

COLLEGE GO!

LearnMoreIndiana.org

2017 College GO! College Research Worksheet

Prior to submitting a college application, you need to do research on the various college options you have available. During your research, there are three important things for you to consider: fit, match and cost. This worksheet will help you think through each of them:

Does the college **fit** with your preferences? There are several factors to consider such as the size of the school, the location of the school and services available on campus. Also, it is important to consider graduation rates and retention rates (the number of students who return to school for a second year) when researching what a college can offer you.

Does the college **match** with your academic record? For this, you'll need to understand how your high school grade point average (GPA), your college entrance exam scores (SAT and/or ACT), and the courses you've taken in high school match to the college's entrance requirements AND the average GPAs and scores of students admitted. Keep in mind that what a school requires could be different from the averages of who they admit. You should plan to apply to multiple schools and should include at least one of each of these types:

- **Reach School** – This does not mean out of reach; it means that the school may be more selective (look at the percent of applicants admitted) and your academic record may be on the lower end of what the college typically accepts. In other words, you *may* be admitted to this school
- **Match School** – Typically, at a match school, your academic record will be similar to the “average” student admitted to this school. In other words, you are *likely* to be admitted.
- **Safety School** – A safety school will usually have either open enrollment (meaning anyone who submits a completed application is admitted) or will be considered a “less selective” institution. Your academic record will exceed the institution's requirements and averages for students admitted. In other words, you will almost *definitely* be admitted.

Finally, it is important for you to understand the **cost** of the institutions to which you would like to apply. Keep in mind that the “sticker” price of a college may be very different from the “net” price of a college after you consider the amount of aid that is typically available to students.

You can use the Indiana College Costs Estimator (IndianaCollegeCosts.org) to estimate the cost of attending an Indiana college. For colleges outside of Indiana, visit the college's financial aid page to learn more about tuition and other costs.

Use the worksheet below to think through what type of college you would like to attend. If you're unsure of any of the information requested, ask your school counselor.

After the worksheet you will find a table that you can complete with information specific to the colleges you are researching. To research colleges, visit LearnMoreIndiana.org, where you can access the Indiana College Map to search colleges in Indiana. Remember, you should plan to apply to at least one reach, one match and one safety college.

College Planning



Career Success

COLLEGE GO!

Identifying Your College Fit

LOCATION

Where would your ideal college be located (circle one)?

In-state Out-of-state Either

How important is location to you (circle one)?

Very Important Important Not Important

TYPE OF SCHOOL

In what kind of setting would your ideal college be (circle one)?

Rural Suburban Urban

How important is setting to you (circle one)?

Very Important Important Not Important

How big would your ideal college be (circle one)?

Large Medium Small

How important is size to you (circle one)?

Very Important Important Not Important

SUPPORT SERVICES

What services would be available on your ideal campus (circle all that apply)?

Tutoring	Employment Services
Career Counseling	Academic Support Services
Minority Student Services	Disability Services

What other things are important to you at your ideal college? Things to consider are what you want to major in; whether the campus is co-ed or single gender; the diversity of the campus; whether students live on-campus or if a majority of students are commuters; etc. Use the space below to identify any other characteristics your ideal college would have.

Your Academic Record

If you don't know some of this information, check with your school counselor!

My grade point average is: _____

My SAT Reading score is: _____

My SAT Math score is: _____

My SAT Writing score is: _____

My ACT Composite score is: _____

By graduation, how many of the following classes will you have taken?

Art _____ Electives _____

English _____ Foreign Language _____

History _____ Math _____

Science _____ Social Studies _____



College Research by Fit, Match and Cost

Name of College: _____

FIT – Information, by college, can be found on Big Future at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges>

Location of college (City, State)		4-year or 2-year?	
Size of college		Public or Private?	
Number of undergraduate students		Co-ed? Women only? Men only?	
Setting of college		Students live on campus or commute?	
Do they offer my major?	Yes No	Diversity of campus	
Percent of students who return sophomore year		Graduation Rate	
What services are available on campus that are important to me?			

How well do you think this college **fits** your preferences? Excellent Fit Good Fit Okay Fit Somewhat of a Fit Does not Fit

MATCH – Information, by college, can be found under *Applying 101* on Big Future at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in>

How selective is this college?		Have I taken the required high school courses?	Yes No
Percent of applicants admitted?	%	Percent of students with my SAT score	%
Percent of students with my GPA	%	Percent of students with my ACT score	%

Comparing my academic record to this college, this would be a **Reach, Match or Safety** college for me (see definitions above): _____

COST – Information, by college, can be found under *Pay for College* on Big Future at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>

Total estimated cost to attend	\$	Percent of need met	%
My calculated net price	\$	Percent of need met through scholarships/grants	%
Percent of freshmen with need who received aid	%	Percent of need met through loans	%

I plan to apply to this college: Yes No

If Yes, the application deadline is:

