Which colleges fit you the best?

Do your research to make sure your college selections are good places for you.

Factors to Consider and Discuss

- **Location.** Distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.
- **Programs Available/School Focus.** Are there programs or majors offered here that aren’t available at other colleges?
- **Public vs. Private.** A public university’s tuition is subsidized by the state government, so it can sometimes be cheaper.
- **Secular vs. Religious.** You don’t have to be religious to go to a religious college and you don’t have to go to a religious college to study religion. Some might require attendance at religious services.
- **Diversity.** The types of cultures, languages, and people represented on the campus or community.
- **Size.** Number of students, campus size, city population, etc.
- **In-state vs. Out-of-state.** In-state tuition at public schools is usually cheaper than tuition at out-of-state public schools.
- **Cost.** Don’t let the listed cost of attendance stop you from applying. The cost to you depends on a financial aid package, which is offered after you are accepted.
- **Selectivity.** How competitive is it to get in? How many new students do they accept each year?
- **4-year vs. 2-year college.** Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to transfer to a 4-year school.

Apply to at least three: Reach, Solid, and Safety

You should **apply to at least three colleges**, and they should fall within these three categories:

- **Reach** – You might not get in, but it’s worth applying because you really want to go.
- **Solid** – You’re a competitive applicant and will likely be accepted.
- **Safety** – You’ll definitely get accepted, and it’s a backup in case the others don’t work out.

Public Colleges and Universities in Washington

There are **6 public** colleges and universities in Washington. You can see a full interactive map of all public, private and community colleges online at [http://dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList](http://dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList).