

## Finding Appropriate Academic Fit

Most families and students prioritize identifying a good academic fit during the college search but determining this information can prove difficult. Many people turn to rankings, which rarely inform the public about relevant criteria such as strong faculty, opportunities for internships, or post-college outcomes. Here are some important factors to consider/research:

**Major:** Does your student have an academic interest or major? Some types of colleges (and majors) are best suited to students who are sure about their desired career path, and other colleges are more appropriate for students who are undeclared or are interested in a variety of subjects. If your student has a desired major, researching relevant programs at their schools of interest is a crucial step. If they are considering applying as “undeclared,” you may want to research schools with strong exploratory programs, or schools that offer flexibility when it comes to switching majors. Another key factor to consider is whether a college offers other potential majors of interest should your student decide to change course. Ideally, they won’t have to transfer to another school if their plans change.

**Degree:** Is your student targeting an associate degree, a bachelor’s degree, or an advanced degree like an MS, PhD, JD, or MD? Some colleges excel at facilitating a path to direct employment, others provide a great foundation for continued education, and some are adept at preparing student for both.

**Rigor:** Academic rigor is also a critical factor in choosing a best-fit college. Does your student perform best in a competitive or a collaborative environment? Is “work/life balance” important to them? Do they like surrounding themselves with people with varied academic priorities and backgrounds, or is it important for them to be with people who share their academic priorities?

**Acceptance rates and accepted student demographics:** When helping to narrow your student’s college list, be sure to consider the statistics that each school provides so that they can determine their academic compatibility and understand their odds of acceptance. While many resources for finding this information exist, each school’s website is the ideal place to start.



**Opportunities:** Consider any of these questions that are pertinent to your student: Do they need academic accommodations/support or prefer to have strong tutoring services on campus? Do they want to complete a co-op or internship, conduct research, join an honors program, or study abroad? Does the school offer robust career-planning services, such as resume and interviewing assistance, career fairs, etc.?

**Life after college:** Understanding a college's success with facilitating a path to the workforce or advanced education is an important consideration. Researching graduation rates, career placement assistance, and post-undergraduate acceptance rates can be helpful in helping your student to fine tune their college list.

**Seeking assistance in building an academically 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.**

**LAURA GEORGE CONSULTING**

CLEAR PATH FORWARD

© 2022 LGC, All Rights Reserved.