

COLLEGE SEARCH ACTION PLAN



Goals and Interests

Head to <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers> to help narrow your search based on your personal interests and aspirations. As a starting point, reflect on the following:

1. What are some things you do well?
2. What challenges you?
3. What do you like to do in your spare time?
4. What accomplishment has made you most proud?
5. What's your favorite class?
6. If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?



Review your College Planning Letter

Review your college planning letter, keeping in mind that this is just the start of your college search!

1. Review the list of colleges – note any that you want to look into more as you expand your search.
2. Review the AP and advance class offerings on your campus. Log on to collegeboard.com and review your AP potential. [Identify a class that you'd like to challenge next year](#), and share that information with your counselor!
3. Want to be a better “fit” at more selective colleges? Log on to satpractice.org and get practicing for the SAT! Just 20 hours of practice can raise your SAT score 115 points!
4. Set next steps for investigating colleges, practicing for the SAT, and taking challenging coursework over the next year. To create a checklist of things to do, log on to <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/make-a-plan>.



Provide College Choice Considerations

When reviewing the list of colleges provided in the letter and building your college application portfolio, remember to think about the following:

1. **ACADEMICS:** What are the average SAT® scores and GPA of students admitted to the school? Does it have any prerequisites? Remember to apply to schools that are a good academic fit – whether they are a safe bet or a little out of reach.
2. **SIZE:** Do you want a smaller campus with smaller class sizes, or a larger school with a wider variety of programs, like a state university?
3. **GRADUATION RATE:** Do most students graduate in four years? If not, why not?
4. **LOCATION:** Do you prefer a big city, suburb, or small town?
5. **MAJORS:** Does the college offer a variety of majors that interest you?

6. **COST:** What would the cost be for you to attend, based on financial need? How many students receive grants and scholarships?
7. **CAMPUS LIFE AND SERVICES:** What are the housing options? Are there social activities, cultural events, clubs, or athletics that interest you? What support services are available on campus to help with social, health, academic, and financial challenges?

College Search Tools

Log in to <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>, where you can explore the colleges closely, develop your portfolio, and create a checklist for applications and financial aid.

COLLEGE RESEARCH WORKSHEET

(Use one for each school that interests you.)

College _____ Location _____ Application Deadline _____

Admission Rate	Graduation Rate	Middle 50% SAT Range
Size <5,000, <5,000-20,000>, <20,000	Location	% of Financial Need Met / % Scholarships and Grants

Did you join the admissions mailing list? Yes _____ No _____

What is noteworthy about the college's:			
Academic Experience	Athletics / Club Sports / Intramurals	Campus Life <i>(Clubs, Greek life, university ministry, art programs, etc.)</i>	Resources Available to Help You Thrive

What makes this college stand out to you?

COLLEGE APPLICATION PORTFOLIO

Student Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Safety, Fit, Reach	School Name	Middle 50% Of SAT Scores	Graduation Rate	Why This School?
Reach				
Reach				
Fit				
Fit				
Fit				
Safety				
Safety				