

# WORKSHEET: CREATE A COLLEGE LIST



## STEP ONE

In the top row, make a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.



## STEP TWO

Think about important factors you want your college to have. Then, prioritize each factor in the level of importance column.



## STEP THREE

Cross off colleges that appear to not have what you're looking for. Rank the remaining colleges in order of preference.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	FACTORS TO CONSIDER	COLLEGE (FILL IN NAMES OF COLLEGES THAT INTEREST YOU)			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
	<b>Program of study:</b> Are there programs/degrees that match your career goals?				
	<b>School size:</b> Do you prefer a large or small college? What is the student population?				
	<b>Class size:</b> How large do you like your classes to be? What is the student-to-teacher ratio?				
	<b>Support programs:</b> What is offered to help you stay in college and graduate?				
	<b>City and neighborhood:</b> Do you prefer a city or a small town?				
	<b>Campus culture:</b> When visiting each college, get a feel for its "personality." How does it match yours?				
	<b>Distance from home:</b> How close do you want to live to your family?				
	<b>Extracurricular activities:</b> What other activities do you want/need access to?				
	<b>Religious affiliation:</b> Do you want to attend a college affiliated with your religious beliefs?				
	<b>Net price:</b> What will your final cost be after receiving grants and scholarships? Use <a href="https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price">https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price</a> to identify your likely estimated cost.				
	<b>Financial aid options:</b> Does the college have a tuition payment plan to spread out your payments or a guaranteed cost of attendance as long as you are enrolled?				
	<b>Outside learning options:</b> Does the college offer internships, externships, study abroad or service learning opportunities?				
	<b>Housing options near campus:</b> Will you need a car to get to school, work, shopping or back home, or is everything you need within walking or biking distance?				
	<b>Other Considerations:</b>				



Create a College List worksheet is part of the 2025-2026 *Opportunities Preparing for College Guide and Workbook*. This free college planning publication provides students and families with important information and tools to guide their pursuit of postsecondary education. These books are available in English and Spanish. Full PDFs of each *Opportunities* booklet can be downloaded at [www.ecmc.org/opportunities](http://www.ecmc.org/opportunities).