

ASK YOURSELF THESE 10 QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE

YOUR COLLEGE PREFERENCES

1. What satisfactions and frustrations do you expect to encounter in college? What are you looking forward to? What worries you most? What do you hope to gain from college? What is the overriding consideration in your choice of college?
2. Why do you want an education? Why are you going to college?
3. How do you want to grow and change in the next few years? What kind of environment would stimulate or inhibit the growth you would like to see?
4. Which interests do you want to pursue in college? Do your interests require any special facilities, programs, or opportunities? Consider all your interests in terms of fields of study, activities, community and cultural opportunities. Are you more interested in career preparation, technical training, or general knowledge and skills?
5. What degree of academic challenge is best for you? What balance of study, activities, and social life suits you best? How interested are you in the substance of intellectual life -- books, ideas, issues, and discussions? Do you want an academic program where you must work and think hard or one where you can make respectable grades without knocking yourself out? How important is it to you to perform at the top of your class or would you be satisfied to be in the middle or bottom of your college class? How well do you respond to academic pressure and competition from others?
6. How would you feel about going to a college where you were rarely told what to do? How much structure and direction do you need?
7. How would you enjoy living in a different part of the country? How often do you want to be able to go home? What kind of change in your life-style and perspective might be exciting, or distressing and overwhelming?
8. What kinds of surroundings are essential to your well-being? Are there certain places, activities, climate, or pace of life that make you happy? Do you prefer a fast-paced environment, where something is happening most of the time, or an organized environment where you can join a wide variety of planned activities? Do you prefer a more serene and relaxed environment, where you can go your own way?
9. How would you feel about going to a college where the other students were quite different from you? How would you react? Would you find it an exciting or intimidating environment? Would you prefer to be with people who share your viewpoints and life-styles or who challenge and make you question your values?
10. How free do you feel to make your own college decisions? Do you and your parents agree about your plans for college? How important are the opinions of your parents, teachers, and friends, or considerations of familiarity, prestige, or reputation in your community?