

THE SECRET TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

 by Courtney Vien

It seems everyone's got an opinion on where you should go to college. Your mom's rooting for her alma mater. Your school counselor thinks you should shoot for the Ivy League. And your friends already plan to apply to that big state university known for wild weekends. But where do you want to go?

With more than 4,600 colleges and universities to choose from, finding the right one can be a daunting task. Start narrowing down the list by considering these key factors:

SIZE

I see myself at:

- A large university (more than 15,000 students) where choices of majors, classes, activities and housing types abound
- A small school (fewer than 5,000 students) with a cozier feel and more personal interaction with faculty
- Something in between

LOCATION

I'm more drawn to:

- A bustling city with tons of job and internship opportunities (and places to go)
- A quaint and quiet college town

And I want to be:

- Close enough to home to bring my laundry back every weekend
- As far from my hometown as possible

My dream setting would be:

- The beach
- The mountains
- A foreign country

PRESTIGE

My school's academic reputation should be:

- Nationally renowned for what I want to study
- Well respected in the state where I'll most likely start my career

COST

Considering tuition, room & board and financial aid or scholarships, my price point is:

- Of little concern. Sky's the limit, so bring it, Ivy League!
- Middle of the road. Cost is important, but not the deciding factor
- A big factor. Affordability is key so my loan debt will be manageable

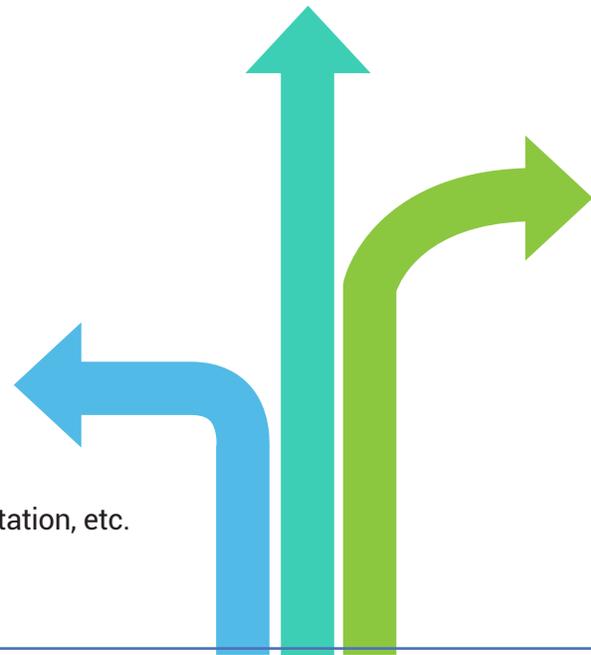
CULTURE

My ideal school's personality type is:

- Artsy and Bohemian
- Sports-fan central
- A haven for deep thinkers/innovators/rebels

Students at my ideal school would be:

- A lot like me, for the most part
- Diverse in background, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.



Once you've determined what kind of school you'd like best, you can do online research to find possible schools. After visiting schools' websites, talk to actual students and visit campuses to make your short list.

Need help with the search? We've put together a list of 1,000 schools that have street cred with The

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), two accreditation groups that have done some analysis for you. The list includes options ranging from community colleges to huge universities, and going to any one of them will start your CPA career on the right track. Search the list a StartHereGoPlaces.com/CollegeOptions

