

Step 2: Gathering Information

Print this out and check when it is completed.

- __ 1. Collect information on as many colleges and careers as might interest you. Read college guides and request college catalogs. Talk to college representatives, counselors, college alumni, teachers, recruiters.
- __ 2. Check your resources with yourself, family, friends, and counselors. Consider your ability to pay for tuition and living expenses. Should you live at home? Can you get scholarships? (Many colleges offer scholarships and loans for those who need them. See Step VI, financial aid).
- __ 3. Assess your academic record. Analyze your transcript with a counselor or college representative. Check to see if you have fulfilled all the college requirements.
- __ 4. List several colleges you will seriously consider. In picking these colleges consider the factors mentioned in 1-3. Select those colleges that fit your needs, academic achievement, and budget.
- __ 5. Find out what you need to do before applying. Check on the tests you need to take and other documents you need to have.
- __ 6. Write out your plan of action for the next year.
- __ 7. Share your choices with family and friends. See what they think.

How to find out about colleges

1. Visit your public library. Ask to see college guides such as Barron's Guide to Colleges.
2. Search the Internet. Most colleges and universities have home pages on the Internet. You can find out about entrance requirements, cost, financial aid, scholarships, housing, geographic location, size, majors, student life, and you can even apply to college via the Web.
3. Email or write to colleges to ask for college catalogs, pamphlets, and applications.
4. Listen to school announcements for college recruiter visits. Attend recruiting meetings and talk individually with recruiter.
5. Talk to your school counselor.
6. Ask adults about the colleges they went to. They can provide good personal views about different colleges.
7. Call the college alumni associations to see if you can talk to an alumni living near your area.
8. If possible, visit the college campuses.