

The Princeton Review
Counselor-O-Matic

Counselor-O-Matic is an advanced search engine that combines your academic and extracurricular history with your preferences to help you find the right college.

Academics: Your academic record is the first thing a college considers. Tell us your test scores, class standing, and the type of classes you're taking so Counselor-O-Matic knows what the schools will see.

1. What high school do you attend?
2. Which best describes your course load?
 - a. You're taking the toughest courses at your school, including APs.
 - b. You generally take five serious academic courses, like English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language and have taken honors or AP courses.
 - c. You've taken a standard college prep course load but have taken no honors or AP courses.
 - d. You keep things light, and have taken fewer than five serious academic courses in two years or more.
3. What is your GPA on a 4.0 scale? _____
4. Where do you rank in your class?
 - a. Top 5%
 - b. Top 10%
 - c. Top 25%
 - d. Top 50%
 - e. Bottom 50%
5. What are your highest standardized test scores? Enter your SAT, ACT, PSAT, and PLAN scores. Enter as many scores as you have. If you have taken the tests multiple times, use your highest scores.

SAT & PSAT Scores (20-80 range for PSAT scores, 200-800 range for SAT scores)

Math Score:

Verbal Score:

ACT & PLAN Scores (0-36 range for each score)

ACT Composite Score:

ACT Reading Score:

ACT English Score:

ACT Science Score:

ACT Math Score:

PLAN Composite Score:

6. Where are you in your education?
 - a. Freshman
 - b. Sophomore
 - c. Junior
 - d. Senior
7. Where do you want to go?
 - a. College
 - b. Transfer colleges
 - c. Business school
 - d. Law school
 - e. Medical school
 - f. Graduate school
8. What year would you like to start?

High School Life: What are you doing/have done during your time in high school? Tell us about your extracurricular activities here.

1. Which best describes your extracurricular involvement during high school?

- a. You have a special talent in dance, music, art, debate; you've been elected community volunteer of the decade; you are just an all-around doer, joiner, leader.
 - b. You're no superstar, but you're active in school organizations or your local community or in pursuit of your own hobbies.
 - c. You are an independent spirit and usually shy away from group activities, preferring to do things on your own.
 - d. You cast your votes for this year's prom theme, but aren't involved in activities you'd want to discuss with an admissions officer.
2. With which instruments do you have an exceptional skill level?
 3. In which artistic disciplines do you have superior skills or have received awards?
 4. Which best describes your involvement in sports?
 - a. You have a scrapbook overflowing with newspaper clippings of your athletic successes.
 - b. You play on at least one varsity team (or JV if you attend a large school) and devote a respectable amount of time to it.
 - c. You enjoy sports, through you're either a bench warmer or play intramurals.
 - d. You've never liked sports. Big deal—you have other stuff going on.
 5. Which best describes your employment status?
 - a. You've held down a job practically since before you reached double-digits and currently work around 20-30 hours every week.
 - b. You've held down the same job for at least a year, working around 10-20 hours a week.
 - c. Even if it's babysitting a couple hours a week or mowing lawns on weekends, you do your best to earn a little bit of spending money on your own.
 - d. You diligently pick up your allowance from Mom and Dad. There are plenty of years of work ahead—why start before you have to?

You & Your Family: Colleges are interested in other details about you and your family to help make their admissions decisions.

1. What is your ethnic background?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. Hispanic or Latino e. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander f. White g. Other
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2. What is your Zip Code?
3. Country of Residence?
4. What is your gender?
5. Your parent's college ties: what colleges did they graduate from? Do either of them have a particularly close affiliation with any school? For example, they're on the faculty, they make large donations to the college, there's a library with your name on it at the college. (Write up to 6 schools)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. b. c. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. e. f.
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6. One or both of my parents is a celebrity, a famous mogul, or an infamous tabloid regular.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. No
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Majors & Degrees: Choosing a school can be overwhelming. Start to narrow down your choices by choosing the type of degree you want and the fields of study you will pursue.

1. Which degree do you want to earn in college?
 - a. Bachelor (the basic four-year degree)
 - b. Associate (typically earned after two-years of study)
 - c. Professional Certification (fast track to a career, e.g., from a culinary school)
2. What majors are you interested in?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. Want to explore majors? If you aren't sure which specific major you want to study, select a broad category from the list below and explore related majors.

a. Agriculture	k. English	u. Fitness
b. Architecture	l. Foreign Languages	v. Culinary
c. Cultural Studies	m. Health Professions	w. Religion
d. Science	n. Social Sciences	x. Psychology
e. Business	o. Law	y. Transportation
f. Communications	p. Liberal Arts	z. Visual and Performing Arts
g. Computers	q. Library Science	
h. Construction	r. Mathematics	
i. Education	s. Mechanics	
j. Engineering	t. Military	
4. Some colleges have specific focuses for students; indicate the one(s) you'd like to consider.
 - a. Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
 - b. Military-Affiliated Institutions
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
 - c. Visual and Performing Arts
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
5. Do you want a school with a specific religious affiliation? Choose one or more religions with which you prefer the school be affiliated.

Location & Size: Planning to go to college near home or as far away as you can get? Consider factors such as distance from family and friends, new cultural experiences and cost of living when choosing your ideal location.

Farms, skyscrapers, strip-malls...you choose. Rank the importance of these local community types. Urban campuses are located in densely populated city areas, and have potentially greater access to cultural and business activities. Rural campuses are at a distance from metropolitan areas, and students typically rely on the college for social and cultural offerings.

1. Urban
 - a. Don't Want
 - b. Doesn't Matter
 - c. Really Want
2. Suburban
 - a. Don't Want
 - b. Doesn't Matter
 - c. Really Want

3. Rural
 - a. Don't Want b. Doesn't Matter c. Really Want
4. Get me the heck out of Dodge! Where in the world do you want to attend college?
 - a. US & Canada (name state/province)
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - b. Outside North America (name country)
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.

Student Body: Ask yourself what kind of students you want to be surrounded by and how many?

1. Tons or just a few? What type of student population would be right for you? Choose one or more.
 - a. The smaller the better: if all my profs don't know my name, I'd freak (under 2,500 students).
 - b. Small, but not tiny...there's a difference, you know. I'd like it if some other people actually recognized me on campus (2,500 to 5,000 students).
 - c. Medium-sized college; it's just my size...not too big, not too small (5,000-15,000 students).
 - d. I need a school where the student body exceeds the population of most small towns (15,000 students or more).
2. Diversity University or Homogenous University?
 - a. How important is it to you that your school has an ethnically diverse student body?
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
3. Sit right up front or melt into the woodwork? How do you feel about these students:faculty ratios? Remember, a smaller class size (under 10:1) often means more personal attention.
 - a. Small classes (under 10:1)
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
 - b. Mix of classes (10:1 to 20:1)
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
 - c. Larger classes (over 20:1)
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
4. Suitcase school or summer camp? What type of living environment works best for you?
 - a. Commuter School
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
 - b. Mixed
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
 - c. Residential Campus
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
5. On the prowl...or just wanna study? Choose the male/female ratio(s) you want.
 - a. All/Mostly Men
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want
 - b. Balanced
 - i. Don't Want ii. Doesn't Matter iii. Really Want

- c. All/Mostly Women
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want

Cost & Aid: Your choice of school shouldn't be based totally on the cost, but you may want to limit your search by tuition level or by how many students receive financial aid.

1. How important is financial aid to you and your family? The percentage of students who receive need-based aid is a good indicator of the amount of aid available at the school. However, you shouldn't exclude schools from consideration based on financial aid because there are many ways to meet the cost of attendance. Choose one or more.
 - a. Cost is a major concern.
 - b. Cost is a moderate concern.
 - c. Money is not a problem.
2. What tuition level can you handle, wither through out-of-pocket means or financial aid? Choose one or more.
 - a. Up to \$5,000
 - b. Up to \$10,000
 - c. Up to \$15,000
 - d. Up to \$20,000
 - e. \$20,000 or over

Activities: College is more than classes. Tell us the type of extracurriculars you'd like to have on campus whether you're planning on participating in them or not.

1. Frat boy? Sorority girl? How big do you want a school's Greek system to be?
 - a. An important part of campus life (over half the students are involved)
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
 - b. A smaller point of campus life (between 10-49% of students are involved)
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
 - c. A minimal part (under 10% of students involved)
 - i. Don't Want
 - ii. Doesn't Matter
 - iii. Really Want
2. Whether you want to join or not, how much do you want your school to have the following activities?

a. Academic Groups	h. Fraternities	m. Sororities
b. ROTC	i. Magazine/School Paper	n. Speakers Forum
c. Orchestra/Band	j. Minority Student Groups	o. Student Government
d. Choral	k. Radio Station	p. Student Union
e. Dance	l. Religious Groups	q. Television Station
f. Debate		r. Yearbook
g. Drama/Theatre		
3. Whether you want to play or just watch, how much do you want a school that has specific intercollegiate sports teams? Write the sports you would like your school to be involved with.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.