

Self-Assessment Survey/Quiz for Parents

College & Retirement Solutions
667 Shunpike Rd, Suite 3
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(973) 514-2002



www.college-retirement.com

I. Particular Preferences

Name three things your son or daughter is doing right now and you hope will continue to do in college (e.g., playing piano, flossing daily, learning Japanese):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name three things he or she is not doing now, but you hope will do in college (academic or otherwise):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name three things your child is doing right now that you hope won't continue in college (e.g., flunking English, taunting the dog):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Pretend there's a perfect college, we'll call it Fantasy State. In your opinion, it's the ideal school for your child. Keep 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 you feel very strongly about:

II. Location:

How far is it from home? (Within an hour's drive or a day's drive? In a foreign country?) _____

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

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

What type of climate is most appealing to your child? _____

How important is this? _____

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

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

City) _____

How will your child react if your expectations conflict? _____

III. Enrollment

Will your child do his or her best in 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 is your child at asking for help (anything from directions to tutoring) when needed? _____

Do you prefer 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 prefer a school with a religious affiliation (and/or a 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 child has regarding the size and student composition of the college he or she will attend?

IV. Academics

Does your child have a major in mind? ____ If so, what? _____

How certain about it do you think your child is? _____

Does he or she have a career goal? If so, what? _____

How do you feel about his or her choice of major? _____

What other academic areas do you hope will be pursued in college?

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Are there subjects that your child is likely to avoid that you think should be studied?

Do you think your child works better when challenged by tough classes and bright classmates, or when near the top of a less competitive group?

How hard do think your child works 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 think your child expects to work in college? (Use the same choices as above) _____

Do you think a college should have 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 having your child attend a prestigious college important to you? _____

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

V. Finances

Will cost influence where your child attends college? _____

Do you plan to apply for financial aid? _____

How much money, if any, have you set aside for college expenses for your child

What amount do you expect your child to contribute from earnings and assets?

How is your credit rating? _____

How much do you expect to borrow to pay for college? _____

How much do you expect your *child* to borrow? _____

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VI. Campus Life

What extracurricular activities do you hope your child will pursue in college?

How do you feel about fraternities and sororities? _____

How do you expect weekends will be spent? See choices below. Check all that apply:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Coming home (with the laundry) | e. Partying |
| b. With the high school honey | f. Working |
| c. Studying | g. Playing/watching sports |
| d. Some study; 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 your child live at home? _____ In a single-sex dorm? _____ In a coed dorm? _____ In a fraternity or sorority? _____

Has your child ever shared a bedroom? _____ How will your child do with a college roommate? _____ How about more than one? _____

Does dorm size matter? _____

Would you mind an off campus apartment? _____

Where do you think your child prefers or expects to live? _____

VIII. Getting Personal

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

Will your child retake the SAT? _____ If so, when? ____/____/____

What is your child's GPA? Rank in class? _____

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

Using the 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 expect your child to apply? _____ Which do you think are likely to accept him or her?

Why do you want your child to go to college? _____

Do you think she or he should go straight from high school? _____

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

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Which aspects of the college admission process and of having your child actually going to college are you most apprehensive about? _____ Which are you most looking forward to? _____

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

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

Do you think your child feels pressure from you to attend a specific school or type of school? Explain: _____

Who do you think should decide which college your child should attend? See choices below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. She/he should—Period. | d. Parents, with some input from kids. |
| b. She/he should—With strong parental input. | e. A guidance counselor |
| c. She/he should—With some parental input. | f. The Psychic Friends Network |

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