

FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Did you know it is NEVER too early or too late to start looking for colleges and universities? Whether you are in 9th or 10th grade looking to start exploring or in 11th or 12th grade, and even a recent graduate looking to get started with your college applications; building your list of schools will be your first step!

This search process may seem really complicated but can actually be quite simple and fun! What matters most is finding the institution that offers you the best educational experience, and sets you up on the right starting point for the major and/or career you are wanting to explore, all while being the best financial option for you and your family.

Check out USNews's "[10 Steps to Choosing the Right College](#)" and BestColleges's "[How to Choose a College](#)," both articles that lay out the essential things you need to consider in your search for the right college or university for you!

- Two of the most important things to take advantage of throughout your search are *college tours*—while attending prospective student events or visiting the campus—and *in-person or virtual college fairs* where you can connect with admissions representatives or student ambassadors.
 - You should ask your guidance counselor and/or post-secondary transition specialists for information on any school-specific, county-led, or community-wide college fairs that may be occurring during your current semester.
- Consider attending one of [NACAC's \(National Association of College Admissions Counselors\) in-person and virtual College Fairs](#).
- Explore the US Department of Education's [College Scorecard](#), an online tool, created by the United States government, for consumers to compare the cost and value of higher education institutions in the United States. This tool is easy to use and enables you to "find the right fit" by comparing fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.
- Take advantage of the abundance of resources provided by [College Advisors](#) from "free monthly webinars, over 300 articles written by [their] experts, and a free web application, where students can watch 160+ on-demand videos, research schools, organize their applications, and manage deadlines".