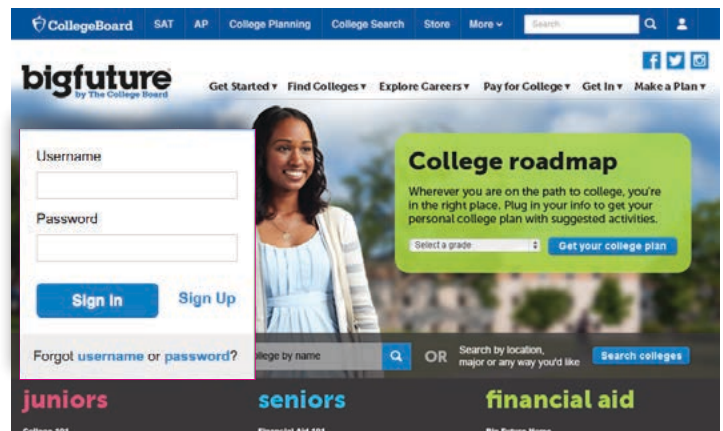


How to Build a College List

The next step in your academic career is deciding where to apply to and attend college. By applying to a range of colleges, you can expand your opportunities and increase your likelihood of success. We can help.

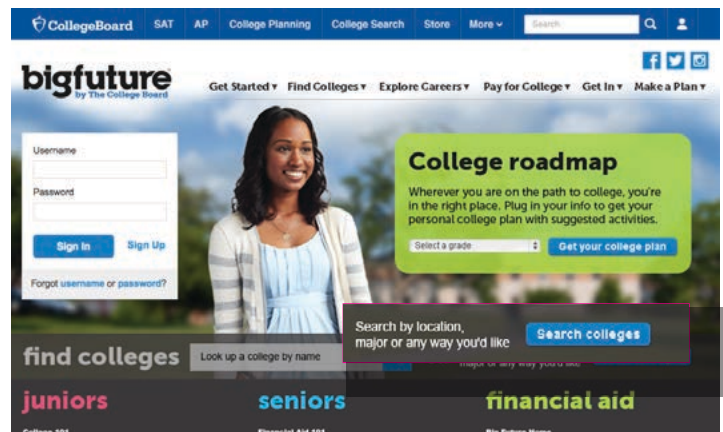
1 CREATE A FREE COLLEGE BOARD ACCOUNT

Visit bigfuture.org and sign up for an account. You can register for exams, get test scores, find colleges, and learn about financial aid and more with this account.



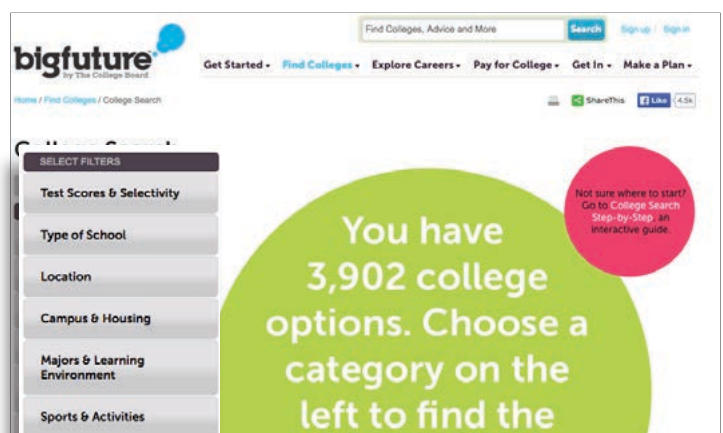
2 CLICK ON SEARCH COLLEGES

There's no magic formula for choosing a college. Use this tool to find the right colleges for you. Search by type, size, location, majors, cost, and more.



3 CHOOSE A FILTER TO GET STARTED

Start with one that's important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/ financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.



4 SELECT YOUR PREFERENCES AND GET GUIDANCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Review your options and answer the questions. You'll get tips and advice as well as videos from college planning experts and college students to help you understand your choices.

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting college preferences. On the left is a vertical sidebar with 'SELECT FILTERS' and categories: Test Scores & Selectivity, Location, Campus & Housing, Majors & Learning Environment, Sports & Activities, Academic Credit, Paying, Support Services, and Diversity. The 'Type of School' filter is active, showing options: 2-Year or 4-Year (selected), Public or Private (Public selected), School Size (Small, Medium, Large), Single-sex or Coed (Coed selected), and Religious Affiliation (No preference selected). A tip on the right says 'TIP: Skip any questions that you don't care about.' Buttons for 'Save Selections' and 'Clear All Selections' are at the top.

5 GET INSTANT COLLEGE MATCHES

As you make your selections, the number of matches is updated. The more options you select, the more refined your list of matches, which appears behind the question window, becomes. Your preferences are summarized to the left of your list, so you always know what you're searching.

The screenshot shows a grid of college search results. On the left is a sidebar with filters: Type of School (4-year school selected), Private, Coed, and Location. The main area is a grid of college cards, each with a logo, name, location, and a '100% Match' badge. The cards include: Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX), Academy of Couture Art (Beverly Hills, CA), Adelphi University (Garden City, NY), Adrian College (Adrian, MI), Adventist University of Health Sciences (Orlando, FL), AIB College of Business (Des Moines, IA), Alaska Bible College (Palmer, AK), and Alaska Pacific University (Anchorage, AK). Each card also indicates 'College Application Fee Waiver Available'.

6 PRIORITIZE YOUR PREFERENCES

Start with the preferences that are important to you — from type of school, test scores, location, majors, cost/financial aid, sports, or any other popular category.

This screenshot is similar to the previous one, showing the same grid of college search results. A 'Type of School' filter overlay is open, showing '4-year school' selected. The sidebar filters on the left are: Type of School (4-year school), Private, Coed, and Location.

7 CHOOSE A COLLEGE TO EXPLORE

Click on a college to learn more about the school. On the "At a Glance" page, you'll get an overview of the school and a map showing its location. The box to the right shows you whether the college matches your college preferences. If there's a check mark, the college matches.

The screenshot shows the 'At a Glance' page for Adelphi University in Garden City, NY. It features a large photo of a brick building. On the left is a sidebar with categories: Deadlines, Majors & Learning Environment, Campus Life, Applying, Paying, For Transfer Students, and For International Students. On the right is a 'Are you on track?' section with a 'Go to Academic Tracker' button, and a 'Does this college have what you want and need?' section with a checklist: '4-year school' (checked), 'Private' (checked), and 'Coed' (checked). Below this is a 'MY MUST-HAVES' section and a 'MY WANTS' section. A descriptive paragraph at the bottom states: 'A medium-sized, 4-year, private university. This coed college is located in a large town in a suburban setting and is primarily a commuter campus. It offers associate, bachelor's, master's'.

8 GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Browse the topics on the left menu — such as “Majors & Learning Environment,” “Paying,” or “Campus Life.” Tabs within each section offer even more specific information.

At a Glance **Medium-sized school**
Total undergraduates: 5,040
First-time degree-seeking freshmen: 919
Degree-seeking undergrads: 5,000
Graduate enrollment: 2,805

Deadlines
Majors & Learning Environment
Campus Life
Applying
Paying

Geographic Location
20 miles from New York City.

Unique Facilities
speech and hearing center, science library, observatory, arboretum, Center for Health Innovation

Commuter Campus
Suburban Setting
Large Town

For Transfer Students
For International Students

Visiting a college can give you a feel for life on campus.
Many students say that a college's size, location and campus "personality" were major factors in their final choice. A college's student body is an important part of that equation. Ask yourself these questions: Are you interested in being part of a diverse community with people from many different backgrounds? Do you want to be around students who are interested in sports, studying, politics or something else?

Average Age
23
All students

Race/Ethnicity
53% White
4% Non-Resident Alien
2% Two or more races

9 SEE IF YOU'RE ACADEMICALLY ON TRACK FOR THE COLLEGE

Click on the “Applying” section and the “Academics” tab there. It shows the high school course work required by this college. Enter how many years of each subject you’ve taken, and the chart will instantly update to show if you’re academically on track or need to adjust your plan. Also in the “Applying” section, you can see how your grades, class rank, and test scores stack up to those of students accepted at this school.

Campus Life
Applying
Paying

Decision & Early Action
Early decision
Plans available
Admitted early decision
Applied early action: 2,554
Admitted early action: 2,084
Early action - not restrictive

For Transfer Students
For International Students

Somewhat selective 68% of applicants admitted

Academics & GPA
What's Important? Application Requirement SAT & ACT Scores AP CLEP

Years of High School Classes
A note from the college:
3.0 cumulative GPA, and combined critical reading, math and writing SAT score of 1500 or higher very important. Rank in top third of class, school and community activities, references also important.

ARE YOU ON TRACK?	HIGH SCHOOL COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS	1	2	3	4
How many years of these high school classes have	Years				

\$400
Paper/Online
Paper and online application fee may be waived for applicants with financial need
[Go to Online Application](#)
[Request Information](#)
[Fee Waiver Information](#)

10 ADD THE COLLEGE TO YOUR FAVORITES LIST

Click the “Add to My College List” button located next to the college name.

Adelphi University
Garden City, NY

[Add to My College List](#) [See if you're on track](#) [Compare colleges](#) [Print complete college profile](#)

At a Glance
Deadlines
Majors & Learning Environment
Campus Life
Applying
Paying

For Transfer Students
For International Students

Are you on track?
See if you're set to meet this college's requirements — and how you can get there.
[Go to Academic Tracker](#)

Does this college have what you want and need?

MY MUST-HAVES
✓ 4-year school
✓ Private
✓ Coed

MY WANTS

A medium-sized, 4-year, private university. This coed college is located in a large town in a suburban setting and is primarily a commuter campus. It offers associate, bachelor's, master's

Be sure to apply to at least four colleges.

Why Apply to 4 or More™?

1

It can save you money

Every college offers different scholarships and financial aid packages that can help you pay for college. Apply to at least four colleges so that you can compare and determine which is the best option for you.

2

It increases your odds of getting in

If you apply to only one or two colleges, you risk not getting into either school. If you apply to at least four, you have a much better chance of being admitted.

3

A good fit makes a difference

Students who apply to at least four colleges increase their chances of finding a good academic, social, and financial fit. And a good fit matters because it will influence your overall college experience.

Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information