

Finding Appropriate Social/Environmental Fit

A best-fit college or university is more than just academics. College will be your student's "home away from home" for several years, so their school should be a good social and "environmental" fit that will enable them to thrive personally and socially. The social and environmental "fit" factors to consider in the college search are wide-ranging, but here are some key elements to get your family's research started:

Location and size:

- Does your student prefer an urban, suburban, or rural area? Do they like the "college town" feel or prefer the hustle and bustle of city life?
- Is a warm climate important, or does your student prefer all four seasons?
- Does a large, public university feel like an exciting adventure or does a smaller, private college with small class sizes feel most comfortable?
- Does your student want to live at home, within a few hours' drive from home, or in a completely new (and distant) environment? Travel time and method are important considerations.

Campus social climate:

- Does your student want to go to school with students who live in your area or state?
- Are diversity and inclusivity important to them?
- Does your student prefer schools with a Greek (fraternity/sorority) presence?
- Are they an avid sports fan and/or interested in strong school spirit?
- Do they prefer a studious environment with like-minded students?
- Is a faith-based culture important to your student?

Is the political climate of a school a consideration?

Social/environmental fit plays a significant role in a student's happiness and sense of belonging and can be invaluable when weathering the inevitable rough spots of the college experience.

Seeking assistance in building a socially appropriate college list for your student? At LGC, our expert educational consultants can assist you family in working through this process strategically. We offer a College Search and Selection package that incorporates these academic-focused points as well as several other areas of consideration. Contact us today for more information.