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 admissions counselors or representatives who visit your school
- Family members, teachers, mentors and community members who have been to college

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**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