

Searching for Colleges

Search Process

There are many resources to help students research colleges. In the process of looking for colleges that seem to be a good fit, a student learns about his/her own preferences. Sometimes it seems that an urban school would be perfect only later to find that considering a rural school also holds appeal. Be patient with your own search. Conducted over a matter of months, preferences can change as you learn more about what is offered, what you are looking for, what you can afford, and where you want to be.

Steps:

- ✓ Log on to Naviance. Naviance options for searching include the College Match, Scattergrams that show GPA, SAT scores, and acceptance outcome for students from our school who have applied to this college, and Acceptance History. Naviance tutorials are available on this website.
- ✓ Review the college compilation books and other college search resources, such as:
 - The Best 377 (or some #) of Colleges by Princeton Review
 - Fiske Guide to Colleges
 - Barron's Profile of Colleges
 - Making a Difference Colleges: Distinctive Colleges to Make a Better World by Miriam Weinstein
 - Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges by Loren Pope and Hilary Masell

Many of these books are available in the CVU Library or Direction Center bookshelves. Please return promptly. If you purchase any books, please consider donating them when your search is over.

Several factors can be considered when selecting colleges to apply to:

- **Program of study** - which majors are available, which minors
- **Location** of the college – geographic, urban/rural,
- **Size** of the college
- **Type** of school and **philosophy** of teaching
- Make-up of the **student body** – all male, all female, co-ed
- **Cost** – tuition, room & board, fees, transportation to and from home, scholarship opportunities
- **Campus life** – social clubs and activities, extra-curricular clubs, percentage of students living on campus, percentage of students on campus on weekends

TIP: Early on in the college selection process, have a responsible discussion with your parents regarding college costs. You must have a clear idea of the extent to which they can and are willing to contribute to higher education.