

# WORKSHEET: CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE



## STEP 1

In the top row, make a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.



## STEP 2

Think about important factors you want your college to have. Then, prioritize each factor in the level of importance column.



## STEP 3

Cross off colleges that appear to not have what you're looking for. Rank the remaining colleges in order of preference.

Level of importance	Factors to consider	College (fill in names of colleges that interest you)			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
	<b>Program of study:</b> Which programs does the college offer to help you achieve your career goals?				
	<b>School size:</b> Do you prefer a large or small college? What is the student population?				
	<b>Class size:</b> How large do you like your classes to be? What is the student-to-teacher ratio?				
	<b>Support programs:</b> Which programs does the college offer to help you stay in college and graduate?				
	<b>City and neighborhood:</b> Do you prefer a city or a small town? What is the population of the city or town?				
	<b>Campus culture:</b> When visiting each college, get a feel for its "personality." How or why does it match yours?				
	<b>Distance from home:</b> How close do you want to live to your family?				
	<b>Extracurricular activities:</b> Do you have activities in your life that you can't live without?				
	<b>Religious affiliation:</b> Do you want to attend a college affiliated with your religious beliefs?				
	<b>Net price:</b> While one college may appear to be less expensive, what will your final cost be after receiving grants and scholarships? Use <a href="https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price">https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price</a> to identify your likely estimated cost.				
	<b>Financial aid options:</b> Does the college have special financial aid options? These could include things such as a tuition payment plan to spread out your payments or a guaranteed cost of attendance as long as you are enrolled.				
	<b>Outside learning options:</b> Does the college offer internships, externships, study abroad or service learning opportunities?				
	<b>Housing options near campus:</b> How close or far is housing? Will you need a car, or are where you live, shop, and work within walking or biking distance?				



**Choosing the Right College** worksheet is part of the 2021-2022 *Opportunities Preparing for College Guide and Workbook*. This free college planning publication provides students and families with important information and tools to guide their pursuit of postsecondary education. These books are available in English and Spanish. Full PDFs of each *Opportunities* booklet can be downloaded at [www.ecmc.org/opportunities](http://www.ecmc.org/opportunities).