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Deciding on an Admissions Offer

You're almost there

The hard part is over! You've applied to the schools and programs you're interested in, and now you're starting to hear back from them! But, you still have a tough decision to make. **Which admissions offer will you accept?** So, to help you select the best choice for you, we've nailed down the top advice you should consider.



Factors to consider before accepting an admissions offer

It's time to review your offer of admissions! So, **before you hit that accept button, there's a few things you should consider** so you can make the best, most informed choice possible:

1. Financial aid

How you're going to pay for your education is a big factor to consider. What kind of scholarship program does the school have? **Have you been offered an entrance scholarship with your admissions offer?** Many schools will highlight their entrance scholarships, but are there opportunities for scholarships past your first year? Check out each school's financial aid office to learn more!

Other than scholarships, how else can you pay your tuition? Some schools have **on-campus, part-time jobs available for students** to earn some money while they learn. Some programs may also have paid undergraduate research positions or internships where you could earn some more cash.

2. Residence

Where will you live when you go to school? Most students choose to live in residence in their first year, but keep in mind not all residences are the same. What kind of services are available, like laundry, wi-fi, game rooms, etc.? Do you get to choose between an apartment or dorm style residence? Can you choose your own roommate? How close is the residence to campus? What are your meal options? Do you have a kitchen in your dorm or will you have to pay for a meal plan to eat at the dining hall?

Also, if you choose not to live in residence, **what kind of support does the school offer students who are looking to live off-campus?** Do they provide recommendations for off-campus housing?

3. Personal ranking

When reviewing your admission offers, consider your personal rankings for each school. **Have you received an offer from your top choice yet?** Are your rankings still the same? Your feelings can change over time, whether you've visited the campus in person, talked to other students, or explored other programs. Don't accept the first offer you get — especially if it was for one of your bottom-ranked schools!

4. Location

Where the school is located can play a big role in your undergraduate experience. Are you more of a big-city person who loves the crowds and extensive options of activities? Or, do you prefer a small-town feeling with access to nature for your hikes? Wherever you choose, make sure you've considered how easy — or difficult — it is to get around. Is the campus connected to the rest of the city? Do you get a bus pass as a student? If you're from out of town, are you able to easily get back home from campus?

5. Academic opportunities and support

Some programs offer ways for you to **enhance your degree with co-ops, paid internships, undergraduate research positions, and experiential learning.** Check to see if your program can offer you these opportunities.

Make sure you also look into **what academic support is available to you.** It can be a bit of an adjustment transitioning from high school to post-secondary, so most schools will offer tutors, writing services, study sessions, and learning accommodations to help you succeed. You'll even find support for finding jobs with some schools' career services.

6. Extracurricular activities

There's more to school than just your classes! You can **explore various student clubs, sports, exercise classes, orientation activities, and more.** Find out what's available at each school, so you can explore your hobbies and passions to maintain a positive school/life balance. If a club you're interested in isn't available at a school, find out if you can create it yourself!



7. Your gut feeling

Ultimately, you should accept the offer of the school you're most interested in and excited to attend. It's nice to compare different factors between schools, but if there's one school that has captured your heart, choose that one. And, if something doesn't feel right, don't ignore that feeling. **Trust your gut!**

Still having trouble making a decision? Here's what you can do:

If you've gone through all these factors and still aren't sure which school is for you, try these **tips to help narrow down your choices**:

1. Chat with current students

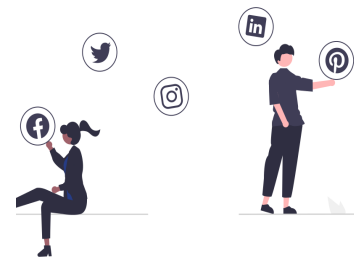
Have a conversation with a current student! Many schools have student ambassadors you can speak with, or you could reach out through social media to connect with someone who could offer you more insight.

2. Visit the campus

Walk around by yourself and get a good feel for what it would be like if you were a student there. Are there good study spots and cafés on campus? Do students look happy?

3. Explore the school's social media

Check out each school's social media pages. **Do they post often about events?** You can get a good idea of what the school culture is like through their posts.



But, what about...?

You may experience some **external factors** urging you to go to specific schools, so what do you do?

1. My parents want me to go to this specific school

If your parents are pushing you to go to a certain school and that's not what you want, then explain why you want to go to a different school. **Help them see why this other school is best for you.**

2. All my friends are going to this one school

While it can be comforting going to school with familiar faces, if that's not the school you're interested in, then you may not succeed as much as you'd like. **Trust in your friendships.** If they're strong, then they'll last no matter where you go. You'll also branch out and make new friends wherever you go!

Congratulations!

Take this time to celebrate the work you put in to get here!

