

Self-Assessment Quiz/Survey for Students

College & Retirement Solutions
667 Shunpike Rd, Suite 3
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www.college-retirement.com

I. Particular Preferences

Name three things you are doing right now that you hope to continue to do in college (These can be anything from studying science to shaving your head; playing polo to playing piano):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name three things you're not doing now but hope to do in college (academic or otherwise):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name three things you are doing right now that you don't want to do in college (e.g., sharing a bathroom with your baby brother, conjugating German verbs, singing alto):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name three things you haven't mentioned yet that you can't live without at college (e.g., vegetarian food, wheelchair ramps, a French-speaking dorm):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In general, how do you want your college to be different than your high school?

_____ How do you want it to be similar?

Pretend there's a perfect college. We'll call it Fantasy State. Keep it in mind as you answer the questions below and, if you really have no preference in one area—or have several—be sure to say so. Put an asterisk (*) by those preferences that you feel very strongly about:

II. Location

How far is it from home? (e.g., within an hour's drive or a day's drive? In a foreign country?)

Are you comfortable selecting a school that is primarily reached by airplane from your home? _____

Do you prefer a big city? Suburb? Small town? _____

What climate is most appealing? _____ How important is this? _____

Do you have other preferences or requirements? (e.g., near a ski slope or major medical center, close to your boyfriend or girlfriend, grandparents)

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Do you have a specific location in mind? (e.g., Boston, California, New York City)

In what location do you think your parents want you to go to school?

How will they react if your expectations conflict? _____

III. Enrollment

Do you prefer a small college (under 2,500 students)? A medium-small one (2,500 to 5,000)? A medium one (5,000 to 10,000)? A large one (10,000 to 18,000)? A very large one (18,000+)? _____

How good are you at asking for help (anything from directions to tutoring) when you need it? _____

Do you want an institution that is primarily for undergraduates? ____ What advantages (if any) do you see in having graduate students on campus, too?

Would you consider a single-sex school? _____ Would you prefer one? _____

In a coed school, do you care if the male-to-female ratio is disproportionate? _____

Do you want a school with a religious affiliation (and/or strong majority of one religious group)? If so, which one? _____

Would a religious affiliation bother you? _____

Is geographic diversity in a student body important to you? _____

Racial/ethnic diversity? _____

What preferences (and prejudices) do you think your parents have regarding the size and student composition of the college you will attend?

IV. Academics

Do you have a major in mind? _____ If so, what? _____ How certain about it do you feel? _____

Do you have a career goal? If so, what? _____

How do you think your parents feel about your choice of major?

What other academic areas do you hope to pursue in college?

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Which subjects do you hope to avoid like the plague?

Do you think you work better when you are challenged by tough classes and bright classmates, or do you do prefer to be near the top of a less competitive group?

How hard do you work in high school? See choices below:

- a. Very hard (maybe too hard, at times?)
- b. Hard (especially the night before tests and term papers)
- c. Somewhat hard
- d. What's work?

How hard do you expect to work in college? (Use the same choices as above)

Do you have objections to a college with a core curriculum (distribution requirements)?

What other special academic focus or programs appeal to you? (e.g., military, agricultural or technical, study abroad opportunities, etc.) _____

Is attending a prestigious college important to you? _____

Is it equally, more, or less important to your parents? _____

V. Finances

Do you think cost will influence where you attend college? _____

Do you plan to apply for financial aid? _____

Do you know how much money, if any, your parents have set aside for your college education? If so, how much? _____

How much do you expect to contribute from your own earnings and assets?

Are you willing to assume loans in your own name that must be repaid after college?

Do you plan to have a job during the school year while in college? A summer job?

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VI. Campus Life

What extracurricular activities do you plan to pursue in college?

How do you feel about fraternities and sororities? _____

How do you expect to spend your weekends? See choices below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Going home (with my laundry) | e. Partying |
| b. With my high school honey | f. Working |
| c. Studying | g. Playing/watching sports |
| d. Some studying; some socializing | h. Other _____ |

Would you prefer a college with a reputation for being a conservative school? _____

Liberal? _____ A high-pressure school? _____ A party school? _____

Other? _____

VII. Living Situation

Would you prefer to live at home? _____ In a single-sex dorm? _____ In a coed dorm? _____ In a fraternity or sorority? _____

Have you ever shared a bedroom? _____ Do you want a roommate? _____ Could you handle more than one roommate?

Does dorm size matter? _____

Do you prefer an apartment off campus? _____

Where do you think your parents prefer or expect you to live?

VIII. Getting Personal

What are your SAT I scores (or ACT or PSAT)? _____

Do you plan to retake the SAT? _____ If so, when? ____/____/____

What is your GPA? _____ Rank in class? _____

On a 1-to-5 scale, how demanding were your high school classes, compared to the toughest ones your school offers? _____

Using that same scale, rate your high school for competitiveness and difficulty compared to others. _____

If 5 is Most Selective and 1 is Not at all Selective, to which level of colleges do you plan to apply? _____ Which do you think are likely to accept you? _____

Why do you want to go to college? _____

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Do you want to go straight from high school? _____

Do you have specific schools in mind now that you'd like to consider or attend? If so, which ones? _____

Which aspects of the college admission process and of actually going to college are you most apprehensive about? _____

Which are you most looking forward to? _____

While at college, will you worry about the situation at home? (e.g., parents' relationship or welfare, problems with siblings, etc.)

Which aspects of the college selection/admission process are likely to cause friction between you and your parents?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Do you feel pressure from your parents to attend a specific school or type of school?

Who should decide which college you attend? See choices below:

- a. Me—It's my life.
- b. Me—With strong input from parent(s).
- c. Me—With some input from parent(s).
- d. Parent(s)—With some input from me.
- e. My guidance counselor
- f. The Psychic Friends Network

Source: Peterson's Panicked Parents' Guide to College Admissions, 3rd Edition