GUIDE FOR COMPARING COLLEGES

http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp . Click: College QuickFinder
This website and your visits can provide the comparison information needed.

	College	College	College	College	College

General Information

Name and location of college
Family's influence on choice (strong, medium, minor)
Date of visit
Name of admissions rep. assigned to your HS
Public or private
Religious affiliation? Required chapel?
Miles or hours from home
Setting (rural, suburban or city)
Residential or commuter campus
Safety - on and off-campus (strong, avg., weak)
Diversity (wide, medium, narrow)
Campus policies (conservative, middle, liberal)
Levels: Undergraduate, graduate (one or both)
Number of undergraduate students
% returning for sophomore year
% of students who graduate on time

Admissions

Early Decision? Application deadline
Early Action? Application deadline
Regular Action application deadline
% of applicants admitted
Avg. (mid-50%) GPA of admitted students
Avg. (mid-50%) ACT or SAT of admitted students
AP accepted? IB (Internat. Baccalaur.) accepted?
CLEP accepted?
Homeschooling credits readily accepted?

Quality of Education

Freshmen treated like upperclassmen?
Ph.D. faculty readily accessible to freshmen?
Research opportunities available to freshmen?
Most classes taught by discussion? lecture?
Systemic skills development: Communication (C), problem-solving (PS), critical thinking (CT)
Personal and career counseling (strong, avg., weak)
Services for students with disabilities (strong, avg.)

Academic

Your intended major or program
Study abroad (SA), Internships (I), Co-op (C)
Do you qualify for the Honors program?
Residential (living-learning) programs available?
Senior Project/Thesis (required, option., not avail.)

Cost and Financial Aid

Financial aid priority deadline
Total cost (T&F, R&B, Books, Misc.) for first year
Do you qualify for Merit or Talent scholarships?
Avg. debt at graduation
FAFSA? CSS Profile?

Housing

Coed: rooms(R), suites(S), floors(F). Single-sex dorms(SS)
% of students living in dorms
% in fraternities and sororities

Other Factors Important to You:

***Your feeling after visit (great, good, neutral, negative)**
***Your emotional ("gut-level") rank-order**
***Your analytical rank-order**