



# Next Steps: Choosing a College

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# What will be covered?

- o Perks of a college education
- o Types of colleges
- o Personal Self Assessment for the college search
- o Finding the right fit
- o College Search Step by Step

# College Pays

- o According to the College Board Study, *Education Pays 2015*, men with a bachelor's degree earn over 75% more than those with only a high school diploma and women with a bachelor's degree earn 84% more than those with a high school diploma.
- o Over a 40 year full-time working life, the median earnings of one with a bachelor's degree is 67% higher than the median earnings of high school graduates.

# College is more than just money!

- o Without college, you won't experience:
  - o Unique opportunities
    - o Study abroad
    - o Research
    - o Career education
  - o College Life
    - o Intramurals, athletics
    - o New friends
    - o Concerts
    - o Clubs and organizations



# Let's start with a few quick questions...

- o What are some things you do well?
- o What challenges you?
- o What do you like to do for fun?
- o Who do you look up to?
- o What's something you've always wanted to try?
- o What accomplishment has made you most proud?
- o What's your favorite class?
- o What do you read about in your free time?
- o If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?
- o As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

# Types of Colleges

- o Public vs. Private
  - o Funding
  - o Cost
  - o Religious affiliation
- o For-profit colleges
- o Liberal arts colleges
- o Career, technical vocational, or trade school
- o Two-year community and junior colleges



# College Types, Cont'd

- o Four year colleges and universities
  - o Difference between college & university
  - o Liberal arts college
  - o Research university
- o Online & outreach
- o Colleges with a special focus



# Finding the right fit



- o Location
  - o Size
- o Flexibility of courses offered
  - o Campus life
  - o Religious affiliation
  - o Diversity
- o Social opportunities
- o Clubs & organizations
  - o Support Services



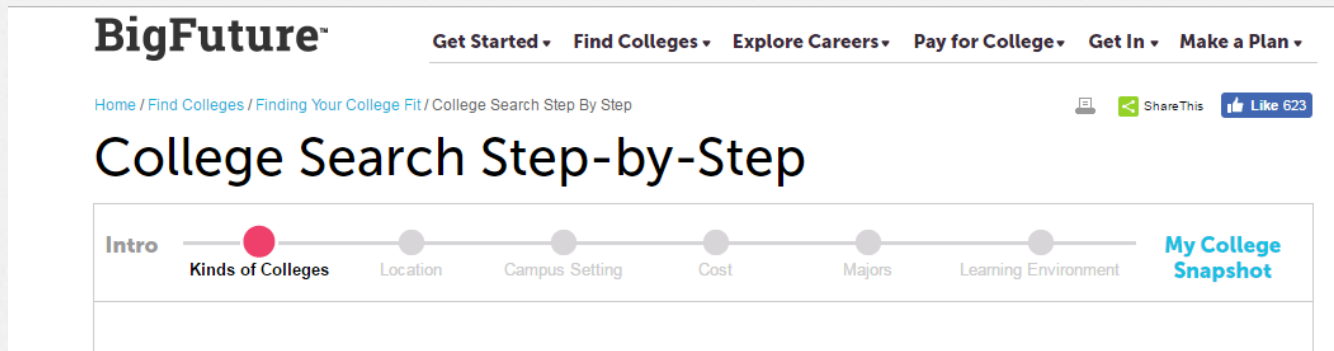
# Finding the right fit

- o Majors
  - o Importance of knowing what you want to do
  - o Research what you think you know
  - o Mymajors.com
  - o What can I do with the major?
- o Accreditation

# Narrow the search



- o How many schools?
  - o Quality interest over quantity
- o Visit
  - o When?
    - o Anytime during junior year or fall of senior year
  - o Campus tour
    - o Meet with faculty, admissions and financial aid
    - o Check out campus activities and programs
    - o Food services and dining options
    - o Living arrangements

# Step-by-Step College Search



The screenshot shows the BigFuture website interface. At the top, the BigFuture logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Get Started', 'Find Colleges', 'Explore Careers', 'Pay for College', 'Get In', and 'Make a Plan' are on the right. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Find Colleges / Finding Your College Fit / College Search Step By Step'. To the right of the breadcrumb are icons for 'Share This' and 'Like 623'. The main heading is 'College Search Step-by-Step'. Below this is a horizontal progress bar with seven steps: 'Intro', 'Kinds of Colleges', 'Location', 'Campus Setting', 'Cost', 'Majors', and 'Learning Environment'. The 'Intro' step is highlighted with a red dot, and the 'My College Snapshot' link is on the far right.

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## College Search Step-by-Step

Intro   **Kinds of Colleges**   Location   Campus Setting   Cost   Majors   Learning Environment   **My College Snapshot**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-search-step-by-step>

# Questions?

Thanks for coming!

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