

Looking at Potential Colleges

The First Steps

The Questions to Ask

Go through the questions on supplemental article with your mentee

You can skim through them or go through each question one by one

Be sure to provide your mentees with this resource so they can look at it again on their own time

Categories

Students should separate their choices into the following categories: safeties, good matches, and reaches

Safety: student has above average GPA and test scores; relatively high acceptance rate

Good match: student has within average GPA and test scores; moderate acceptance rate

Reach: student has below the average GPA and test score, or student falls within or above but the acceptance rate is extremely low

How many?

The recommended number of colleges to apply to varies

Different recommendations:

1-2 safeties, 2-4 good matches, 1-2 reaches

2-3 safeties, 4-5 good matches, 3-4 reaches

This depends on what you can budget (fee waivers available) and what you have time to dedicate yourself to

It is better to apply to fewer colleges with great applications than to spread yourself thin

Where to Look for Answers

Look at the college websites

- Look for academic programs, majors, minors, certificates, etc.
- Look for special programs and extracurricular activities
- Look at research opportunities

Talk to alumni

- Ask questions about their experience that the website won't answer
- Ask about specific opportunities you might be looking for

Tour the college

- Many colleges offer special programs for low-income students to travel to and tour their campuses at no cost