

Some areas to consider for picking a college...

Affiliation of the school - public, private, etc.

Size of school – small, medium, big

Community – rural, small town, suburban, urban, etc.

Location – close to home, a couple hours away, many hours away (5-7 hours)

Housing – Dorms, off campus living, etc.

Academic Environment – Majors offered, student-faculty ratio, facilities, international studies, and internships

Financial Aid – Scholarships, grants, loans, work study programs, etc.

Support Services - academic counseling, career/placement counseling, student health facilities

Activities/Social Clubs – sports, clubs, other social gatherings, surrounding area of nightlife

Athletics – soccer program: coaches, facilities, expectations, competition, teammates, etc.

Look for the characteristics that fit themselves and not just go for what everyone else is looking for

Look for a college that will challenge you academically and personally, has several strong core academic departments and has a healthy mix of in-state vs. out-of-state students — you should feel like you want to be there. Look for a college that can provide — if you want it — the full college “experience.”

I would say that it would be that intangible (and at times inexplicable) feeling you get from being on the campus/Grounds and around the students and professors of that institution. If you are not drawn into the atmosphere, respected as a thinking being, challenged to explain yourself or excited to be there, then you should reconsider that place as the destination for your next four years. I hope this advice helps in the arduous process that is college decisions.