking for in a college (in order of preference):

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ |          |