

# Conducting The College Search

## Consider College Characteristics

The following is a list of college characteristics that we recommend you consider as you search for the college that is right for you.

### ✓Academics

- 2-year degree programs (associate)
- 4-year degree programs (bachelor)
- Majors and minors
- General education offerings
- Accreditation
- Reputation
- Student to faculty ratio
- Study abroad opportunities
- Teaching assistants or professors
- Class size
- Internships/Co-op Education opportunities
- Transferability
- Admission requirements
- ACT or SAT required
- Public or private

### ✓Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Part-time job opportunities
- Financial aid
- Scholarships

### ✓Services

- Academic advising
- Tutors/Academic Support Center
- Career Services/placement
- Disability Support Services
- Minority Student Services
- New Student Orientation

### ✓Campus Life

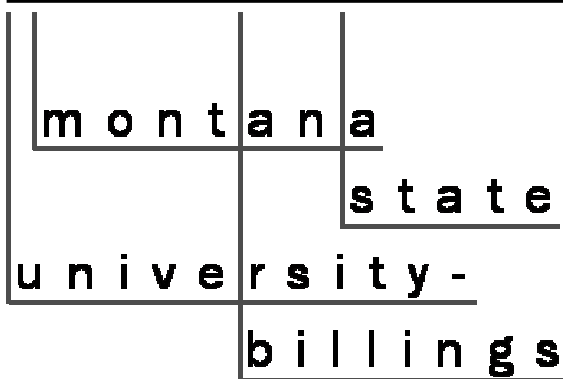
- Residence halls
- Classroom facilities
- Demographics of students
- Student activities/organizations
- Student leadership opportunities
- Recreational activities/intramural sports
- Athletics
- Community service opportunities
- Safety and Security

### ✓Community

- Rural or urban setting
- Size of city
- Employment opportunities

## Search, Compare, and Visit Colleges

- Step 1. Search college websites, college publications, and guidebooks.
- Step 2. Request information from colleges online or by phone.
- Step 3. Visit with college representatives at your school.
- Step 4. Visit with your counselors, parents, family members, and friends.
- Step 5. Prepare a college comparison checklist.
- Step 6. Schedule your campus visits.
- Step 7. Apply for admission and financial assistance to your top three colleges of choice.
- Step 8. Review and consider your financial offers.
- Step 9. Review and consider the college characteristics.
- Step 10. Select your college!



# Websites to Explore

## **Athletics**

National Collegiate Athletic Association: [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics: [naia.collegesports.com](http://naia.collegesports.com)

## **Career Search**

Career Information: [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)

Occupational Information Network: [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

True Careers: [www.truecareers.com](http://www.truecareers.com)

World of Work Map: [www.act.org/wwm/index](http://www.act.org/wwm/index)

## **Financial Aid and Scholarship**

Fastweb Scholarship Search: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Guide to Financial Aid: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

Student Assistance Foundation: [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org)

Western Undergraduate Exchange Program: [www.wiche.edu](http://www.wiche.edu)

## **General College Search**

ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Any College: [www.anycollege.net](http://www.anycollege.net)

College Board (SAT): [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

College Is Possible: [www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

CollegeNet: [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

CollegeView: [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

Montana Colleges: [www.montanacolleges.com](http://www.montanacolleges.com)

Petersons' Planner: [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

Princeton Review: [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

Super College: [www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

US News: [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

US Universities: [www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state](http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state)

Montana State University - Billings: [www.msubillings.edu](http://www.msubillings.edu)



*Access & Excellence*