



# Exploring College Websites Worksheet

Name of College \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Researching colleges can be overwhelming, but exploring your options is critical to developing a solid and balanced list for applications! Once you have narrowed down your list using the search engines, take some time to dig into each school's website. Using the list below, mark plus (+), check (✓), or minus (–) for each factor, then rank the section with 1-5 points. Add up your total score to help you compare the colleges on your list. Remember to go on their virtual tours, and watch an episode of College Tour TV on each college.

**Mission:** Look for terms like "Mission Statement", "Statement of Purpose", "History", or "Traditions". What does this tell you about the school? Does it align with your expectations? Does it cause you any concerns, or does it raise any "red flags"? Are there requirements related to the mission such as religious courses or community service?

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- \_\_\_ What is your impression of the overall philosophy of the school?
- \_\_\_ Name one tradition you found:
- \_\_\_ One factor that concerns you:

**Admissions and Financial Aid:** How hard is it to get into this school? What will your classmates be like? Can I afford to go to school here for four years? What are the qualifications of the most recently admitted class of students? Look for "class profile"

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- \_\_\_ Average GPA and Test Scores:
- \_\_\_ Test optional or not:
- \_\_\_ Acceptance rate:
- \_\_\_ Do they require FAFSA or CSS Profile:
- \_\_\_ Financial Aid and Scholarship deadlines:
- \_\_\_ Are they part of the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE):
- \_\_\_ Net Price Calculator (Tuition/Room and Board Only!):

**Quick Facts:** These basic numbers and information are fairly easy to compare between colleges and may be a factor for you to consider when making your choices. Look in the "About" section.

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- \_\_\_ Number of UNDERGRADUATE students:
- \_\_\_ Student-to-faculty ratio:
- \_\_\_ Average class size:
- \_\_\_ Colleges/Schools located on campus:
- \_\_\_ Majors/Programs of Study you are interested in studying:

**Campus Life:** There is a lot of information in the "STUDENT LIFE" section of the website that can provide insight into the campus vibe. Think about which ones are important to you.

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- \_\_\_ Name two Clubs/Organizations that you would join:
- \_\_\_ Do they offer study abroad? Where would you like to study:
- \_\_\_ What Athletics do they have (Varsity; Club; Intramural):
- \_\_\_ How many students are involved in Greek Life (Fraternities and Sororities):
- \_\_\_ Student Housing options and Meal Plans. What dorm did you like:

**Academics:** Find the majors you are interested in studying. How hard is it to get into your major? Can you change majors? Look at the course descriptions for classes you would be taking.

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- \_\_\_ Do these courses look interesting?
- \_\_\_ Are there double major or major/minor combinations?
- \_\_\_ Is there a "Core Curriculum" requirement?
- \_\_\_ Do they provide an example of a 4-year curriculum plan?

**Location:** You will be living in the area for four years, what is the neighborhood around campus like? Are there options for you to continue the hobbies you enjoy?

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- \_\_\_ Search for safety reports of the campus (Clery Report) or the area (use zip code)
- \_\_\_ Name one off campus activity that you would like to try:
- \_\_\_ How far is campus from an airport or option to travel home
- \_\_\_ How expensive is off campus housing
- \_\_\_ What is the weather during the school year, average temps:

Total Score:

Notes and Overall Impressions: