

# A College Search Checklist



As you begin to think about college, you'll be collecting information, looking at college literature, visiting campuses, and researching financial aid.

Use this worksheet to guide and record your college search process.

**1.** List 3 subjects that interest you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Do you want a  2- or  4-year degree?

**3.** Now match your answers from Questions 1 and 2 with colleges. Use the Academic Programs section in this guide or on-line at [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org). List 8 of the colleges and universities that offer the programs that interest you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Gather information on your college choices. Look at the Campus Profiles on pages 18-32, then send for viewbooks and catalogues. Use the postcard in this guide or visit college Web sites. (see Quick List on reverse side or [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org)).

**5.** Now note what's important to you.

**Distance from home?**

- A short drive
- A day's drive
- More than a day's drive

**Campus size?**

- Small (less than 2,000 students)
- Medium (up to 5,000 students)
- Large (more than 5,000)

**Campus location?**

- Urban  Suburban  Rural

**Type of college?**

- Coed
- Single-sex college
- Specific religious affiliation
- Not important

**Sports? Activities?**

- Important (which ones?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Not important

Keep track of what you've learned by filling in the table below with the colleges you listed in Question 3.

**Table for Question 5**

| Colleges/Universities | Distance | Size | Location | Type | Sports/Activities |
|-----------------------|----------|------|----------|------|-------------------|
| 1.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 2.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 3.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 4.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 5.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 6.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 7.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |
| 8.                    |          |      |          |      |                   |

**6.** Visit as many colleges and universities as you can to get a sense of the campus atmosphere. Does it feel right? Begin to shorten your list here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Collect admission and financial aid applications.

**8.** It's a good idea to apply to a mix of colleges based on your choices, your personal profile, and the colleges' admission criteria.

**9.** Apply. Watch the deadlines!

**Information to keep on hand.**

- Make a file for each college that interests you. Include brochures plus important names, deadlines for admission and financial aid forms, and contact numbers.
- Many colleges require one or more letters of recommendation from teachers or other key adults. Make a list of people you could ask to supply references. Give them direction and enough time to write the letters. Remember to thank them.
- To make answering application questions easier, keep a record of your awards or achievements, standardized test information and scores. Keep track of your work history and extracurricular and/or community activities with dates and locations, too.