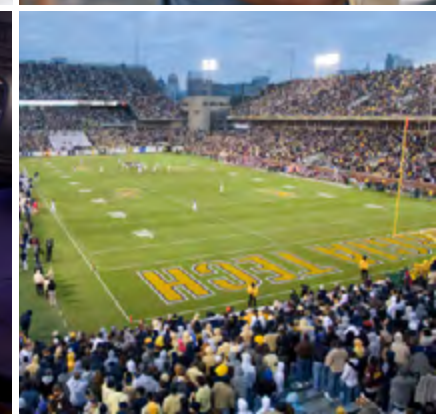
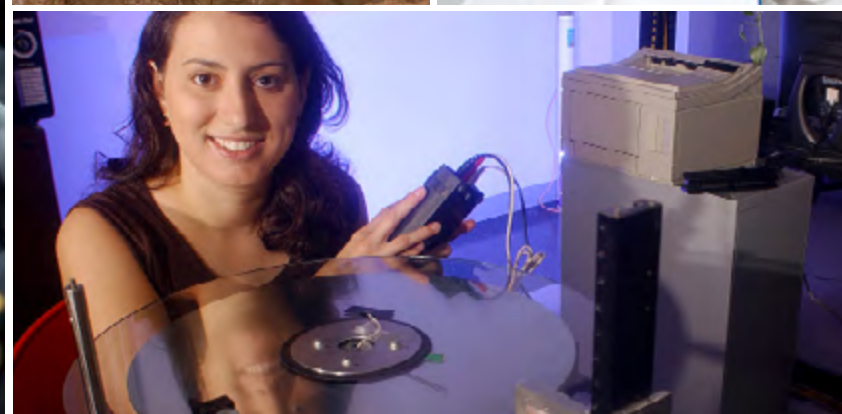




# College Selection Guide

Your guide to finding the  
right school for **you**.



# Why college?



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

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?

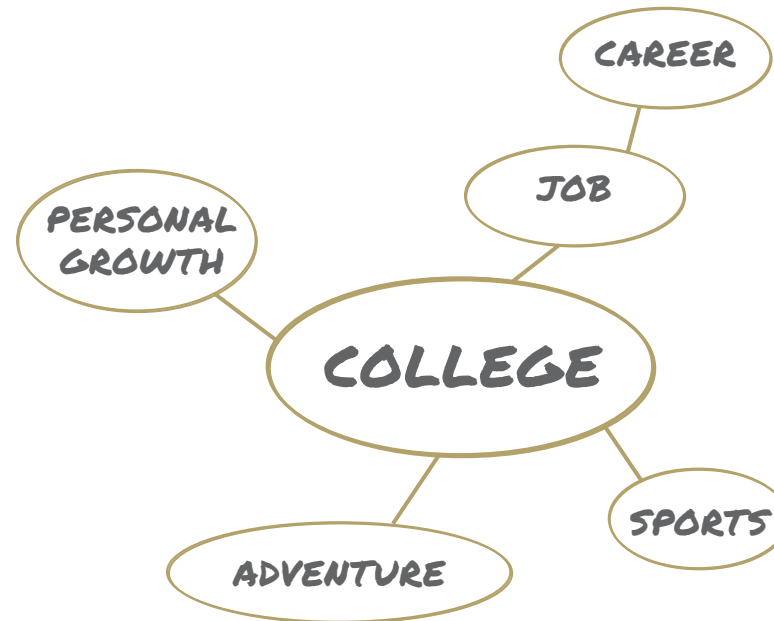
Is there a skill you want to learn?

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.**



# My map.

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!



# What do you want to do?

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.



# My map. Use this page to brainstorm your WHAT.

**Use this page to brainstorm your WHY.**

**Take a look at the interests you've identified on the left, and use the space below to jot down some careers that correspond with those interests.**

[illegible]

# What else?

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?

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 Drive   2- to 3-Hour Drive   1/2-Day Drive   1-Day Drive**

**I Want to Fly to Get Home   Doesn'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**

I'm interested in these campus services:

**First-Year Housing   On-Campus Dining   Medical Services   Counseling Services  
Disability Services   Services for Low-Income Students   Services for Minority Students**

I also need these study options:

**Distance Learning   English as a Second Language   Honors College**

Your activities.

**I am interested in exploring these extracurricular activities:**

**Campus Radio / Newspaper**

**Community Service Organizations**

**Greek Life**

**International Opportunities**

**Intramural Sports**

**Music / Band**

**Outdoor Recreation**

**Performing Arts**

**Political Clubs**

**Religious Programs**

**Research**

**ROTC**

**Student Government Association**

Include additional interests below.

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# Make a list.

**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.**

[illegible]



**Know the stats.** Enter the relevant requirements or average ranges for each of the colleges you listed on the previous page. These stats are commonly found in a college's Freshman Profile or Common Data Set.

[illegible]

# Check the **cost.**



Costs include:

- Tuition.
- Housing.
- Meals.
- Books and Supplies.
- Personal Items.

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

**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:**

Federal Student Aid Information  
[studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)

Budget Calculator  
[mappingyourfuture.org/money/budgetcalculator.cfm](http://mappingyourfuture.org/money/budgetcalculator.cfm)

# Research

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

[illegible]

# Next steps.

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

**Connect** – 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!

**Visit** – 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?



[admission.gatech.edu](https://admission.gatech.edu)

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