

# 5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

## HOW DO I RESEARCH COLLEGES?

- Visit: [wcan.org/resources/college-map](http://wcan.org/resources/college-map) for a list of colleges in Washington state
- View college websites
- Sign up for college mailing lists
- Attend **college fairs**
- Tour colleges (virtual tours are a great option!)

**College search takes time.** Schedule a few hours each week to work on researching colleges.

## WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

**Type of college** – technical, 2-year, 4-year

**Location** – distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.

**Degrees available** – **associate's, bachelor's, certifications** and **apprenticeships**

**Programs available** – subject areas or **majors** offered

**Public vs. private** – public colleges are partially funded by government funds and private colleges are not directly publicly funded

**Special focus** – colleges that focus on a specific interest or student population such as arts, single-sex, religiously affiliated and specialized-mission colleges

**Diversity** – the types of cultures, languages and demographics represented on campus or in the community

**Size** – number of students, campus size, class size, city population, etc.

**Cost of attendance** – in- or out-of-state **tuition, college fees**, books, transportation and housing

**Selectivity** – measured by the percentage of students who get accepted based on admission requirements

**Graduation rate** – number of students who graduate within 4 or 6 years from that college

## \* GOOD TO

**KNOW:** Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to **transfer** to a 4-year school and some offer bachelor degree programs.

## \* DON'T FORGET:

Consider the admissions requirements and determine if the school is a **reach, solid,** or **safety** for you. It is recommended that you apply to at least one school in each category:

**Reach** – You might not get in, but it's worth applying to because it's your dream school

**Solid** – You're a competitive applicant and will likely get accepted

**Safety** – You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out

## TALK TO:

College and career center adviser

College **admissions counselors** or representatives who visit your school

Family members, teachers, mentors and community members who have been to college

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