

# A Checklist for Finding Your Way



As you begin your search for a college, you'll be collecting information, looking at college literature, thinking about the merits of a number of colleges, visiting campuses, and researching financial aid.

Use this worksheet to guide and record your process. Tear it out, or copy it.

1. List 3 subjects that interest you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

3. Now match your interest areas from Question 1 with colleges. Use the Academic Programs section in this guide or on-line at [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org). If you're undecided, look under Interdisciplinary Studies for "Liberal Arts." For 4-year programs, turn to page 5, or for 2-year programs, begin on page 15. Make a list of the colleges and universities that offer the programs you want.

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. ([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

Using your answers to these questions fill in the chart below for the colleges you listed in Question 3.

6. Visit as many campuses as you can.

This is when you can get a sense of the campus atmosphere. Does it feel right? Begin to shorten your list.

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 of every college that interests you, along with its literature and 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 might 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 file 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.

**Table for Question 5**

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