

Selecting a College

Before you can apply to colleges, you need to decide which of the many colleges and universities out there are right for you. There is likely to be more than one college that will meet your needs. Many factors go into that decision and only you know which ones are important. The following information will help you.

7 KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

- 1. LOCATION:** Which part of the U.S. do you prefer? Will you stay in your state? Do you favor urban, suburban or small town rural areas?
- 2. PUBLIC/PRIVATE:** Which seems the best choice for you? If you like the status and prestige of a private school or selectivity at public school prices, check out Richard Moll's *The Public Ivys*, Rugg's *Recommendations*, or *US News & World Report*.
- 3. SIZE:** Do you want to go to a **BIG** school or a *small* school? Where will you feel most comfortable? Do you plan to go on to law or med school? Where can you get the best preparation?
- 4. 2 OR 4 YEAR:** What type of degree do you need, associates or bachelors? You can transfer from 2 to 4 but be careful about which course you take, so that credits transfer. If you choose this option, pick a 2 year school with joint-admissions to a 4 year.
- 5. PROGRAMS:** Are you looking for a particular major, strong theatre department, ROTC or a chance to play a sport? Does the college have good job placement in your chosen major?
- 6. COST:** What can you afford? What type of scholarships and aid does the college offer? Don't eliminate a school based on cost initially. Check with their financial aid office to find out if you might receive a package to make it affordable.
- 7. CHANCES:** Can you get in? Do your grades and SAT/ACT scores match what the college is looking for?

