

# 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!



#### **Athletics**

National Collegiate Athletic Association: www.ncaa.org

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics: naia.collegesports.com

## **Career Search**

Career Information: www.acinet.org

Occupational Information Network: online.onetcenter.org

True Careers: www.truecareers.com

World of Work Map: www.act.org/wwm/index

## Financial Aid and Scholarship

Fastweb Scholarship Search: www.fastweb.com

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): www.fafsa.ed.gov

Guide to Financial Aid: www.finaid.org

Student Assistance Foundation: www.safmt.org

Western Undergraduate Exchange Program: www.wiche.edu

# **General College Search**

ACT: www.act.org

Any College: www.anycollege.net

College Board (SAT): www.collegeboard.com College Is Possible: www.collegeispossible.org

CollegeNet: www.collegenet.com CollegeView: www.collegeview.com

Montana Colleges: www.montanacolleges.com

Petersons' Planner: www.petersons.com

Princeton Review: www.princetonreview.com

Super College: www.supercollege.com

US News: www.usnews.com

US Universities: www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state



Montana State University - Billings: www.msubillings.edu