

SIX STEPS THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN EXPLORING



It's never too early to start [exploring colleges](#). Think about the characteristics of a school that would be a [good fit](#) for you—with over 4,000 colleges and universities across the U.S. (and 50+ in Maryland), there will be several that will be a good fit! Start by considering the following things:

1 Majors & Programs

What are you interested in doing as a career? What [type of degree](#) will you need? What colleges offer the majors or programs that will help you get there?

2 Actual Cost

Using a combination of savings, financial aid and other income, how will you pay for college? Remember to look at the [net price](#), which is an estimate of what you will actually pay given your specific circumstances. Consider what percentage of students receive financial aid and whether the college will meet full need.

3 Campus Environment

Do you want to attend a small or large school? Do you want to live on-campus, in your own apartment or at home? Are you interested in attending a religiously-affiliated college, a military academy or a school that serves a specific population?

4 Location

Do you want a college that is close to home or far away? Do you want to be in a city, in a small town, or somewhere in between?

5 Extra-curricular & Support Services

What activities, organizations, sports or experiences do you want to participate in? What support services (like tutoring, disability services, or counseling) would you want to take advantage of?

6 Graduation Rates

What percentage of students are successful in [completing degree](#)?