

5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

HOW DO I RESEARCH COLLEGES?

- Visit: 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

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:

- Your high school counselor
- 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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