2022 College Research Worksheet

Prior to submitting a college application, you need to do research on the college options you have available. During your research, there are three important things for you to consider: fit, match and cost. This worksheet will help you think through each of them:

Does the college **fit** with your preferences? There are several factors to consider such as the size of the school, the location of the school and services available on campus. Also, it is important to consider graduation rates and retention rates (the number of students who return to school for a second year) when doing your research. Higher graduation rates and higher retention rates might mean you have a better chance of succeeding in college.

Does the college **match** with your academic record? For this, you'll need to understand how your high school grade point average (GPA), your college entrance exam scores (SAT and/or ACT), and the courses you've taken in high school match to the college's entrance requirements AND the average GPAs and scores of students admitted. Keep in mind that what a school requires could be different from the averages of who they admit. You should plan to apply to multiple schools and should include at least one of each of these types:

- **Reach School** – This doesn't mean out of reach; it means the school is more selective (look at the percent of applicants admitted) and your academic record is on the lower end of what the college typically accepts. In other words, you *may* be admitted to this school.
- **Match School** – Typically, at a match school, your academic record will be similar to the "average" student admitted to this school. In other words, you are *likely* to be admitted.
- **Safety School** – A safety school will usually have either open enrollment (meaning anyone who submits a completed application is admitted) or will be considered a "less selective" institution. Your academic record will exceed the institution's requirements and averages for students admitted. In other words, you will almost *definitely* be admitted.

Finally, it is important for you to understand the **cost** of the institutions to which you would like to apply. Keep in mind that the "sticker" price of a college may be very different from the "net" price of a college after you consider the amount of aid that is typically available to students.

You can use the College Scorecard (**CollegeScorecard.ed.gov**) to estimate the cost of attending Indiana and out-of-state colleges.

Use the worksheet below to think through what type of college you would like to attend. If you're unsure of any of the information requested, ask your school counselor. After the worksheet you will find a table that you can complete with information specific to the colleges you are researching. To research colleges, visit **LearnMoreIndiana.org/college/choosing-a-college**, where you can access the Indiana college map and the school finder tool. Remember, you should plan to apply to at least one reach, one match and one safety college.

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Identifying Your College Fit

LOCATION

Where would your ideal college be located?

In-state   Out-of-state   Either

How important is location to you?

Very Important   Important   Not Important

TYPE OF SCHOOL

In what kind of setting would your ideal college be?

Rural   Suburban   Urban

How important is setting to you?

Very Important   Important   Not Important

How big would your ideal college be?

Large   Medium   Small

How important is college size to you?

Very Important   Important   Not Important

SUPPORT SERVICES

What services would be available on your ideal campus?

Tutoring: Employment Services: Career Counseling:

Academic Support Services: Minority Student Services: Disability Services:

What other things are important to you at your ideal college? Things to consider are what you want to major in; whether the campus is co-ed or single gender; the diversity of the campus; whether students live on-campus or if a majority of students are commuters; etc.

ACADEMIC RECORD

If you don't know some of this information, check with your school counselor!

My grade point average is:

My SAT Reading/Writing score is:

My SAT Math score is:

My SAT Essay score is:

My ACT Composite score is:

By graduation, how many of the following classes will you have taken?

Art: Electives:

English Foreign: Language:

History: Math

Science: Social Studies:

College Research by Fit, Match and Cost

Name of College: _____

FIT – Information, by college, can be found on Big Future at: **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges**

Location of college (City, State)		4-year or 2-year?	
Size of college		Public or Private?	
Number of undergraduate students		Co-ed? Women only? Men only?	
Setting of college		Students live on campus or commute?	
Do they offer my major?	Yes No	Diversity of campus	
Percent of students who return 2nd year		Graduation Rate	
What services are available on campus that are important to me?			

How well do you think this college **fits** your preferences?   Excellent Fit   Good Fit   Somewhat of a Fit   Does not Fit

MATCH – Information, by college, can be found under *Applying 101* on Big Future at: **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in**

How selective is this college?		Have I taken the required high school courses?	Yes No
Percent of applicants admitted?	%	Percent of students with my SAT score	%
Percent of students with my GPA	%	Percent of students with my ACT score	%

Comparing my academic record to this college, this would be a **Reach, Match or Safety** college for me (see definitions above): _____

COST – Information, by college, can be found under *Pay for College* on Big Future at: **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college**

Total estimated cost to attend	$	Percent of need met	%
My calculated net price	$	Percent of need met through scholarships/grants	%
Percent of 1st year students who receive aid	%	Percent of need met through loans	%

I plan to apply to this college: Yes   No   **If yes, the application deadline is:**