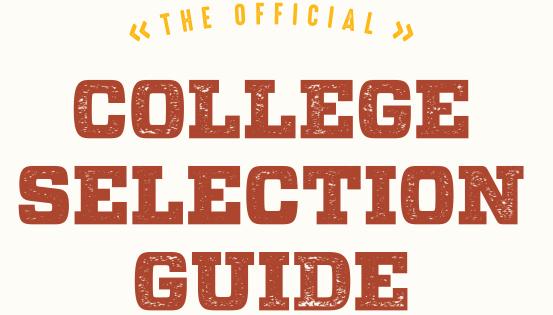


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Your guide to finding the right school for YOU.





By now, you've probably heard the same question over and over:

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## Where are you going to college?

Before you settle on the "where," there are a few questions to answer first.

# Why do YOU want to go to college?

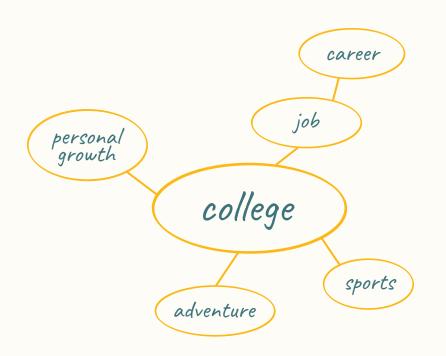
## Is there a job you want to have?

# Is there a skill you want to learn?

Is there an area of the country or the world you want to experience?

Think about what your life looks like now.

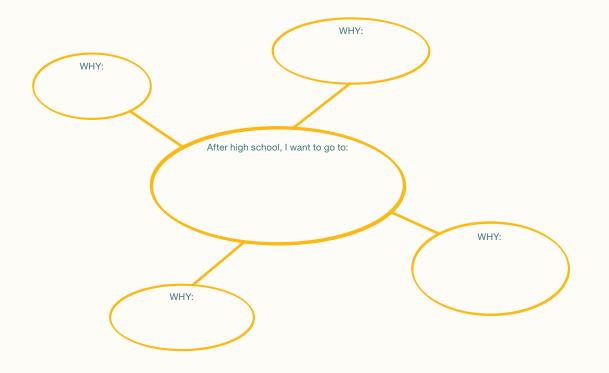
What do you want to keep, and how would you like for it to change? The mind map below is one example of how to think through your reasons.





Use this page to brainstorm your WHY.

Using the sample to the left, create your own mind map. Your map may be larger, smaller, or even the same size—and that's okay!





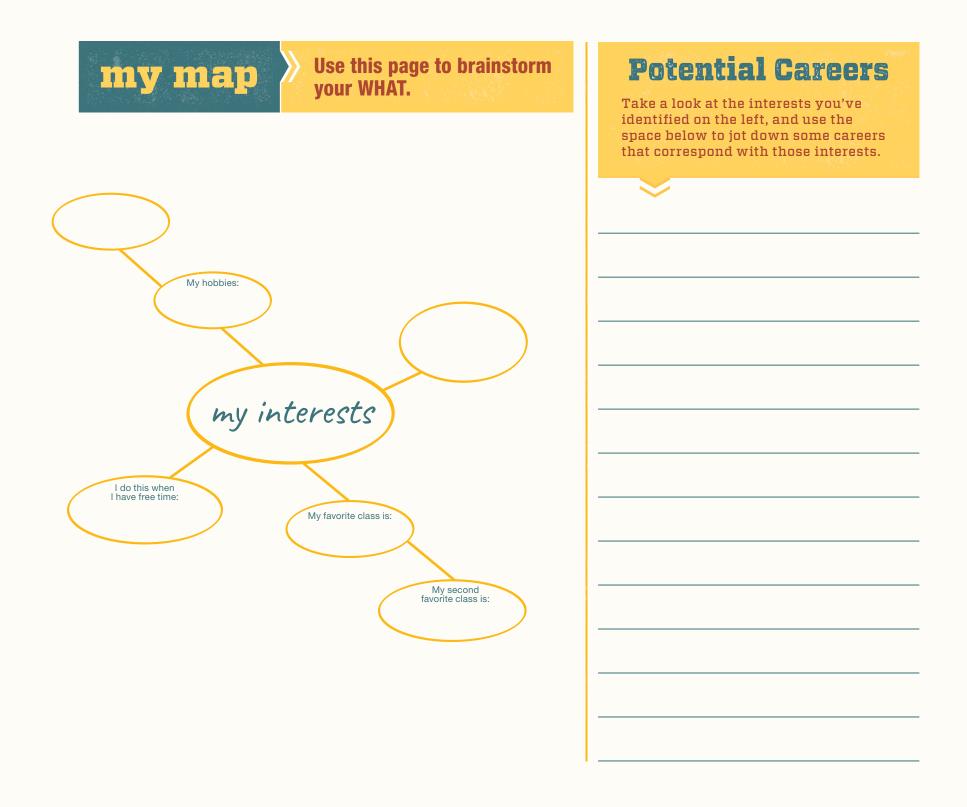
Take a look back at your **WHY...** 

Part of your WHY is also your **WHAT.** 

What do you want to do after college?

The mind map below is one way to identify your interests.







Do you want to stay in your town ... your state ... or your region (Southeast, Midwest, West Coast, etc.)?

Will you be energized by a big city?

Or are you looking for a quieter campus life?

## **Circle your location choices.**

**I would like to live in the:** Northeast Southeast Southwest West Midwest Doesn't Matter

### I would like to live in a college town that is:

Rural Small Town City Big City Doesn't Matter

### I would like to live in a location surrounded by:

Beach Flat Land Mountains Doesn't Matter

### I prefer weather that is:

Dry Wet Warm Cold Doesn't Matter

### I want to be this far from home:

30-Minute Drive2- to 3-Hour Drive1/2-Day Drive1-Day DriveI Want to Fly to Get HomeDoesn't Matter

## Circle your college type.

#### I would prefer a college that is:

2-Year 4-Year Public Private Doesn't Matter

### I want a college that is this big:

Large (15,000 +) Medium (5,000 - 15,000) Small (less than 5,000) Doesn't Matter

#### Ultimately, I want to earn a:

Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree Doctorate

## **Your activities**

 $\checkmark$ 

I am interested in exploring these extracurricular activities:

Performing Arts ROTC Outdoor Recreation Greek Life Community Service Organizations Student Government Association Music / Band Religious Programs International Opportunities Political Clubs Campus Radio / Newspaper Intramural Sports



## As a high school junior, it's good to have a list of 7-10 potential university options.

Take a look at the schools you do have, and think about what you like about each of those places. Can you think of other schools that have similar qualities?

The schools that match your listed criteria are a good place to start your college search.





Add your TOP 5 MUST-HAVES below.

| thinking        | q |              |              |              |              |              |  |
|-----------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| about           |   | Must-Have #1 | Must-Have #2 | Must-Have #3 | Must-Have #4 | Must-Have #5 |  |
| below.          |   |              |              |              |              |              |  |
| 0.11            |   |              |              |              |              |              |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
| College<br>Name |   | Yes No       |  |
|                 |   |              |              |              |              |              |  |





**Know the stats.** Enter the relevant requirements for each of the colleges you listed on the previous page.

| Average GPA | Average ACT/SAT<br>Scores | Admit Rate | Early Deadline Date | Regular Deadline Date |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
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|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |
|             |                           |            |                     |                       |

# **Check** the tosts.

## **Costs include:**

 $\leq$ 

- tuition
- housing
- meals
- books and supplies
- personal items

### When you calculate this number, don't let it scare you away!

College is an investment you're making in yourself. And at many schools, you'll pay less than the "sticker price" listed online.

Look out for **Net Price Calculators**, which can be found on most schools' admission and/or financial aid websites.

# There are a lot of creative ways to pay your way through college.

work study - on-campus jobs where your pay applies directly to your bill.

## Scholarships- often offered by the

prospective college, but be sure to talk to your high school counselor and search online to find outside scholarships offered by local businesses and community organizations.

**Grants** - similar to scholarships, this is money you don't have to pay back.

Loans - offered to both students and parents, these help you delay making payments until after you graduate.

## **Check out additional financial aid resources:**

How to Pay for College gatech.edu/how-to-pay

Federal Student Aid Information studentaid.ed.gov/sa/

Budget Calculator mappingyourfuture.org/money/budgetcalculator.cfm



Check the financial aid websites of your colleges to learn more about costs.

# College

# **Estimated Costs**

|                 | Tuition | Books / Supplies | Housing | Meals | Total |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| College<br>Name |         |                  |         |       |       |

# Next steps

# You've made your list and narrowed it down. Now...

### **Commect** - Visit the school's website and fill out an interest form. Getting on the mailing list will keep you in the loop about important details such as deadlines and upcoming events.

## **Develop your** questions - Before

you hit the road to visit campus, think about the questions YOU want to ask!

**WISHC** - Schedule a campus visit. You won't really know if a college fits you until you step on campus. Take a look around — can you see yourself going to classes and living life on this campus?



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