## OVERVIEW

Considering and applying to college can be an overwhelming process for families. This discussion starter will help families focus on key areas in a college search from a campus environment and size to selecting a career specialty. While it’s important to consider the academic programs and opportunities for growth that each campus offers as your child builds a list of possible schools, it’s also critical to consider other factors, such as:

* Cost of tuition and the scholarship opportunities that may be available
* Size and location of the college/university
* How far your child will have to travel to and from school
* What the campus culture is like
* What campus facilities and amenities are available

How can you and your child learn about all the college options? How can you assist your child in finding the right college fit? With thousands of public, private, community, and junior colleges, it’s important to create a roadmap. The best place to start that roadmap is by helping your child know him/herself.

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the top priorities to consider when applying to college
2. Conduct targeted research to identify which colleges may prove to be good fits
3. Understand the steps needed to develop a comprehensive college list

**BEGIN WITH SOME QUESTIONS** A good college fit means something different for everyone. An important first step is to determine what’s important to him/her, to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to find out who s/he is and who s/he hopes to become. These questions are a good starting place.

• What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience in or out of the classroom and why? • Which of your accomplishments give you the most pride? • Are your ACT/SAT scores an accurate reflection of your ability? Why or why not? • What kinds of surroundings are essential to your well-being?

**MAJOR**

Major/career interest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Major: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CSUs Only: School Impacted? (Y/N) School has student’s major(s)? (Y/N)

**A-G**

A-G Ready? (review A-G form) (Y/N)

If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the student planning to apply to a two-year? (Y/N)

Why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: A-G readiness guide is available in the Student Portal.*

**FINANCIAL AID**

Email Program Manager proof of FAFSA submission by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fee waiver (Y/N) Support needed for application fees?\* (Y/N)

FAFSA Dates and Deadlines:

**October 1**: FAFSA and CA Dream Act applications open for the following school year.

**March 2**: Cal Grant application deadline. Submit your FAFSA application (or CA Dream Act application) and GPA no later than this date.

\*Scholarship websites available on the last page.

**SAT/ACT**

SAT Score: ACT Score:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_W\_\_\_\_\_\_CR\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_\_W\_\_\_\_\_\_CR\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Next SAT Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Next ACT Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: For the 2022-2023 Admissions Cycle, many schools, including the UC system will be test blind or test optional.*

**ON-CAMPUS**

Living on-campus (Y/N)? Why or why not?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Extracurricular activities at college/university:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Is student planning to apply to EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)? (Y/N)**

* Review Enrollment Deadlines/EOP Resources
* EOP Resources for CSUs: <https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/eop>
* EOP Campuses in the UC system (as of July 25, 2022): UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz

**University of California (UC)**

Review: [http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu**/**](http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/)

SAT 2 Subject Test Needed? (Y/N) Which one? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SAT 2 Subject Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Recommendations Needed (Y/N)?**

Date Requested? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Needed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recommender 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recommender 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Optional Recommender: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you started your Personal Insight Questions (Y/N)?**

Which four questions are you using (list numbers)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Provide Program Manager with copy of responses for review? (Y/N) Date? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Have you started your Common Application Personal Statement (Y/N)?**

Which prompt will you respond to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Provide Program Manager with copy of responses for review? (Y/N) Date? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Private Schools**

Does your school need a CSS Profile (private/institutional aid)? (Y/N)

Which school(s)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your school offer Diversity Fly-in Programs? (Y/N)

Which school(s)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fly-in Program application deadline(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Follow-up Needed (i.e. Support needed for fees, PIQ’s, FAFSA Completion, etc):

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**List of Schools**

It is **highly recommended** that all OJS senior students apply for the following:

1. ***Match* schools (Please list 3-5)**: where your academic credentials fall well within (or even exceed) the school's range for the average freshman. There are no guarantees, but it's not unreasonable to be accepted to several of your match schools.
2. ***Reach* schools** **(Please list 2)**:  where your academic credentials fall below the school's range for the average freshman. Reach schools are long–shots, but they should still be possible. If you have a 2.0 GPA, Harvard is not a reach school–it's a dream.
3. ***Safety* schools** **(Please list 2)**: where your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the average

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name or College/University | Why*?*  *(review list of college priorities i.e. major, proximity, size, weather, etc)* | Application Deadline | Reach, Match or Safety School? | CSUs:  Impacted?  (Y/N) |
| 1. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |  |  |
| 6. |  |  |  |  |
| 7. |  |  |  |  |
| 8. |  |  |  |  |
| 9. |  |  |  |  |
| 10. |  |  |  |  |

**Scholarship Links:**

<https://bold.org/#ref=see-great-scholarships>

<https://www.scholarships.com/scholarship-search>

<https://myscholly.com/>

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search>

scholarshipowl.com

<https://www.cappex.com/>

<https://www.petersons.com/>